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JUNE 2025 NEWSLETTER

THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

Speech is precious. Speaking out is an act of resistance in the face of the silent barbarism of our governments, such as reaching out, peeling vegetables, offering showers, charging mobile phones, offering a smile to all those who walk on the roads of exile....

"The construction of history is dedicated to the memory of the anonymous," said Walter Benjamin.

Jacky Bricout, 21st May 2025.

EDITORIAL

The number of exiles in Calais and Dunkirk increased dramatically during the spring...

Once, in the memory of Salam volunteers, we saw the number of exiles grow wildly, to the point of not knowing what to do...

It was in 2015, at the time of the "migration crisis", at least of what was called as such, as if it were a crisis that was going to subside...

In Grande-Synthe, where we were used to a few dozen people in the Basroch camp, we counted 180 in June, 300 in September, 2,800 at Christmas...

The authorities had mobilized: it was the opening of the "Jules Ferry Centre" in Calais (the first meals were distributed there on 15th January 2015) and the opening of the "Camp de Linière" in Grande-Synthe (7th, 8th and 9th March , 2016).

Today... our state authorities are competing with the National Rally to exclude, reject, chase from their camps, the hundreds of people who crowd in our country in search of a better life...

It was also the period when the body of little Aylan was found on a beach in Turkey on 3rd September 2015, which moved the whole world.

Civil society had also mobilized for the exiles. Vans from all over Europe arrived in Calais and Dunkirk, full of equipment.

Today, the seeds of intolerance, which Jean-Claude Lenoir spoke of in his "word" of 14th June 2024 (see our website on that date), are blooming and releasing hatred of the others...

After the homemade roots showers destroyed in the Mardyck camp on 10th May, it was the intervention of right-wing, English extremists in Calais: on 4th June a group of insulting and provocative men, with megaphones, and on 5th June a rodeo in a car around the queue waiting for breakfast at the orange squat in Calais and around our distribution team. It took the calm of the Salam volunteers present, and the confidence that the exiles had in them, for them to manage to prevent our friends from coming to blows with their aggressors who provoked them to violence...

Claire Millot (vice-president of the Salam association).

EVENTS OF THE MONTH.

DEATHS.

19 deaths so far in 2025 as of 31st May: 23rd June to 30th June (four more).

On the 10th of the month, no announcement of the death of an exile had been made.

This would be excellent news, if since 31st May, the Home Office had not reported that there had been no successful passages to the United Kingdom, i.e. if there had not been an interruption in crossing attempts. This would be excellent news if we did not see the number of exiles in Calais and Dunkirk increasing inexorably, so that we can no longer feed everyone properly.

On 14th June, gunfire on the Loon-Plage camp killed one Sudanese and wounded five others , including a two-year-old boy. The one who died was 24 years old (according to a judicial source, says the newspaper "Le Monde".) The commemoration took place, as usual, at 6:30 p.m., on the 15th June in Calais in front of the Richelieu Park and on the 16th in Dunkirk, on the Malo dike. About thirty people gathered there (our photo).



At the time of the tragedy,
we were all squinting at the Home Office website to see the number of visits to England.
The result was... 919 out of 14 canoes the day before.
And all of a sudden, the WhatsApp interests goes into a frenzy.
Gunshots were fired near the distribution site, five people were injured, including a young child, who were taken to hospital.
Rumour has it that one is dead. We hope it's just a rumour... But access to the site was forbidden by the police, the presence of ten ambulances and twelve police cars... All this is worrying.
Indeed, the press, which was quicker informed than us, confirmed: there was a death.
We don't know anything about the context, but we know that this type of violence usually comes from smugglers. The usual omertà.... code of silence about criminal activity.... means that we will know nothing more.

Salam's team was preparing lunch.

Arnaud, in his report of the day, summed up the situation:

"The Salam teams are all different but have one thing in common: their sense of commitment. Informed of the situation, all the people scheduled for distribution decided to ensure it.

The site was cordoned off, the police told us that it was possible to go around via Loon-Plage / Mardyck and we went to distribute on the old site near the level crossing.

In the end, 830 hot dishes were distributed, including doubles for families. Everyone got something. Dozens of women and children... »

And then not even two days later, on Monday, 16th June, shots fired again at the Loon-Plage camp, again a death at the camp and a serious injury. Rumour has it that it was a conflict between two people...

