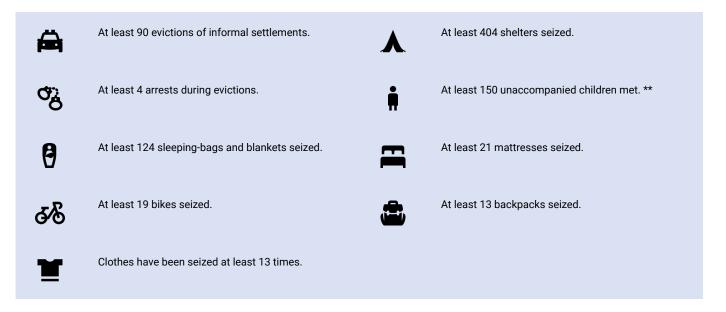


Monthly Report of observations of evictions by Human Rights Observers in Calais, Pas-de-Calais - August 2021

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

Data collected during evictions of informal living sites:



"The political strategy of avoiding "fixation points" has led to daily evictions in Calais, which mainly take place between 8am-7pm. This involves displaced people being forced to leave their living site wihout their tents and belongings. These 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.



8 instances of violence/excessive force against displaced people during evictions were witnessed by the observers: On the 05/08, two women were not given back their personal belongings including medicines left on their living place; A displaced person was forced to get out of his tent without the presence of a translator and was pushed once he was out of his tent on the 07/08; A pregnant woman was forced to cross a slippery ditch on the 09/08; On the same day, police force were laughing about the seized life jackets; Diplaced people were shouted at loudly without translators to wait outside the security perimeter before they could come back to their living place on the 25/08; On 2 occasions, displaced people were escorted by force out of their living place and were patted down without a legal basis. On at least 3 occasions, the translators were waiting in their car while the displaced people were escorted out of their living place.

Harassment of human rights observers during observations:



18 intimidation attempts:

On at least 4 occasions, HRO observers were subjected to receiving demeaning comments from police officers. ("The two dolls"). On the 04/08, HRO observers were called by their first names by a police officer; On the same day, a police officer took a picture of the HRO team and their car; On the 14/08, HRO observers were whistled at by police forces; On 10 occasions, HRO observers were subjected to arbitrary ID checks; On at least 2 occasions, HRO observers were photographed/filmed by police officers on their personal devices; On 8 occasions, HRO was prevented from carrying out their essential work due to the strategic placement of an extra-large perimeter around the living site by police officers; On at least 2 occasions, HRO observers were arbitrarily blocked by police from entering the security perimeter during eviction even though the general public (e.g dog walkers and a journalist) were freely granted access to entering ("Associations are coming so we'll have to block them").

* 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 August 2021. 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.