



Monthly Report of observations of evictions by the Human Rights Observers in Calais, Pas-de-Calais - October 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 border *.

Data collected during evictions of informal living sites

	46 evictions of informal settlements		At least 319 tents seized
	21 arrests during evictions		209 unaccompanied minors met **
	At least 115 blankets seized		At least 17 backpacks seized
	At least 8 bicycles seized		Clothes were seized at least 8 times
	At least 8 mobile phones and 8 power banks		

The political strategy of avoiding 'fixation points' has led to daily evictions in Calais, which mainly take place between 8am-11am. This involves displaced people being forced to move their tents and belongings, anywhere between 2 to 500 meters. Personal belongings and basic necessities are often seized and/or 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.

HRO has recorded an increase in large-scale dismantling operations since the 10th July, concurrent with the appointment of Gerald Darmanin as Minister of the Interior. On the 2nd, 9th and 22nd October, HRO witnessed large-scale dismantling operations, during which inhabitants were forced onto buses and transported out of the city. All tents, furniture and food supplies were seized and thrown away: on 22nd October 156 tents were seized.



During 1 eviction, a minor was hit by police; during 1 eviction, a phone was taken from an occupant's hand and stamped on; during 1 eviction, occupants were threatened with chemical agents.

Harassment of human rights defenders during observations



15 intimidation attempts:

The observers were filmed/photographed with the professional and/or personal phone of the police forces 8 times; were pushed by an officer 4 times; were verbally intimidated by officers 3 times.

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

** Number of self-declared UAMs living in the streets, met by the associations (those not mandated by the State) in October. This number is an under-representation of the number of children living on the streets because the associations marauds do not cover daily all places where UAMs live; some children do not communicate with the associations; others have direct access to shelter via the mandated association and are therefore not included in this figure. One observation remains: repeated evictions are a source of increased fragility and even disappearance of these children, both girls and boys, and therefore increase the risk of trafficking and exploitation.