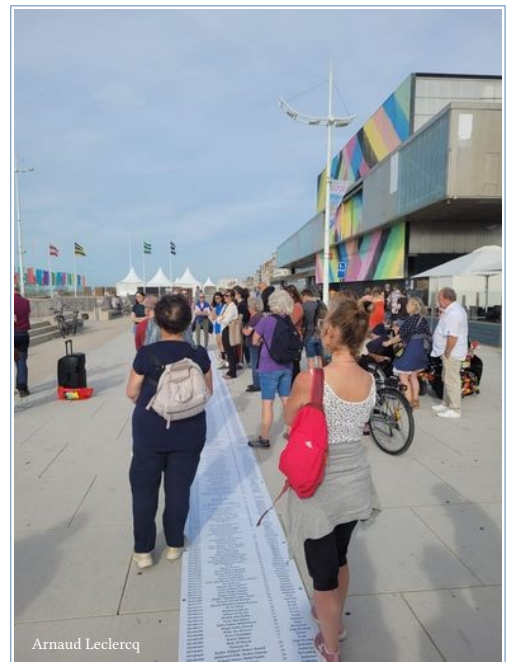
It is not more cheerful but less distressing for those who are present (exiles or associations).

However, most associations have taken a step back.

On Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th, the Salam team was the only one present at the distribution site at lunchtime...

The commemorations took place at 6:30 pm, as always, in Calais on the 16th at the Parc Richelieu, and on the 17th in Dunkirk on the Malo dike.

About thirty people, like the day before, gathered in Malo



On the morning of the 21st, we learned from the press of the death, in hospital, of a third victim of one of these two episodes of violence. The discrepancy between the date of the shooting, the date of the death and the date on which we learned explains the lack of mobilization for the commemoration.

However, there were about twenty of us on the Malo in Dunkirk so as not to forget this man who fell so far from his family.

One death by illness is added to this macabre list:

On 15th June, the death group informed us of the funeral in Boulogne sur Mer, the next day, of Nour Al Sammari. "Nour passed away after a long illness last Friday. She is the sister of Dina, who died during an attempted crossing in July 2024. The family would like to have support, this time again. Flowers, and especially roses, are welcome. »

PASSAGES IN ENGLAND

As of 30th June, 5,170 crossings had been recorded by the Home Office on 80 lifeboats (between 64 and 65 people on average per boat).

This is the highest average number of boats embarked since we began keeping the count in July 2023. In June 2024, they had counted 3,041 people on 56 dinghies (between 53 and 54 per boat).

The least busy day was the 19th with 51 people per dinghy and the worst with 73 on the 30th (585 on 8 dinghies)!

These figures only include those that have been recovered at sea by the British authorities.

We have always known that some people bypass them and that others continue to try to cross by road (tunnel or ferries). As proof, this "news item" that was highlighted on the evening of 6th June, two exiles arrived in the United Kingdom under a bus that was bringing back children from a school trip to France...

People arrive in large numbers to pass:

On 1st June we gave 912 breakfasts in Calais, and everywhere in Calais (Boulevard des Justes, Route de St Omer...) we saw groups of people, and they were not among those to whom we had given food...

On 15th June, on the Quai de la Moselle in Calais, we saw two or three people arrive dragging a suitcase on wheels, convinced that they will be welcomed in a hotel, or at least in an accommodation centre: the lies of the smugglers are limitless...

Every morning, more than 800 breakfasts were given in Calais, and it even rose to 1,270 on 13th June.

Sometimes a drop in the number is noted (on the 7th, 20th, 21st and 24th), it is said that the 20th and 21st were days of heavy crossings, but 962 meals were given on the 27th: the passages to England did not visibly reduce the number of exiles present.

In Dunkirk, no less than 800 lunches were given between 1st and 9th June, then we did not go below 600... 602 on 17th June, to rise again to more than 800 (900 on Monday 23rd June).



These numbers are huge for a summer month... Last year (2024), the average number of meals distributed by Salam in June was 270 in Dunkirk and 295 in Calais...

And those who miss the passage?

We don't hear much about it...

But let's not forget two pregnant mothers, hospitalized in Calais after this experience on 19th June, (the fathers and other children were fortunately recovered too, as well as another father with his little ones.)

In the photos that show a police intervention to prevent a departure, the volunteers in Calais recognized three little girls to whom they gave breakfast every morning, and hearts are tightening...

Police intervention in the water:

The police are not allowed to intervene once the boat or migrants are in the water. We all know this, even if we also know, that this rule is not always respected...

On 27th February, however, Mr Retailleau proposed to his British counterpart to intervene in the water in a coastal strip of 300m.

