



Monthly Report of observations of evictions by the Human Rights Observers in Grande-Synthe, Nord – July 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 daily evictions of informal living sites

 12 evictions of informal settlements	 9 arrests during evictions, including 1 minor
 At least 50 tents/tarps seized	 38 unaccompanied minors reported to the authorities ²
 Personal belongings were seized 7 times	 1 psychological, physical violence ³

The political strategy of avoiding “fixation points” has led to increasingly frequent evictions in Grande-Synthe, with evictions sometimes taking place several consecutive days. All shelters, along with personal belongings and basic necessities are seized and destroyed. 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.

Harassment of Human Rights Defenders

 2 intimidation attempts ⁴
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¹ This data is based on our observations, and is therefore not exhaustive

² The number of reports made to authorities is below the actual number of unaccompanied minors present and in danger in Grande-Synthe during July. On this territory, contrary to Calais, no association that is not mandated by the State has any specific activity targeting UAMs or is able to carry out this precise identification work. One observation remains: repeated evictions are a source of increased fragility and even disappearance of these children, both girls and boys, and therefore of increased risks of trafficking and exploitation

³ An SNCF security guard chased 2 men

⁴ An officer with no visible RIO photographed HRO volunteers on his personal phone; an officer pushed one of the volunteers present in the field