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2023 JULY NEWSLETTER

READ SALAM'S NEWSLETTER

I'm looking for the right terms to describe the June newsletter. A cry of distress, alarm, warning, accusation, supplication. Governments on both sides of the Channel remain deaf. Worse still, they persist and indicate, that they have firmly decided to continue their policy of non-assistance to people in danger of death and are not ashamed to declare this loud and clear.

Wilma (July 14, 2023)

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Collective memory is clumsily selective.
Collective memory is inadvertently deficient.
And yet collective memory holds one of the keys to the evolution of society.

The media is surprisingly selective.
The media is inadvertently deficient.
And yet the media hold many keys to the evolution of society.

Acting on collective memory seems very utopian!
Being heard by the media doesn't seem any easier!

Changing society remains the goal!
The task is certainly very complex!
We remain OPTIMISTIC!

Jean-Claude Lenoir

EVENTS OF THE MONTH

ONE NEW DEATH, EVEN ONE MORE DEATH IS ONE TO MANY.

On July 5, the "Death Group" informed us: "Yesterday a person of Sudanese origin was found unconscious on the highway. Sadly, she passed away last night in Calais hospital. "

As usual, a rally was held the next day in Richelieu Park at 6:30 p.m.

PASSAGE TO ENGLAND



The photos were taken in front of Hardelot: the canoe, on 23rd July, and the Police a few days before.

After a period of strong winds, the small boats have resumed their role, with the hazards of failed departures, aborted departures with returns to our coasts of soaked and chilled people (no, it's not the heat wave everywhere, the water and the wind are cold, the bulk of the air is not as hot as we think elsewhere in France...), with babies and mothers separated (see below the testimonials of volunteers). The media repeatedly provides photos of these parents with the baby in their arms and water around them and the baby. And that's good, people need to know it: It is people like us who are being forced to leave in conditions absolutely not in keeping of a country with standard Human Rights.

The inflatable boats no longer leave the beach: too often they are punctured by the police. Frequently it is said that this is done to save people's lives, but the result is that they put themselves in even more danger to try to succeed in leaving! It is not unusual for the babies to be loaded quickly (normal, we do not want them to fall into the water!) and that the mother sees the boat move away, totally helpless (see below a volunteer testimony).

The "Voice of the North" of 19th July shows all this with a very telling photo of a gentleman in the sea, missed a boarding, with two little ones in his arms, and highlights the case of this mother who is there with a baby but has just seen the departing of two "grown up " 5 and 7 years olds...

Another photo, in the same issue of the "Voice of the North" shows this situation a few meters from holidaymakers. This is not a coincidence; everyone knows that the police will hesitate (even give up) to puncture a rubber dinghy and gas those who try to pass under the eyes of tourists... The photographer, Johan Ben Azouz, explains: "I placed myself 150 metres away in order to show this, a confrontation between two worlds, the one to which we are lucky to belong and the one of the people who have to flee."

He could have written: "that of the people who are desperate to flee ... "

If this (small) hype could be more widely understood in France what NEED of reception have those who survive passing through our camps... And what a scandal it is, that the France of the 21st century, 7th economic power in the world, abandons people without help who are in such precarious situations.

Babies and mothers are the first challenge, this is normal, but they must also help to understand that the situation of young and lonely men is strictly the same. "You're right, it could be our sons," one lady told me years ago after a movie session.

We read the next day in these same columns that the prefect of Pas-de-Calais came on site, accompanied by the commander of the local group of the police/gendarmerie of Pas-de-Calais and the area director of the national police. He announced the arrival of an additional CRS company.

Compared to the miles of beach from the Belgian border to Normandy, it's ridiculous...

And then, what will they be able to do?

Either NOTHING: looking from the dunes (we do not intervene in front of holiday makers; the proof has just been given) people who no longer have anything, trying to leave our inhospitable shores ...

Either they will manage to discourage applicants at the start, it means that they will start again to try the departures from further away: we have already seen them start from the Bay of Somme!

And the farther you go, the more dangerous it is, the time spent on the water increases the risks. And for a crossing, it is not enough to go straight: winds and currents can reverse the trajectory: we saw them arrive on the cliffs of Blanc-Nez mistaking them for those of the white cliffs of Dover The longer the journey, the more difficult it is to assess the right time to leave with the correct current and keep it flowing until the end...

"And yet it turns," Galileo said in his prison. And yet they pass," we say.

3,067 people arrived on English soil between 7th and 21st July, on 58 boats (these are the figures published by the Home Office, Ministry of the Interior of the United Kingdom). That's between 52 and 53 people per rubber dingy... And with women and children... We shudder... As if a twenty-year-old man did not travel with fear in his stomach and as if his loss counted less on earth...

In early July, Salam's evening distribution team brought stuffed animals for the little ones.