Aïcha Noui, in the article of the "Voix du nord" of 21st March 2025, wanted to be reassuring:

"The change in doctrine at sea off the North coast and Pas-de-Calais is for the moment an announcement effect. Because a much more complex reality is imposed. When contacted, the Ministry of the Interior believes that "a European agreement" is needed to apply a new intervention doctrine "because there is no longer a framework to regulate the movement of people since Brexit, we are told. The problem of migrants in the Hauts-de-France is European. Legal channels and at the same time a readmission system are needed to deter would-be illegal crossings. "There are also international conventions on law and assistance at sea which oppose any interception at sea in this specific context off the coast of Nord and Pas-de-Calais"

And yet... Framed by law or not, the facts unfortunately proved him wrong...

The police enter the sea with weapons: see on our website, dated 20th June, the article by Pierre-Louis Caron, published on 18th June on the France-Info website.

"I've never seen anything like this from the police": near Dunkirk, migrants intercepted in the water with tear gas canisters.

We usually only publish photos taken by Salam volunteers or friends in this newsletter. But the facts are serious, and the press gives us the necessary images that we would not have otherwise (*The Sun* of 14th June 2025):



The image that shows men who only have splashes of water to oppose armed policemen who gas them, is quite shocking...

THE DISMANTLINGS.

In Calais, the rhythm remains three times a week, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, without exception this month.

The city centre, BMX and Judea Street remain the main sites targeted.

This month, the Stadium was added. The exiles who were not used to these evacuations fled when the police arrived, without thinking to take their equipment, which was collected in full... This is what the Salam team present on 9th June testifies. That morning, all their tents were seized...

On the 6th June, the HRO Human Rights Observers had already not been early enough... The exiles said that the police were there from 6 a.m. and had taken everything (more than thirty tents).

On 18th June, at dawn (6:44 a.m.), the site called "Jean Bouin" was dismantled, which was also not usual.

The immediate evacuation was decided on 23rd May by the Administrative Court of Lille.

The Human Rights Observers were able to observe the beginning of the operation: from 6.44 am., the entire street was blocked by at least six CRS vans. There were three buses to take people, but, with the distance, no one could see how many people agreed to get on them.

ECPAT, whose role is to help unaccompanied minors, was able to report on what happened next: there were seventeen arrests, people were detained by the PAF and left at 5 p.m. (a quarter past eight without eating, without even a glass of water). Among them, a minor came out with an OQTF, his fingerprints were taken by force.

Four vans left, full of seized equipment.

The seizure of equipment is what is most important in these evacuations..

Those present have the right to collect their belongings... For those who are not there, they are considered abandoned. But on 2nd June, for example, at the Stadium, four people were not allowed to pass through the police roadblock to recover what belonged to them.



And from now on, there is no longer any possibility of recovering tents and tarpaulins... There is no longer any question of the Ressourcerie, and the equipment is so badly treated at the time of collection that we cannot imagine that it can be used again (the photo was taken on 20th June in the City Centre)...



Arrests, often preceded by body searches, are frequent (the two photos were taken on 20th June in the city centre.



At least, families are left alone in the city centre during evacuations, on June 4th , 6th and 20th of June (and on 20th June three isolated adults too...)

In Dunkirk, evacuations have become weekly since the promise of the Sub-Prefect of Dunkirk to evacuate camps near homes more often, during the public meeting on 29th April with the population of Loon-Plage (see our newsletter last month).

They took place in June on the 4th, 12th, 18th and 25th.

Evacuations are indeed much more frequent, but the evacuated sites are close to companies and not to homes (Total, Ryssens, Odorisation, SDMT, Esso), plus the space in front of the distribution site allocated to the associations, the Gracht Mardyck and the Bois de Mardyck, which are just as far from the homes)!



The convoys are impressive (the photos are from 4th and 25th June):



There are many displaced persons (the HRO counted at least 300 evicted on the 12th.

at least 490 who left their camp of their own accord when the police approached on 25 June). The photos were taken on 12th and 18th June.

Buses are there for those who want to take shelter, on 18th June, people are forced to leave their place of life by a passage that leads to the bus but the HRO sees only twelve people in it (they admit however that they do not have a satisfactory visibility because of the security perimeter).

The material collected is impressive in quantity:

On the 4th and 12th, two large skips were filled in the morning. The transfer is done either by a backhoe, always in action on the days of dismantling, or directly from a van (the photos were taken on 18th June).





Sometimes shopping carts serve as relays to the backhoe loader (the photos were taken on 12th June).



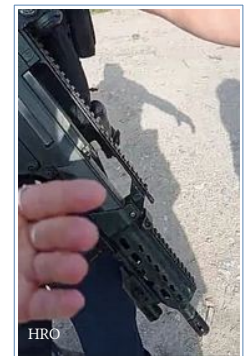
On the 18th, a new destruction machine appeared, we saw it at work on the stalls, opposite the distribution site.

