



## Monthly Report of observations of evictions by the Human Rights Observers in Calais, Pas-de-Calais - January 2021

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

	At least 101 evictions of informal settlements		At least 315 tents and tarps seized
	At least 13 arrests during evictions		179 unaccompanied children met**
	At least 198 sleeping bags and blankets seized		At least 3 bicycles seized
	At least 28 bags seized		At least 10 phones and batteries seized
	Documents seized at least 1 time***		Clothes seized at least 30 times

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.

This month, 9 living sites, which are located in and around Calais, were targeted by law enforcement for these evictions. Up to 7 of these are evicted by a police convoy over the course of a single morning.

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 19th January, HRO recorded 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: at least 88 tents and tarps were seized.



7 instances of violence/excessive force against displaced people were witnessed by observers: unaccompanied children were pushed by a police officer 5 times; displaced people were chased out of their living space 1 time; displaced people were encircled by a significant number of police officers 1 time.

### Harassment of human rights defenders during observations



#### 61 intimidation attempts:

Observers were subjected to sexist and/or sexually explicit comments/gestures from police officers 3 times, including requests to send nude photographs; observers were mocked by police officers 3 times; observers were threatened with arrest and/or fines 2 times; observers were fined 1 time; observers were subjected to arbitrary ID checks 11 times; observers' vehicle documents were checked 1 time; observers were photographed and/or videoed by police officers with their professional and/or personal phone 22 times; observers were pushed forcefully on 6 different occasions; observers were encircled and escorted forcefully out of the perimeter 12 times.

Observers were also subjected to large and arbitrary perimeters on at least 26 different occasions.

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

\*\* Number of self-declared UACs living in the streets, met by the associations (those not mandated by the State) in January. 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 UACs 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.

\*\*\* Including identity and asylum documents