

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.

August in numbers

At least



14 police operations leading to the eviction of **16** living sites



78 seized tents



362 people evicted



6 skips (approximately 180m³) of personal belongings seized

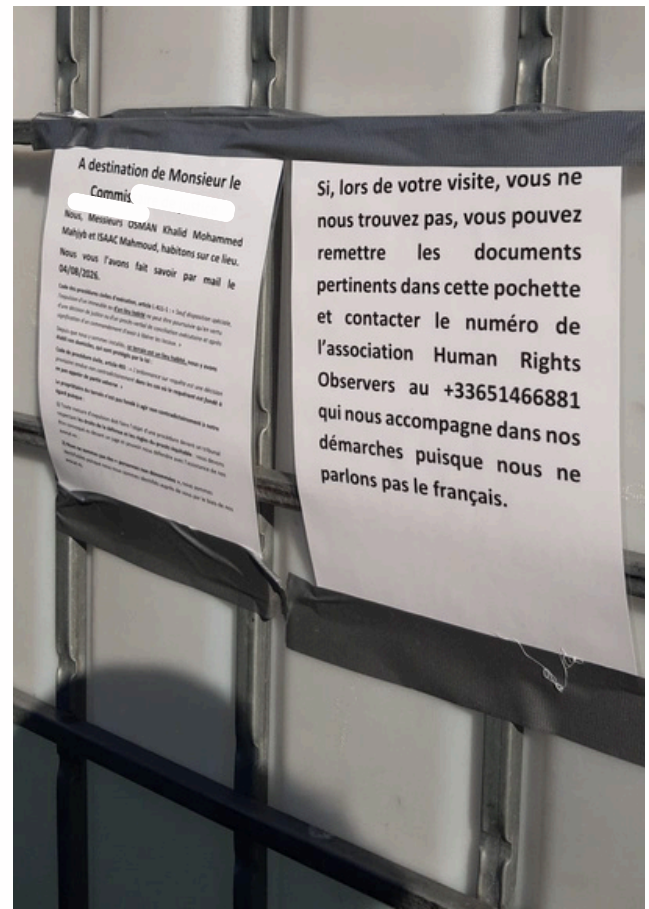
Par temps pluvieux ou caniculaire, les forces de l'ordre ont maintenu, tout au long du mois d'août, un rythme particulièrement soutenu d'opérations d'expulsions dans le Calaisis. Au total, 14 opérations distinctes ont été menées au cours du mois, expulsant 16 lieux de vie.

Cela signifie qu'en excluant les huit jours de week-end durant lesquels aucune opération d'expulsion n'est menée, **les forces de l'ordre ont été mobilisées pour expulser les personnes exilées à Calais plus d'un jour sur deux**, au cours du mois d'août. La répétition et le caractère systématique de ces pratiques répond d'un harcèlement policier.

The inhabitants of the largest living site in Calais remain ignored by the justice system

On 10 August, a Boulogne-sur-Mer tribunal issued an order justifying the eviction operations in front of the Calais hospital. The order is valid for three months, meaning until 10 November 2026. The tribunal issued the order albeit it was informed on 4 August by lawyers of two inhabitants of this living site of their wish to oppose any eviction before a court. To support their claim, HRO members displayed on every water tank near the location a notification addressed to the judicial officer to identify the two claimants.

Although the two inhabitants were identifiable and the judicial officer had the means to contact their lawyers, police forces conducted eviction operations at the living site on the 13, 20 and 26 August. Although the law compels to inform identified people of their eviction, **those operations were carried out without prior notification and without giving a prior opportunity for the concerned people to have their case heard before a court.** Since the order's entry into force, evictions remain systematic. Every week, increasingly larger police convoys are deployed as of 7 AM to this living site with the aim of depriving people on the move of the few material resources they possess to survive.



On 20 August, no less than **24 police vans and 8 other vehicles were mobilised for a single operation.** Such a mobilisation of human and material resources is a show of force by the state.



Flagrante delicto patrols are resuming at several locations

During the month of August, HRO teams noted that successive eviction operations resumed at multiple Calais living sites. This practice is not new. Historically, eviction operations in Calais unfold following a pattern: the convoy leaves the police station and follows an itinerary stopping at multiple living sites to evict the people living there and to seize their personal belongings. However, for several months, these police operations targeted a single site. In August, several living sites emerged, including in Calais' city centre, but were evicted shortly after. **In the context of a single operation, within the same morning, HRO teams documented two to three evictions at different living sites.**



Evictions near CAES bus stations

People on the move often settle near bus stations while awaiting a bus heading to Reception and Assessment Centres (CAES) to benefit from shelters and assistance during their asylum process. On Tuesday 4 August, HRO observed the eviction of 7 people including a 6 year old, near one of those bus stations. This same living site has already been evicted multiple times in June.

In addition to the violence of those operations, Besides their violence, those eviction operations remain incoherent as CAES constitute one of the few options to access a shelter provided by the Pas-de-Calais prefecture in the framework of an eviction operation. **In cooperation with the Auberge des Migrants, Utopia 56 and La Margelle, HRO set a letter to the prefecture on the recent evictions of living sites near those bus stations.** We are denouncing to public authorities the legal vagueness of the provisions those operations are based on and the **State's failure to guarantee a safe and respectful access to a shelter enabling people on the move to live in dignity.**

Crossing the English Channel is increasingly risky

August was marked by one particularly hazardous crossing of the English Channel. A boat departing from Northern France and carrying **230 people** reached the British coasts. It is the largest number of people ever registered in a single trip to the UK, until then the biggest small boat had 150 people on board on 23 July 2026.

This demonstrates once more the deadly effects of the **"Stop the boats" policy.** **The tougher the controls and repression measures are, the more people on the move embark on overloaded boats to maximise their chances to cross the English Channel.** This border policy, enabled by British funds, leads people to take increasingly higher risks to reach the UK, too often at the risk of their own life.