The Salam team saw the demolition completed on the 18th during its distribution time, after the HRO had left.

This machine also tore off a pipe that brings drinking water to the water points made available to the exiles. The repair was done very quickly but the pieces had dragged in the earth. The Director General of Services, who was contacted, fortunately quickly reassured us with a phone call: the pipe had been changed and purged, the water was clean. Thanks to him.

The atmosphere is often tense. The weapons were present, and on 18th June the HRO noted the presence of two automatic rifles, an LBD, an HK rifle, shields and matrices.

A member of the HRO remarks "You brought out the big device today", a policeman justifies: "After a shooting, yes... »



The HRO, who is usually told that they should not be present on private land, are on the 18th on the public road and are given a ticket because they are not on a pedestrian crossing!

The CRS don't necessarily like this job. On 12th June, one of them said: "It doesn't make me happy to be here, the problem is the politicians."

Neither did the cleaning team: on 12th June, the HRO also spoke with cleaning agents who said they were taking the tents but leaving as many belongings as possible in a pile for people to collect. They are not happy to be there.

Access to water.

It's always a problem in an informal camp, water is always lacking, but it's much worse in a heat wave...

The "Voix du Nord" devotes an article to the problem, for Calais. The Pas-de-Calais prefecture, it reads, has water distributed by "La Vie Active" *"during mobile distributions to the camps (operated 7 days a week, 3 hours in the morning and 3 hours in the afternoon.); a water fountain, including taps (free access 24 hours a day) is installed on rue des Huttes, near the main camps."* This is nothing more than what is granted all year round and on only two sites (rue de Judée and Fort Nieulay) while there are camps at least ten places. Salam can't go everywhere with breakfast and already currently serves seven sites...

Due to the heat wave, the "Vie Active" provided an additional three days (nothing more) on rue des Mouettes for an hour and a half of water distribution in the morning and as much in the afternoon...

In Dunkirk:

The Doctors of the World team testifies:

"Recently, we have come across people who testify that they are forced to drink water from nearby rivers, even though it is unfit for consumption. At the same time, the Doctors of the World team has noted an increase in care for gastroenterological reasons: 8% of consultations in April and 13% in May, whereas in previous months, this reason did not stand out as the main reason for people to consult a doctor. This situation exposes vulnerable people (with a chronic pathology, pregnant women) or children and infants whose health can deteriorate very quickly in the event of diarrhoea and vomiting. We would like to recall that this situation constitutes a violation of Article 24 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), which states that it is the responsibility of the State to provide access to safe drinking water so that children can be healthy. As well as Article 27, which stipulates that the State is obliged to provide every child with an adequate standard of living. »

THE JUSTICE

On the subject of waste collection, the associations lost to the local authorities... The decision on the request of CFC, Salam and Solidarités International on the management of waste in Calais was published on 10th June. In response to the request, the town hall gave a whole list of actions carried out in the territory to take care of this waste. Even if these actions do not seem sufficient to us, the state of the living spaces being the proof, the judge ruled in their favour: she considers that the city hall is doing enough.

Of course, we do not agree, but the time allowed to put together an appeal file (fifteen days) was very short. We have also filed an "appeal on the merits" which will not be judged for at least a year and a half... This gives time to better prepare the response...

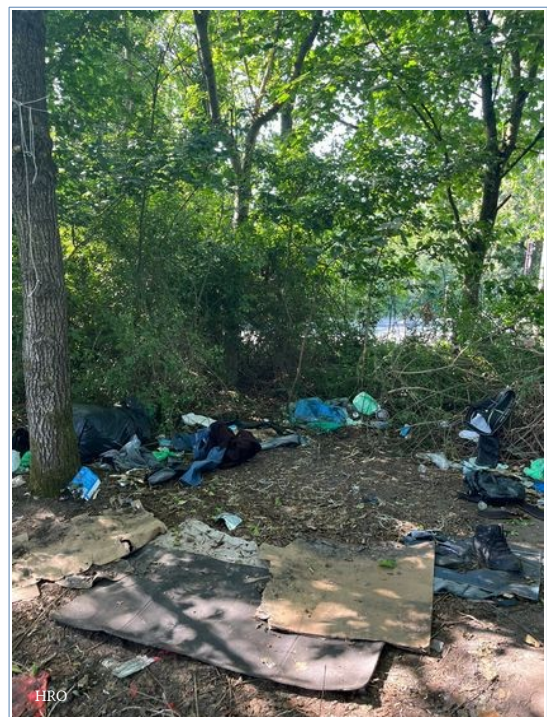
We are particularly shocked to read (p. 5 of the court order) that the evacuations are accompanied by a clean-up of the sites "this collection being carried out by state service providers after the dismantling of each camp". This is absolutely false, it never happens.