To their surprise, the young men threw themselves on them "to no longer be alone. They are mostly young people, distant from their families for a long time. They all must face a world that rejects them while they are still children," writes Arthur in a brief report of 14th July.

The local government is happy to have reduced the number of crossings... 715 attempts including 289 successful ones "in recent months" reads, still in the "Voice of the North" of 20th July, against 414 last year. "cock-a-doodle-doo!!" they are prevented from leaving...

Okay, so we welcome them?

Well, no! And then what else!

And on the other side of the Channel?

- No deportations to Rwanda, at least for the time being: the Court of Appeal of England and Wales has ruled the British government's Rwanda plan to be illegal.
- But "closed centres", especially barges (from which it is obviously much more difficult to escape) are being prepared for the new arrivals. The director of the NGO Humans for Rights Network (HRN) alerted French associations by email on 5th July.

"Le Monde" newspaper of 20th July announced that one of these barges, which can accommodate 500 people, docked in Portland on 18th July. The same article tells us that on the night of 17th / 18th July the British Parliament adopted a law prohibiting those who entered the UK illegally from seeking asylum...

As Reiser already said in 1978, we live in great times!

WHAT ABOUT THE DISMANTELINGS?

With the riots that followed the death of Nahel, killed by a policeman on 27th June, and fears of renewed violence on 14th July, the CRS were very solicited and unavailable for the dismantling of migrant camps. Do not imagine that our friends were able to breathe a little, on this occasion...

In Loon-Plage, a new method of evacuation has been tested... Evacuation by autosuggestion!

Since 5th May, we knew that this could not last (an installation on a travellers' area!), especially since the Administrative Court of Lille had ordered the evacuation on 12th June.

Since then, every morning, the occupants were ready to leave the location...

And finally, on 13th July:

First the rumour is spread, in the morning, that the police would have come to tell the exiles to leave because there was going to be an evacuation at 2 p.m.

Never seen before! Hard to believe!

Is this true or is it a question of making people leave without bothering with an evacuation with the deployment of police and cleaning teams?

The associations confirm: three police officers are doing the same information work with them...

The exiles are therefore moving to the other side of the road, where they were last spring...

At the end of the morning, two vehicles of the National Police, one of the Municipal Police and a van of the PAF are at the entrance of the camp.

In the early afternoon a cleaning team, accompanied by the Police, began working on a camp emptied of its population.



At 5 p.m. the access road to the camp is blocked by two large concrete blocks.

That evening, no one moved in.

Yes, there was an evacuation but gently, the threat was enough to move the exiles from a place where they had been for more than two months, since 4th and 5th May...

Since then, the exiles of Loon-Plage are waiting again, morning after morning, for the next evacuation... What a life!

In Calais,

Also, no CRS, except 5th July, (when they are back with 12 vans) and then the 27th (with 11 vans) then the 31st (with 7 vans)!



- Why?, asked the HRO on July 1, about the absence of CRS.

- It's none of your business, it's the organization of services...

The rhythm of every other day was maintained, in the morning until 5th July (and the 31st ...), in the afternoon from the 9th ...

Oddly nothing on 7th July (at least nothing was observed...)

The National Police presence is enough to chase people out of their camp with their belongings, in four or five places each time since that is the goal: to prevent them from fixing themselves ("no fixing points!"). They should not be able to sit quietly for a while!

The police are satisfied: at the BMX on 19th July one of them said to the HRO:

- It's going well.
- Is that what you call going well?
- There were no incidents.

In peace, indeed, 40 people were taken out of the only camp of Marck,
and 24 of the other three places (including a family of 5
and the BMX gentleman who only walks with crutches
but is never exempt from travel).

Three tents were seized in Marck, the first two filled
with other tents...



The dump truck left filled with
pallets that are used to make
fire to make food and warm up
the evening...

No one threw stones at the
police, no one insulted them...
In a word, then, "it's going
well... »



A "security" perimeter is almost always established, but
everyone can cross it, except Associations: "because they are
people who work" they are told on 5th July and "people who
have to move" on 17th July.

On the other hand, the HRO is escorted outside: "so as not to
disturb the APC agents (the cleaning company)", they agreed to
explain on 23rd July.

On 13th July 13 Marck, they are forced to leave very quickly:
they are threatened with the seizure of their car by the pound
(it's new, that threat!).

The height of immorality: on July 25, in the City Centre, two exiles must carry two tarpaulins filled with
equipment to the dump truck! "Well... Bah... Thank you, huh" is the answer heard by the HRO... There is at
least the word "thank you"...

THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE PRESENT IN THE CAMPS had decreased with the increase in the number of
passages, it is logical.

But the return of bad weather from 22nd July slowed sharply, often even blocked departures, without drying up
the influx of arrivals. The number then increased significantly, complicating our distribution conditions and our
food supply arrangements:

The 25th was the most difficult day:

805 cups of hot drinks for breakfast in Calais (we had never reached the number of 800 since the end of Ramadan (when we decided to note day after day the number of meals distributed). The number of thermoses is gradually increasing. The day before, the team ran to buy 53 additional loaves of bread and shared (spread on the toast) 42 jars of jam...

