



Monthly Report of observations of evictions by the Human Rights Observers in Grande-Synthe, Nord - July 2021

Since 2017, the aim of the Human Rights Observers project has been to observe and document the state violence against displaced people at the French-British border *.

Data collected during evictions of informal living sites :



At least 4 evictions of informal settlements.



At least 78 tents and 82 tarps seized.



At least 2 arrests during evictions.



At least 42 unaccompanied children met. **

The political strategy of avoiding "fixation points" has led to increasingly frequent evictions in Grande-Synthe. Some sheltering options, with buses, 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.



Knives are systematically used by the cleaning team to destroy tents and other personal belongings in Grande-Synthe. The tents continue to be torn by the cleaning crew under the supervision of the police. On two occasions, HRO teams observed a tent being slashed by the cleaning team while there were still families inside (16/07 and 20/07). Once the tents are torn apart, all the personal effects contained in the tents are emptied onto the ground.

Harassment of HRO observers :



11 intimidation attempts :

HRO observers have been arbitrary identity checked 16 times ; HRO observers have been blocked and escorted out at least 8 times. ; HRO observers were photographed and/or filmed by law enforcement with their professional and/or personal phone at least 3 times. CRS made inappropriate comments against HRO observers such as: "Sir we're not gonna start like this, okay ? Well, you are not going to bother me with that sir "(16/07) and "collez la petite, collez collez"(28/07).

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

** The number of reports made to authorities is below the actual number of unaccompanied children present and in danger in Grande-Synthe during July 2021. 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).