

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



8 police operations, resulting in the eviction of 11 living sites



100 people evicted



30 m³ of personal belongings seized



52 tents seized



21 blankets seized



18 wooden pallets seized

Eviction of the largest living site in Calais and protests

June began with the dismantling of the largest living site in Calais, known to its residents as the 'Hospital Jungle', on June 2. This operation followed a series of evictions from the same site, taking place several times a week throughout May.

The HRO team was unable to observe the entire operation and was escorted out of the evicted site by police officers on the grounds that they were carrying out a **judicial operation ordered by a judge, justified by the illegal presence of people on private land**. Then, the team was prevented from re-entering the area due to a human perimeter set up by the police. However, contrary to usual practice, **no AUDASSE¹ shelter buses were present during this operation**. Consequently, whilst

eviction procedures stipulate that alternative accommodation must be offered, no solution was put in place by the prefecture for the people evicted from the living sites that day.



It should also be noted that **transporting people by bus to reception and assessment centres (CAES) is by no means a satisfactory solution.** Although presented as a way to provide shelter, this solution is **not always suited to people's administrative circumstances and wishes.** The location of the centres may also distance them from the coast, and they do not necessarily have the financial means to take the train back there, for example.

Finally, during that same eviction, members of the cleaning team told us that evictions were scheduled to take place every day until the end of the week. They also told us that they had not chosen to be assigned to these operations. Employed by a temporary employment agency, they had only been informed the day before of the tasks assigned to them for the week. Nevertheless, no further eviction operations took place during the week.

A few days later, on June 4, we attended the usual biannual meeting organised by the sub-prefecture to discuss with local organisations the provision of humanitarian support for people on the move on the coast. The sub-prefect provided further details regarding the suspension of these operations, stating that they had been **suspended to allow for the personal belongings that had been seized to be sorted and returned.** Due to the huge amount of items collected – estimated at 73 tonnes – the clean-up team's work had been significantly slowed down.

She also presented a new organisational structure planned by the prefecture **in response to the comments made by the organisations:** interventions starting later, from 9.30 am, in order not to wake up people on the move; reduced police numbers; evictions carried out by sector to facilitate support for individual cases... Given the conditions of survival imposed on people on the move, **these adjustments do nothing to alter the reality of the violence they have endured.** The authorities never question their policy of constant harassment of people on the move in Calais and fail to take their basic needs into consideration.

¹ AUDASSE : name of the association with a state mandate in charge of housing people during evictions of living sites.



Photo by Mustafa / Lakta Media.



Protests and sit-in

On the 2nd of June, **to denounce the eviction of the Hospital living site, a week of protests and activism took place.** Starting at 7.30 am, people on the move and activists formed a peaceful rally to denounce the police harassment and precarious living conditions faced by people living in the area. Nevertheless, this rally led to a cordon being set up and those present being restrained, followed by a sorting process to distinguish between those perceived as activists and those perceived as people on the move. However, it did not prevent the expulsion from taking place. The police were heavily armed with batons, helmets, and shields.

Nonetheless, sit-ins took place on the living site every day until the 5th of June to protest any future evictions, despite the heavy security response. The following week **a protest was organized on the 12th of June** in conjuncture with the Secours Catholique.

These events remind us of the importance to **support initiatives started by people on the move** themselves. By organising publicly, it enables them to voice their experiences and demands directly.

Sources :

<https://calaislasociale.fr/2026/06/10/une-manifestation-vendredi-contre-les-expulsions-des-lieux-de-vie-informels/>

<https://calaislasociale.fr/2026/06/04/troisieme-jour-de-mobilisation-a-hospital/>

Lawsuit concerning the judicial order to evict the Hospital Jungle

REMINDER: In April 2026, following regular evictions in the Hospital jungle, we conducted outreach work to expose to the inhabitants the lawsuit we wished to file in order to protect the living site, by proving to the judge that it is currently inhabited. Several people have expressed interest in declaring themselves as occupants of the site in order to be identified and informed of any legal procedure concerning it. Their lawyer has thus communicated their identity to the Boulogne-sur-Mer judicial tribunal as well as the Justice Commissioner. However, no information was given to them before the evictions in May and on the 2nd of June, whereas **the law imposes an obligation to notify identified inhabitants before an eviction.**

After numerous requests were unanswered, **the ruling issued by the president of the Boulogne-sur-Mer Judicial Court authorizing evictions from this living site, issued on April 29, 2026,** was finally given to the lawyer on **the 2nd of June.**

As soon as this ruling was consulted by the lawyer, an **interim emergency proceeding** was filed by HRO, with other associations such as Utopia 56, Salam, and L'Auberge des migrants to allow the inhabitants **to contest the ruling before the judge.**

For this legal proceeding, the object is to reinstate an adversarial procedure in order for the inhabitants of the living site **to have their voice heard by a judge.** It is part of a broader objective to guarantee the **right to respect one's home and the right to respect the private life** of people surviving daily in informal living sites in Calais.