We are at one pallet of milk cartons per week...

The day after 27th July, the team has 1,005 cups distributed! And 940 on the 31st...

From 100 lunches on 18th July, we go to more than 500 on the 29th in Loon-Plage: the Salam team, assailed by hungry bellies on the 25th, could only repack the equipment and food to go a little further to start the distribution. This made it possible to spread out the group of guests in space, and therefore to distribute under normal conditions.

I let Wilma conclude: "So I wish you the courage to continue documenting the crimes against humanity that take place every day before our eyes. There is no denying in the future that these things really happened. You are fighting for our common future. "

Word of 14th July (but it must be a coincidence), day when, said Victor Hugo, we commemorate the end of all slavery, the feast of all nations ...

Claire Millot.

TESTIMONIALS OF VOLUNTEERS ABOUT DEPARTURES FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM.

WE CONTINUE TO MAKE THE LIVES OF REFUGEES IMPOSSIBLE...

Eventful weekend with many successful starts and many failed starts.

Broken down boats

Boats not arriving

But unfortunately, also as always boats punctured by the police

It's still horrible and not normal

But it's becoming almost commonplace.

It is up to us not to get used to such shameful practices.

This morning during our food distribution... an emergency phone call ...

STP... Go to the train station.

Women, children and men in distress, soaked.

With two of our team of the day went there.

Fortunately, our afternoon team prepared the emergency bags.

Fortunately, other volunteers prepared crates with breads, biscuits... milk.

Fortunately, we have interns to strengthen our team.

And fortunately, we always agree to stop everyday life to help emergencies.

But sad and very ashamed to view.

Men sleeping on the floor in the city centre.

A 3-month-old baby comes out of a sinking boat.

Men and women and children wandering all over Calais with zero shelter.

This land belongs to all of us! Every human being should be equal.

But here we forget all that.

And we continue to make life impossible for refugees.

Ferri Matheeuwsen (9 July 2023)

(Ferri, a volunteer at Salam in Calais, a Dutch national).



IN PURSUIT OF OUR FRIENDS:

After a visit to the surgeon in Coquelles, it being summer weather, I ask my driver to take me to see the sea that I have not seen for more than 2 months, a moment eagerly waited for by me. Small stop in Sangatte, surprise: a sea that makes you want to take a dip. In the distance, I see a big black spot coming from the direction of Escalles, I immediately think of our friends: today very little wind, weather conducive to passage.

The zodiac boat already well loaded approaches, I turn my head on the other side of the beach and suddenly I see a swarm of CRS descending the dune, they arrive at the speed of race, could it already be the Olympic Games? In the water up to the chest, another group but not disguised (difficult to count) of men and women advancing quickly, this group panics to catch up with the other guys already embarked and the battle begins to the one who will succeed in climbing aboard. It takes strength to climb onto this boat with the weight of water in clothes and backpacks filled with water. On the CRS side, only one of them broke away from the group and advanced a few steps into the sea with something in his hand probably in the hope of breaking the boat, but too late the boat takes the crossing and our friends raise their arms and wave goodbye.

About 13 of them did not have this chance to leave, I perceive on the sand, a majority of young women supervised by the CRS. Helpless in the face of this situation, we remain on the bench speechless, heartbroken.

Suddenly, a few steps from me, I see a gentleman busy taking pictures in the direction of this boat as well as 2 young hikers addressing him and each holding a backpack that seemed very heavy, I hear "Where can we deposit these bags, they contain papers with names and money?" (the papers belonged to Eritreans). Of course, he invites them to follow him towards the Town Hall, so without hesitation, I approach them and tell them of my commitment to an association to help exiles and that I therefore propose to take them to deposit these bags at our President. Discreetly I explain a little what our friends are going through, they did not hesitate. The girls embark with the bags but this gentleman not being happy at all allowed himself to take a picture of the car and phoned I do not know to whom but what does not matter ... We may have saved identities, friends what do I know. It was a day of beautiful meetings "honest girls" because these people were all upset and lost in such a situation, they came from Lyon.

What was supposed to be a moment of relaxation quickly turned into a moment of grief and anger.

Text and photo: Annick (July 18, 2023)

A COUPLE STAYING IN CALAIS (7 July 2023):

Ayat and Omar arrive in Calais one morning in June. As soon as they arrive, they are taken to the Administrative Detention Centre, they will stay there for 24 hours, despite the fact that Ayat is a woman and that this CRA is reserved only for men.

Upon their release, they go to one of the welcoming houses in Calais and are quickly contacted by the networks to try to cross by boat to England.

They leave the house, full of hope, greeting and thanking their host.

