












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

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

Data collected during evictions of informal living sites

 4 evictions from informal living sites	 6 arrests
 10 tents seized	 6 times items of clothing were seized
 10 sleeping bags/blankets seized	 9 unaccompanied minors referred to legal authorities ²
 4 tarps seized	 1 intimidation attempt ³
 4 times cooking utensils were seized	

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”⁴

 12 single men accommodated ⁵	 4 families accommodated
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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, which was made more difficult during the confinement (until 11/05). Our data is therefore not exhaustive.

² The number of referrals (*Signalements*) is lower than the actual number of unaccompanied minors present and living in dangerous circumstances in the area. Estimated at around 25 at the beginning of the month, many new arrivals and departures, and the lack of a specific maraud makes it impossible to identify the precise number of unaccompanied minors and to provide an adapted and effective orientation.

³ 2 fines for not respecting confinement measures.

⁴ This data is collected in collaboration with Refugee Women’s Centre.

⁵ A further 6 men were taken by bus to access accommodation, but were dropped off in a parking lot in Douai, 125km from Grande-Synthe. They had to walk back to Grande-Synthe.