



Monthly Report of observations of evictions by the Human Rights Observers in Grande-Synthe, Nord – September 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



10 evictions of informal settlements



40 arrests during evictions



All of the tents, tarps, sleeping bags, blankets, personal belongings, etc. found on the living site were seized 8 times



37 accompanied children reported to the authorities²

The political strategy of avoiding “fixation points” has led to increasingly frequent evictions in Grande-Synthe. Some sheltering options, with busses, are forced, as those who resist are arrested by the Police aux Frontières. During these operations, 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. These arbitrary ID checks and arrests are daily, outside the context of evictions as well.

Harassment of human rights defenders during observations



4 intimidation attempts:

The observers were filmed/photographed with the personal phone of the police forces 1 time; had their identity controlled 1 time; were pushed by an officer 1 time; were threatened with arrest 1 time.

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 children present and in danger in Grande-Synthe during August. On this territory, contrary to Calais, no association that is not mandated by the State has any specific activity targeting UACs 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 (Source: Utopia 56).