They will return 18 hours later, in a state of shock:

Omar explains to all the inhabitants of the house, themselves often candidates for the passage, the ordeal he has just experienced:

"There were 35 of us in a small zodiac boat, the engine quickly stopped working, due to the extra weight. We stayed 6 hours adrift, with the smell of gasoline that the engine was emitting. The weather conditions began to change during this endless wait. We were taken care of by the rescue service and repatriated to the French coast. »

At home, Omar's health began to decline after this ordeal. For the next 5 days, he could no longer sleep or eat. His companion repeatedly alerted the hosts to help him. He, who was rather talkative, stopped communicating. He found himself as if locked in his body, continually curled up in on himself, trembling, his gaze into the void. We accompany him to the hospital in Calais, and he leaves 4 hours later without any care because there is no psychiatrist on call in the department. He consults a doctor of the PASS and returns to the place of life with a medication protocol.

His companion takes care of him: she lifts him, feeds him, washes him, takes him out to get some fresh air, gives him his medicine.

She suddenly understands that they may be stuck at the border for a long time given the worrying condition of her man. Only he was in contact with the transit network, he had organized the whole crossing for his couple. She finally provided all the energy she had left and organized their last attempt. She asks her community for help to accompany her partner to the boat.

Her efforts have paid off, she is now in England in a hotel room with her ailing husband. She hopes for care and care for him.

Testimonial collected from the person who hosted them.

"AT SEA WITHOUT OUR MOTHERS" (7 July 2023)

Mothers on one side and children on the other.

The weather is nice, the sea promises to be calm, and everyone is preparing for a crossing. It is a group of 20 women including three single mothers who are preparing for the big departure.

Maryam with her two children: Abraham 15 years old and Tigist 10 years old,

Merone with her three children: Tesfay 9 years old, Brouck 6 years old and Philimon 3 years old

Sabrina with her 7-month-old daughter: Laetitia.

They leave the house that welcomes them around 6 p.m.

The next morning, the place that hosts them is contacted by a women's aid association. She is present at the hospital in Calais in the company of women returning from attempts. Their identity is transmitted to the host who finds that some mothers known to the house are identified, without their children. At the time, the host thinks it was a mistake.

The association takes these women to the place of life, and we (hosts) note that two of them were really without their children.

They told us they waited on the beach until the zodiac boat arrived by sea.

Once all the people were in the water, Abraham, Tigist, Tesfay and Brouck were helped by men to climb into the boat. While the mothers had their babies in their arms, water up to their necks and could not get on the boat, until it was full and left without them.

They share with us the tensions and the rush of people around the zodiac boat. People are jostling... Not all women and babies manage to board.

The police arrived on the scene, then the associations. The three mothers and the two remaining babies were able to be accompanied to an emergency room at the hospital in Calais.

It is easy to imagine the psychological state of mothers once back home, and waiting for the answers of the English associations that have been called to find the children in England ...

Testimonial collected from the person who hosted them.

LAW ENFORCEMENT IN CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE?

The policeman who shot Nahel in the head on 28th June is in prison.

Another, from the BAC of Marseille, has also been incarcerated since Friday, 21st July, after the beating of a 21-year-old.

Several hundred members of the Marseille Police Force went on sick leave.

Others followed the call of the Trade Union "Unité SGP Police" and adopted the code 562.

This means that they are stepping back and will only assume emergency and essential missions.

This shows that when they do not agree with the authorities, the police have the means to react and make it known...

This is extremely important to us.

One cannot imagine that members of the Security Forces always agree with the orders they receive during the evacuations of migrant camps.

One thinks of course of the "brave soldiers of the 17th" who on 21st June, 1907 refused to fire on the crowd ... One thinks of Philippe Demestèere's text written during the hunger strike of October/November 2021 and partly published in "Nord Littoral" of 1st November, "Open letter to the Forces of Order":

From citizen to citizen, I therefore invite you to enter resistance, to use your right of withdrawal, to multiply sick leave to no longer perpetuate barbarism here.

We understand: if each policeman, each gendarme, begins to discuss each order and evaluate with the support of his conscience, they will sit on the edge of the pavement to think, and each will do as he pleases ... We can't get away with it.

But regularly we see that some people disapprove of what they are made to do...

Without looking, I think of the policeman who, during an evacuation, said out loud one day "And we are in the country of human rights... ", to the one who (with humour) said in front of exiles who were resettling before his eyes just after the dismantling that had put them out of their camp for "illegal occupation of land of others":

And now it's the "remodelling !" with a charming midday accent.

I think of the one who once (only one) let a young girl from the HRO come forward a little so that she could observe an evacuation...

