

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.

Review of the last six months

At least :

 **22 eviction operations based on judicial decisions**, about 3.6 per month (almost one per week). This number is close to the number of evictions that took place over the same period in 2025 (23 evictions). This shows the steadfastness of the prefecture's operating procedure, sending weekly convoys of CRS on informal living sites.

 **75 evictions of living sites and 12 demolitions of informal shops**. Even though the number of operations has not significantly increased since last year, the number of living sites targeted has surged, going from 50 evictions in 2025 to 75 in 2026 (+33%). The dismantling operations of shops have doubled, increasing to 12 operations against 5 at the same period last year. The scale of these police operations has significantly increased in a year and has focused itself on informal shops.

 **320 tents were seized**. Quite logically, the increase in the number of living sites evicted goes hand in hand with the increase in the number of personal effects stolen. Thus, we go from 204 tents seized between January and June 2025 to 320 tents for the first semester of 2026.

 **36 arrests in the living sites**, that is 15 more than the first semester of 2025.

The British Far right is back on the coast

For the past two years, people on the move and organisations in the Calais area have had to periodically deal with incursions by **British fascist activists**. In January 2026, these activists were ordered to leave French territory. Unfortunately, it seems that this measure has not deterred all far-right movements in the United Kingdom.

During June, several incidents involving racist British activists took place in the Dunkirk area. These individuals visit the living sites, film people without their consent and post defamatory and hateful videos on their social media. As the British far right is accustomed to **forceful actions and violence** – as illustrated by the various racist riots for which it has been responsible¹ – **the danger posed by such individuals to the Nord and Pas-de-Calais departments must not be underestimated.**

1 : https://www.lemonde.fr/international/article/2026/06/09/a-belfast-des-manifestants-bloquent-les-axes-routiers-et-incendient-des-vehicules-au-lendemain-d-une-attaque-au-couteau-imputee-a-un-refugie-soudanais_6700220_3210.html

Whether the weather is cold or hot, nothing stops State's

Last January, we documented the State's decision to evict informal living sites in the heart of winter. Despite the activation of the extreme cold weather safety plan in the North, the evictions continued as if nothing had changed, disregarding meteorological conditions and the basic principles of human dignity. Six months later, while France faces high temperatures and the North region is placed on heatwave maximum alert, the prefecture seems to fall back in its ways, continuing evictions during an extreme heatwave.

Yet the vulnerability of people on the move to extreme heat is well documented. In the living areas, access to water is limited, shaded areas are scarce, and it is almost impossible to find a cool place. In this context, **dismantling a living site amounts to endangering a population already made vulnerable by the weather conditions.** Indeed, evictions involve forced displacement in the heat, as well as the confiscation of essential items needed to protect oneself from the heatwave. They also disrupt aid distributions by voluntary organisations, further reducing access to water and healthcare in the living sites.

Organisations providing support to people on the move have called on the State in an open letter addressed to the Prefect of the Nord Department. They are calling for specific measures to be put in place for residents of informal living sites, and are warning of the harmful consequences of evictions in this context. **Above all, they are demanding that police operations be halted for the duration of the heatwave.**



Double standards

On 24 June, the police union Unité 59 denounced to its superiors the **“utter nonsense”** of evicting people from their homes in the middle of a heatwave. Law enforcement representatives highlighted the risks that such an operation poses to their health, and called for these dismantlements to be halted until the end of the heatwave. **However, at no point did they mention the people living in these sites, who are, after all, the ones most directly affected by the evictions.** This statement thus suggests that police officers are the main victims of this situation, which is absurd given the living conditions of those being evicted.

UNITÉ

59 DUNKERQUE

**Plan Canicule :
Opérations de police par forte chaleur.**

Suite aux signalements de nos collègues, UNITÉ a immédiatement alerté la hiérarchie. Mener des opérations de lutte contre les commerces informels ou des évacuations de campements de migrants en plein plan canicule est un non-sens absolu.

Notre priorité reste la préservation de la santé des effectifs.

La réponse de l'administration :

"Il s'agit de directives préfectorales et le central les a alerté sur ce sujet."

UNITÉ obtient la garantie pour les agents :

- L'opération sera écourtée au maximum.
- Des bouteilles d'eau seront distribuées.
- Un véhicule climatisé servira de "zone de refroidissement."

Par ailleurs, nous avons exigé l'installation d'un second point d'eau au commissariat et demandé un suivi rigoureux de son entretien afin qu'il reste pleinement opérationnel.

UNITÉ, Protéger, Négocier, Progresser !

24/06/2026  <https://unite.fr>

This **irony** is further exacerbated by the response from the police hierarchy. The latter **categorically refuses to call off the dismantlements, citing “prefectural directives” that must be followed.** The police station does, however, offer them certain assurances: They will have access to an air-conditioned vehicle and bottles of water during the eviction. Meanwhile, the response from the state-mandated associations remains largely insufficient to prevent people on the move from suffering during the heatwave. The measures put in place remain concentrated on the distribution point and are therefore inaccessible in many of the areas where people are living; they also remain undersized in relation to the immense scale of the needs.

This situation highlights a double standard in the management of the heatwave. Whilst the concept of vulnerability would suggest that the needs of people should be a priority, insufficient provision is put in place for their protection. And when associations and those affected speak out, measures are slow to be implemented. At the same time, when a police union makes a request, the authorities listen to it. Despite the fact that the population it represents is not in a vulnerable situation.