Furthermore, another goal of this legal proceeding is to **counter the obstacles that people on the move face to access the justice system and reinstate the right to a fair trial.** In Calais, HRO observes the daily **use of law against people on the move.** The ruling upon request reveals both the refusal to inform inhabitants on procedures that concern them and that it deprives them of the possibility to defend their rights in court.

Furthermore, the interim emergency proceeding was delayed by **an unusually long period taken to examine the applications for legal aid** submitted by the residents of the Hospital Jungle who had brought the case. This delay once again highlights the difficulties in accessing justice and the unequal treatment faced by people on the move.

For further information, read [the section in our 2025 annual report on access to justice.](#)

Focus on legal vocabulary

Ruling upon request: this ruling is a decision handed by a judge without notifying the defense. It is requested by one of the parties when it is considered necessary not to notify the opposing party. The decision is immediately applicable.

Interim emergency proceeding: this proceeding allows a party to contest a ruling upon request. It is a way to reinstate an adversarial procedure, where both parties can defend their case in court. The judge only verifies if the ruling upon request without an adversarial procedure was justified. He can either confirm the ruling, modify it, or retract it.

Use of riprap: A practice restricting access to living sites

On the morning of the 26th of June, the entrance of a living site in Calais was blocked by an installation of about 30 rocks. This **modification of the landscape**, at the request of the town hall, transforms the space and makes it difficult and in some cases impossible for reinstallation. As such, this measure **constraints the circulation of inhabitants, stops associations from accessing** living sites, and **restricts access to clean water spots**. These installations make it impossible for people to use these paths, force them to move, and often to find a new living site. Here, riprapping is associated with regular evictions, participating in the relentless harassment of people on the move in Calais.



This is not an isolated practice; it is part of the **'zero fixation point' policy**. This policy is characterized by repeated evictions, a daily police presence that sometimes results in violence, discrimination, but also physical constructions and landscape modification, making these living sites inaccessible. The objective is **to make these spaces inaccessible** to avoid people on the move settling in durably in these sites. This is done by riprapping but also with the construction of fences, walls, and even levelling.

On that day, it seemed that the police were also not aware of the installation and were surprised by the riprapping, which they had to by-pass in order to access the living site they were going to evict.

Daily police presence in buses

During the month of June, we have noticed **high police surveillance** of public transportation. This is mainly due to the weather conditions during the summer, more favourable for Channel crossings. HRO decided to conduct several observations outside and inside buses to collect data on police presence in public transportation. We noticed a significant change in how the bus company functioned. The police and bus drivers would regularly organise separate files and a **sorting of passengers discriminating people on the move by restricting their access to public transport**.

Changes to the bus company's usual operations were observed as soon as people believed to be on the move arrived at the bus stops. Several buses were canceled when police could not be present; drivers systematically keep their doors closed when people on the move approach the bus, and the latter are counted before boarding. These practices are solely based on drivers perceiving them as non-white and assuming their administrative situation. This **illegal racial profiling** is done by drivers but also by police agents who arbitrarily frisk, ID check and arrest them, creating a climate of daily police harassment in Calais.

The following is an extract of a testimony from an activist on the Opale coast on the 15th of June, demonstrating the **segregation** practices on these bus lines.

'We weren't many, a few families, young people, women and men. An ordinary bus ride. Until a call... From who knows who... With the bus driver, to announce the presence of 50 "migrants" at the next stop.

Surprisingly, the driver stopped the bus to announce that 50 "migrants" would enter the bus at the next stop, and if "WE" did not want to be mixed with "THEM" we could move to the front of the bus.

Most people did not want to be mixed with "THEM" and moved to the front of the bus.

This account is unfortunately not an isolate case; this **practice of segregation** on the bus constitutes genuine discrimination among passengers, as it involves humiliating and dehumanizing measures. Buses are thus **diverted from their role as a public service** to become key venues for the implementation of restrictive border policies.