Most do not understand what they are being made to do. They think the HRO expects them to wake up the guys with kicks or throw tear gas in their faces... which remains quite rare. They say, "But it's going well... There is no police violence... »

They do not measure the violence that is done to someone by forcing him every day not to be able to move away without fear of not finding his belongings (because the evacuation is not always in the same place at the same time, and can even be two days in a row ...) However, they are not under house arrest. They do not measure the violence that is done to someone by making him move his tent every other day, that prevents him from fixing a tarpaulin over it effectively to prevent it from taking water, which prevents him from installing a stove, storing provisions, clothes, blankets ... since he is required to move EVERYTHING every other day.

But the day he realizes this, the policeman or the gendarme, what can he do?

Their colleagues have just shown us, and not only to us: they can use sick leave, and code 562.

One of the first articles of the code of ethics of the national police and the national gendarmerie, article R. 434-3 "Nature of the code of ethics and scope of application" begins with:

"The ethical rules set forth in this Code shall be derived from the Constitution, international treaties, in particular the European Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, general principles of law, and the laws and regulations of the Republic."

Claire Millot.

THANK YOU

THANKS TO THE VOLUNTEERS:

young people first,

and first and foremost, to lord and honour, to Elise: she received on 6th July at the Palais du littoral, a "gold" label of commitment awarded by the town hall of Grande-Synthe. Salam was present at the ceremony, to encourage and congratulate her.

Enthusiastic, active, efficient, she arrived in Salam through AFEV, and she stayed with us as a Thursday volunteer, and even more when she can help.



To Scout Teams

*Those who spent ten days in Calais,

*Those who came to Dunkirk, (Agathe, Armelle, Camille and Perrine, with us for two weeks.)



Not content with participating in all of Salam's activities, they were keen to discover other actions and spent time at the Sesame House and participated in two ADRA distributions (a breakfast and a Sunday lunch).



This is the reason why they eat alone on Thursday 20th: they are not at fault, but eat a piece between the distributions of that day, that of ADRA and that of Salam.

They left us a very touching note when they left us (accompanied by a cheque).

Merci beaucoup à toutes les équipes de SALAM qui nous ont accueillies pendant ces 2 semaines.

C'est une très belle association qui dure dans le temps pour servir une cause importante.

Merci à tous mais surtout à Claire de nous avoir accueillies dans l'association. Merci de nous avoir permis de vivre ce projet et de nous avoir permis de mieux connaître la cause migratoire.

Voici un petit quelque chose (à la hauteur de notre budget) pour vous remercier et vous donner du courage pour continuer !

Nous souhaiterions que ce don soit en partie utilisé pour du matériel tel que des tentes ou des couvertures.

Encore un IMMENSE MERCI,
nous avons, grâce à vous, vécu une expérience INOUBLIABLE !

L'équipe d'aînés de Clermont-Ferrand.

To Roxane, our very committed intern, who completed her engagement in June in Calais.

To the children of the IME of Rosendaël, with us almost every Thursday, brought by Emmanuelle and then by Antoine. They have become fruit salad professionals...6th July was their last day before the summer holidays and we wanted to thank them with a small gift.



To the young people who accompany Mary on Saturday morning. Special mention for Houmani who often spends other days alone to lend a hand,
and for Aboubacar, a young Ivorian, who was in charge of handling the food offered by Onjali for the month of July.

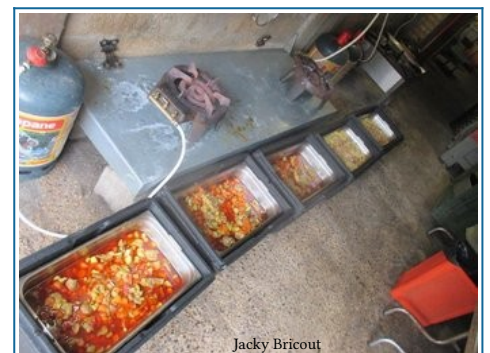
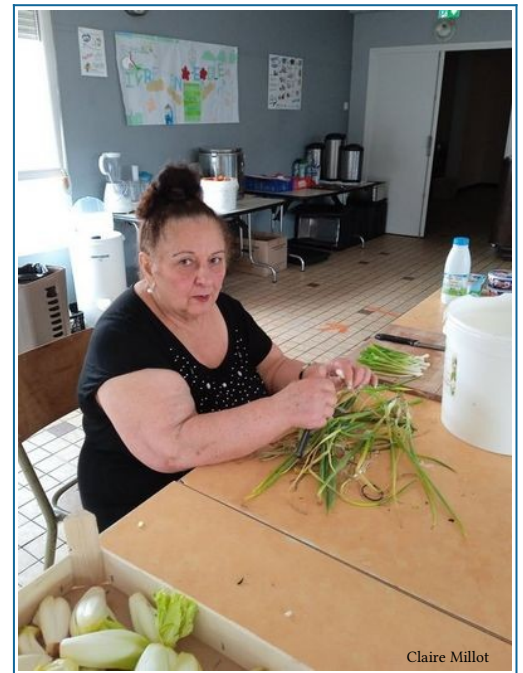
Those who worked for the preparation and distribution of meals.
The preparation teams:





Those who peel, cut, mix.

