



Monthly report of observations of evictions by the Human Rights Observers in Grande-Synthe, Nord – January 2020

Since 2017, the aim of the Human Rights Observers project has been to observe and document the daily human rights violations faced by displaced people at the French-British border¹.

Data collected during weekly evictions from informal living sites



10 evictions from informal living sites



37 tents seized



10 sleeping bags/blankets seized



12 arrests



2 unaccompanied minors present



7 x cooking utensils seized



1 intimidation attempt²

The political strategy of avoiding ‘fixation points’ has led to weekly evictions in Grande-Synthe, with on average 3 to 5 evictions of displaced peoples’ living sites per week. All shelters, along with personal belongings and basic necessities are seized and destroyed by various means (with knives, chainsaws etc.). These operations of harassment are also accompanied by often abusive identity checks (*Cour de cassation, 25 avril 1985, n° de pourvoi 84-92916*), followed by arbitrary arrests and illegal stays in administrative detention.

Data collected during “sheltering operations”³



37 single men accommodated



2 single women accommodated



21 families accommodated



4 unaccompanied minors accommodated



180 single men turned away



1 single woman turned away



12 families turned away



4 unaccompanied minors turned away

During weekdays, people can go to a specified meeting point and request to be accommodated. This is done via a sheltering system provided by AFEJI (state mandated association).

¹ This data is based on our observations, and therefore not exhaustive.

² Identity control during our work.

³ This data is collected in collaboration with Refugee Women’s Centre