

Since 2017, HRO's mission has been to observe, document and denounce state violence at the Franco-British border. Due to recurring hindrances to our observation work, the following figures should be taken as an extreme minimum.

## This month in numbers

At least:



**10** police operations of eviction



**47** tents seized



**162** people evicted



**16** pallets seized

## Border kills

April was marked by **the death of six persons at the Franco-British border**. On the 1st of April, two people lost their lives on a shipwreck. Another shipwreck caused the death of four people on April 9th. Finally, a man died on April 20th following the injuries from a bladed weapon. These six people are victims of the deadly politics perpetrated at the Franco-British border by the authorities.

## Visit from the Parliamentary Committee of Inquiry to Calais and Grande-Synthe

On the 15th and the 16th of April, **the president and the rapporteur of the Parliamentary Committee** of Inquiry on the consequences of the Touquet agreements on public action and on respect of the freedom and the fundamental rights of people on the move - Sébastien Huyghe et Elsa Faucillion - **came to Calais** to meet different actors and to visit several living sites and hospitality centres of the littoral :

- The **regional surveillance and rescue center** (CROSS),
- The **Franco-British cooperation center**,
- **Some living sites and the day center of the Secours catholique**.

They also went to Grande-Synthe to meet other associations. **The objective of this visit was to compare the hearings to the reality of the ground.**

## A shelter system increasingly scarce in Calais

On **Thursday April 9th, 2026**, a press conference was organised on Huttes Street by the associations and the solidary people working for support and housing for people on the move on the littoral. Many observations were shared : **The number of emergency shelters in Calais is insufficient and saturated** :

- **One night** allowed for women and newcoming families by the emergency shelter system of the SIAO (Integrated support of reception and orientation) 115 whereas it was 3 nights until 2022,
- **No access to this service** for men who are alone,
- The CAES (Reception and assessment centers) shows **difficulties to allow access** for men who are alone and don't answer to specific needs (546 refusals for men who are alone observed from the 3rd of November 2025 until the 29th of March 2026) ;
- The cold weather plan only allowed the opening of a gymnasium for **25 days from the 90 days of winter**, letting it empty for the majority of the time.

Their observations come with numbers : Between November 3rd, 2025 and March 3th, 2026, the **emergency shelter system** of Médecins sans frontières (MSF) welcomed, **581 people, who had previously asked for a shelter to the State or to the department, and whom request was denied**. Among these people, **345 were children** (with their families or unaccompanied).

In total, MSF counted **1054 refusals of shelter from public services**.

Likewise, La Margelle, a house providing shelter for people on the move in Calais, points out the lack of information about the existence of CAES. This house welcomed **388 men who were alone throughout winter, and who were not informed of the existence of this service**. They also welcomed people in situations of extreme vulnerability, particularly survivors of shipwrecks, their close ones, or people getting out of the hospital **who are without any housing solution**.

## Months of persecution on the largest living site of Calais

The eviction of the largest living site of Calais on November 20th, 2025 was the first of a series of targeted police operations. If we don't know on which legal basis the operations of November and December were conducted on, this persecution was in part allowed by an **order on request** delivered by the judicial tribunal of Boulogne-sur-Mer in January. **It ended on April 8th, 2026, then what is the result from such a procedure?**

### The results

**Seven operations in total** which focused each time on specific parts of the living sites and followed the same pattern: **The police forces wake up the inhabitants** very early in the morning asking them to leave; **then the cleaning teams seize the personal belongings** that are on the site, and often the inhabitants **do not have the time to bring them along.**



Officially, the authorities presented these operations **as they were providing shelter, with housing solutions proposed.** Buses were mobilized to bring people to Reception and assessment centers (CAES), reserved to people who intend to ask for asylum in France. However, **this service was not systematically proposed:** According to several testimonies, only a couple of people were proposed this solution.

Moreover, such a proposed solution **is unsuitable to the needs of the concerned people** as most of them aim to go to the United Kingdom, often facing the impossibility to ask for asylum in France due to the Dublin agreements.



In the absence of suitable housing solutions, people on the move settled again after each operation only to find **the living site devastated, with most of the tents, blankets and other personal belongings seized.**

Over the months, we also observed the modification of this living site due to **deforestation and rockfill**, making some zones completely uninhabitable.

**This succession of interventions proves how the authorities are failing their duty to protect people on the move while, on the contrary, creating more precarious living conditions.** In addition, **this place is a key point where people on the move can have access to different services.** Therefore, destroying this living site leaves people on the move not only without a place to rest, but also without access to essential daily services.

### **And now ?**

Considering the end of the validity of the order on request, **the inhabitants reported to the authorities that they were living there**, in order to be informed of any new procedure and to be able to defend themselves before a judge, as well as to assert their rights that are not respected during the eviction operations. **It is also possible that this process doesn't work**, and that these people will not be considered by the authorities.

Until then, **people were never told an eviction would have taken place, and no prior social diagnosis was conducted beforehand, contrary to the legal obligations for this type of operation.**