In particular, Isa, a Georgian who moved from the Loon-Plage camp to the Emmaus community of Grande-Synthe. Every Thursday morning, she comes to help us seriously and efficiently.



Jacky who was in charge of the preparation of the Eid meal, on July 1st, a luxury meal, prepared with the mutton also offered by Onjali.



Tom who distinguished himself with the chef's milk shake on July 22nd.

"It was a huge success," I am told through the earpiece," comments Anne, who took the photo.

Distribution teams, in photo that of July 8 :



And then those who nobly took on thankless tasks, according to Henry's famous formula:

The cleaning of garbage cans, especially thankless in summer when everything reduces at the bottom and is decorated with large white grubs. To avoid unscrupulous additions by the people of the neighbourhood (photo of July 10 in example) we decided to return as much as possible, after the dishes, at least the smallest, in the room with shoes freed up for this purpose.

Repair at the premises after the observation of a major water leak:

"Changing a flush stop valve and broken gasket."

Thank you, Henri!

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO GAVE US GIFTS FOR OUR EXILE FRIENDS.

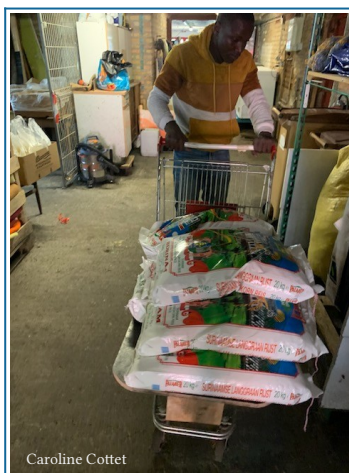
- The one who donated 6,000 cups for the breakfasts of Calais.
- The many people who sent empty water bottles to Calais, to be filled at the tap and then distributed.
- The lady who called me on Sunday, 30th July: after an Iranian wedding near Dunkirk, there was enough to feed about fifty people. They wanted to offer us these dishes for the next day's meal at the Loon-Page camp.



THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HELPED US ON BEHALF OF A COMPANY OR AN ASSOCIATION THAT IS A FRIEND OR, IN THE PROCESS OF BECOMING ONE...

Thank you once again to Onjali and his association "O's Refugee Aid Team" who offers us every month since November an important food fund.

And thanks to Caroline who does the shopping for us, herself...



Thank you to Secours Populaire/Copains du Monde, Christian Hogard, Caroline and their team.

For loading bread brought twice at the beginning of the month.

Email sent on July 5:

The "friend" is originally the one with whom we share our bread ...

No wonder, then, that the friends of the "Copains du Monde" returned last week and again this morning with a full load of bread from the vocational school of Dunkirk!

Thank you for never letting us down, thank you for assuring us of our daily bread! »

For breakfast assistance, provided on 25th July:

Email sent on 25th July:

"Tonight, on the phone, Yolaine tells me two things:

*805 breakfasts given in Calais this morning by the Salam team (unheard of since the end of Ramadan, which we began to do the daily count at the request of "International Solidarity"),

*the arrival of cases of brugnons, yogurts and bread offered by you (Copains du Monde/Secours Populaire).

You can easily imagine how well your gifts have been received , by a large and hungry population!

Thank you so much for never letting us down.

On the part of Salam and on behalf of those who, thanks to you, are a little less hungry, thank you both and your whole team...

Our lifelong friends from FTS who once again gave Calais a pallet of milk. Georges and Claudine went to get it. Thanks to them too.



The bakery of Volkerinckhove who called to give us a batch (about sixty!) of breads cakes, and thanks to Pierre who went to get them.

The association, installed at the "Quatre écluses" in Dunkirk who also called to give us bread and food on 2nd July. Thanks to José who went to get a dozen bags of bread sticks already cut as well as quinoa and rice salads.

Thank you to everyone who joined forces to bring us blankets and clothes for our friends to fight against the cool days that followed a heat wave this month...

The institution of Maldegem in Belgium, reported for months by Hasbia, who once again offered us an impressive batch of covers: the photo shows only part of the collection.

Thanks to Pierre and the MRS association who went to pick them up on 4th July.



Saint Bertin Saint Joseph de la Colme parish: we were called on 17th July to collect shoes and a bag of blankets. It was the seventh time since the mobilization of the children of the catechism and their parents: their solidarity has not weakened since the beginning of Lent...



The Audotri association, mobilized to give us clothes and blankets.

And this is an opportunity for us to greet Isabelle who gives her all with a big heart.



The grannies of the "Val des Roses": we can no longer count how many times José went to get a large bag of wool hats that they had knitted. We had again one this month.

Marie-Noëlle, who came on 22nd July to drop off men's clothes and blankets collected by her team in Nieppe.

Thanks to Dominique Bouday, photographer, who came to help us in April at Grande-Synthe. Three photographers and two painters exhibited on the theme "in the silence of screams... quelques notes de lumière" from 10th to 16th July, in Saint Michel de Chabrillanoux, in the Ardèche. Dominique devoted two panels and a text to his visit to the Loon-Plage camp. She chose them as her title: "They are here".



ils sont là

200 300 400 500 600 venus de tous les continents fuyant la terre de leurs ancêtres,
l'irrésistible attrait de l'Eldorado anglais les a fait atterrir ici,
certains en arrivant demandent «où est l'hôtel ?» Que leur a-t-on vendu ?
Et les voilà, dans ce qu'on appelle ici « la jungle »
chaque jour ils se pressent guettant l'arrivée des associations nourricières, les yeux braqués sur leur téléphone, soucieux des nouvelles des proches et dans l'attente de l'heure du passage

ils sont là

les centaines de bénévoles eux guettent les personnes en grande détresse,
chaque jour ils se relaient apportant les moyens de pallier aux besoins vitaux, leurs garages transformés en cuisine de collectivité, une quelconque camionnette transformée en douches

ils sont là

les passeurs eux guettent le chaland pour la traversée de la Manche, 55 000 en 2022

ils sont là

aussi les hommes de la mafia
de l'extérieur du camp, ils guettent le trafic des passeurs

ils sont là

les policiers prêts à répondre aux consignes de destruction des campements sur la plage ils guettent aussi les canots prêts à partir pleins à craquer d'exilés, heureux élus du jour serrant un sac poubelle, ils y ont entassé leurs biens les plus précieux

Camp de Fort-Mardyck (agglomération de Dunkerque avril 2023)

AND FINALLY THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO MADE US FINANCIAL DONATIONS,
without which we would not be able to maintain the vans, put diesel in the tanks, pay for the water and electricity used in our premises, replace the gas cylinders...
Thank you to all those (close friends and strangers) who slipped us a bank note, sent us a cheque, made a transfer directly or by Helloasso.

Special thanks this month to:

The scout team present with us this month (see above) who left us a nice chequ that will,
according to their wishes, be used to buy tents.

Cécile Millot, present in the region on 30th June and 1st July for signing sessions of her book
(story of her three-year life experience in Madagascar).

She shared the profits from the sale of these two days with Salam and therefore left a nice sum too.
Below, part of the invitation poster for these two sessions:

« J'ai vécu une aventure que peu de gens ont la chance de vivre : j'ai passé trois ans à Madagascar, pour enseigner le français langue étrangère dans une école de formation des instituteurs.

Ce travail était passionnant.

Je vivais seule dans une petite ville, où il n'y a pas eu d'électricité pendant un an, et où il n'y avait pas d'autres étrangers que moi. Je n'avais pas le choix, je me suis glissée dans la vie quotidienne des Malgaches. Je suis allée à leur rencontre sans a priori, et je me suis fait accepter. »

Ce récit s'inspire d'un vécu et d'un blog, celui que Cécile a tenu fidèlement à Madagascar.

Consciente de ne pas pouvoir expliquer un pays qu'elle ne connaît que si superficiellement, elle y raconte, par petites touches, au quotidien, les surprises et les malentendus dus à la différence de niveau de vie et de cultures. Elle n'hésite pas à porter un regard critique sur les pesanteurs de la société malgaches, ou sur les impasses de l'aide au développement, mais son humour la quitte rarement. Ce récit alerte se lit avec un œil qui pleure et un œil qui rit.

Elle partagera ses bénéfices
avec l'association SALAM – Nord – Pas-de-Calais

SALAM 
Nord/Pas-de-Calais

THANK YOU TO BETHLEHEM, TO ABDELKADER AND TO THE ASSOCIATION RENAISSANCE, TO FLANDRES TERRE SOLIDAIRE, TO THE PROTESTANT MUTUAL AID, TO THE AUBERGE DES MIGRANTS who share with us the ton of bananas offered by CONHEXA once a week, to EMMAUS who gives us surpluses every week, for Calais as for Grande-Synthe, to the Sesame House which shares with us two mornings a week the surplus of fruits and vegetables from the ALDI store from the rue du Kruysbellaert, to the Ressourcerie de Montreuil sur mer ("Il était deux fois") and to the Secours Catholique de Berck which provide each month clothes brought to Calais by André de Merlimont, to the JARDINS DE COCAGNE, to the COMORIAN DAMES, to the RESTAURANT DU CAP in Escalles, to the Calais bakeries and to those in front of the Noordover, "La mie du pain" and "Au bon pain d'ancienne" by Coudekerque. Week after week, they are there to help us. Thanks to HRO and Olivier Schitteck who allow us to publish their photos.

THANK YOU to the diocesan association of Lille which, through the parish of Grande-Synthe, has been graciously making available the premises of the Salle Guérin, for about fifteen years.

THANK YOU to Michel who ensures the layout of this newsletter, without fail, for years,
to Chris who translates it into English, month after month, for our website,
to Antoine who manages the Facebook Page, also without fail, since 2017,
and Guillaume who introduced us to the LinkedIn network a year and a half ago.

Claire Millot.

OUR NEEDS FOR VOLUNTEERS

Dunkirk:

We need people on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from the beginning of the peeling chore (8 am) to the end of the dishes (between 2 and 4 pm). In between, we distribute the meal.

Call Claire (06 34 62 68 71). From outside France 00 33 6 34 62 68 71

Calais:

Salam continues the distribution of enhanced breakfasts every morning with tea and coffee.
But we are sorely lacking volunteers, especially volunteers with driver's licenses:
Meeting at 8 am at the local, 13 rue des Fontinettes.

Call Yolaine at 06.83.16.31.61. From outside France 00 33 6 83.16.31.61

CALL FOR DONATIONS

MONEY NEEDS.

Without state subsidies and with a very significant reduction in subsidies from local and regional authorities, we still need money to make the work of the association last:
Maintenance of premises and vans, fuel, purchase of food that is missing...

Visit the association's website: www.associationsalam.org
Section: "Support us"

Go through HELLOASSO:
<https://www.helloasso.com/associations/salam-nord-pas-de-calais/formulaires/2/widget>

or simply send a cheque to:
Association Salam
PO Box 47
62100 CALAIS FRANCE

You are entitled to a 66% tax reduction on these donations, in cash by one of our volunteers, by check payable to SALAM, or by bank transfer (direct or by Helloasso) (please check your local tax laws)

A big thank you to all our generous donors!

TENTS AND TARPAULINS!

From dismantling to dismantling, the tents are removed at both sites and we are unable to replace them. Many people sleep with nothing on them, in all weathers.

But we hesitate to suggest you buy some: the life expectancy of a tent is a few days...

On the other hand, tarpaulins, pieces of 3m by 3M (or 2.50m by 3M), cost much less and allow an honest man to spend a night in the shelter.

Otherwise, the most pressing needs on both sites:

BLANKETS (DUVETS, SLEEPING BAGS).

hygiene products (shampoo, shower gel, deodorant, sunscreen, etc.), especially razors, towels,

men's clothing from XS to XL: underpants, long underpants and thermal leggings and thermal sweaters, socks, jogging pants, jeans, shorts, t-shirts,

SHOES for men: trainers or light hiking shoes (sizes 40 to 46), sandals, caps.

backpacks,

lamps and batteries,

water packs,

bags (small backpacks, garbage bags, freezer bags, tote bags and plastic bags)

Food for Calais:

JAM,

Milk

tea and sugar, soluble coffee,

cans of sardines and cans of tuna,

cream cheese,

dried fruits,

Power banks / batteries.

To drop off your donations, RDV 13 rue des Fontinettes, and call 06 83 16 31 61.

And for Grande-Synthe:

Especially canned vegetables of all kinds (we have been receiving much less fresh for some time),

bags of pulses,

spices,

Drop off your donations in the Salle Guérin, rue Alphonse Daudet, behind St Jacques Church on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. .

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

You can always take your membership for 2023.

Please contact us (see below) to receive details of how you can become a member.

If you are not yet a member, do not hesitate to join us.

Whether you are an active volunteer or not, becoming a member gives the association the strength to Union! We were more than 250 members in 2022, already more than 200 at the end of April 2023, help us to exceed the threshold of 300.

CONTACT US

<http://www.associationsalam.org>
salamnordpasdecalais@gmail.com
Facebook page: [SALAM Nord/Pas-de-Calais](#)
And the new LinkedIn page, available at the following link :
www.linkedin.com/in/association-salam-nord-pas-de-calais

Association SALAM
PO Box 47
62100 CALAIS

SALAM Association,
Salle Guérin, St Jacques district,
1, rue Alphonse Daudet,
59760 Grande-Synthe



Bulletin d'adhésion 2023

Merci de remplir le bulletin ci-dessous et de le renvoyer à l'adresse suivante :
Association SALAM-Nord/Pas-de-Calais
BP 47
62100 CALAIS

Monsieur/
Madame : _____ Prénom _____

Adresse _____

Code postal _____ Ville _____ Pays _____

Téléphone _____ E mail _____

☐ J'adhère à l'association en versant la somme de 10 €.

(5 € pour les étudiants et demandeurs d'emploi , adhésion valable jusqu'au 31/12/2023)

Date et signature :

☐ Je fais un don* à l'association Salam en versant la somme de : _____

**Par chèque à l'ordre de l'association Salam. Un reçu fiscal vous sera adressé*

☐ Je souhaite recevoir davantage d'informations sur l'association Salam.