The photo below shows the site known as "Jean Bouin" after its evacuation on 18th June.

The bottom of page 4 also leaves us speechless: "the problem of insalubrity is essentially the result of living conditions in migrant camps and not of insufficient household waste removal operations."

Should we not first conclude that the existence of these camps is unworthy and that it is necessary to replace them with a dignified form of reception?

Claire Millot.



DUNKIRK, THE EVENING DISTRIBUTIONS:

Pascaline and/or Quentin, sometimes accompanied by one or two volunteers (Ursula on Friday 30th May with equipment donated by Emmaüs St Omer - Will, Chloé and Adèle on Wednesday 4th June - Will and Adèle (Strix), Thomas (reporter) on Wednesday 18th - Will and Adèle on Wednesday 25th - Thomas, Aaron, a guy from Oost-Dunkerque, on Friday 27th)...

In the second week of June, in Pascaline's absence, Quentin made three small distributions on his own.

Listing the requests received, preparing the belongings and loading them into the truck takes an average of two hours. Then, a distribution lasts an average of two hours.

Since the beginning of April, Pascaline and Quentin have been giving us a weekly presentation of their actions. Here is a summary for the month of June.

A few preliminary remarks:

The stock of blankets is regularly empty, it fills up (thank you) and is immediately empty with the many requests.

On Thursday 12 June, one of the exiles was a 19-year-old Senegalese who had been refused his application for a residence permit despite his apprenticeship contract in a bakery. After three years in France, he found himself with nothing and was going to try to cross the ...channel

On Saturday 31st June, more than 1,100 people arrived in England, some of whom had been given an appointment on Friday have already sent a "Thank you. I have reached UK".

Wednesday 4th June, the sharing: there was a dismantling in the morning. We leave at 12:30 pm to pick up blankets in Belgium (400 in total). We drop off half of it at the Refugee Women Centre, which also has almost none left, and keep the other half for our distributions.

Wednesday 18th June, the lack of water: in Mardyck, people told us that they drank water from the nearby river because the distribution point was too far away and they don't necessarily have the right containers to go and get it.

Will and Adèle brought back packs of water that same evening and repeated the operation the next day (it was very hot!). We still have only one water point, while the population of the camp has more than doubled.

Friday 20th June, families: near the railway tracks, at the level of the wood opposite the old distribution site, there are a lot of families and many young children.

On Saturday, Pascaline had three or four orders to fulfill. She took the opportunity to drop off children's clothes and stuffed animals which were very successful.



Attached is a photo taken in front of Esso of a little boy who had taken refuge in Quentin's car and he was not at all happy to get out!!

Wednesday 4th: very quickly dozens and dozens of people arrived, many women... we give without really checking the size... We leave quite disappointed... Too many people, too many needs... Too absurd to break up camps and leave people in such disarray...

Relations with the police:

On Wednesday 4th, in the old distribution car park, near the railway tracks, we started to give some blankets and the police came to see us saying that it was forbidden to distribute in this place and that we had to go to the food distribution car park.

Discussion: We "too many people there, there will be fights, the police broke up here this morning, it won't be the people who need it the most who will have", they end up telling us "OK we're referring it to our hierarchy"... Small photo of the few people around the truck and they leave letting us distribute.

On Friday 6th, the police passed, a complete and almost surprising silence fell on the parking lot, the police turned around and left without even stopping.

Tuesday 10th, Quentin's account: "When I was in the car park near the railway tracks, police officers came to ask me what I was carrying. Once I was reassured to see only blankets and clothes, one of the policemen asked me if I lived in Grande-Synthe. I told him no, but that I was a member of Salam. He seemed reassured and told me "OK no problem" then they left. »

On Thursday 12th, Quentin recounts: "When I was in the car park near the railway tracks, it was the railway police who came to ask me very kindly to do prevention work with the exiles so that they would not walk along the railway tracks to avoid accidents."

On Friday 20th, we wanted to go behind Esso but when we were about to take the small path that leads to the camps, we faced the police car that was coming! We didn't insist.

On Wednesday 25th, we came across a police car. We were pretty sure it was going to follow us and suddenly we saw everyone running in all directions, and that same car and another one overtook us with their siren and stopped at the shops. We didn't know exactly what happened. 30 minutes later, when we came back, a car was still there on surveillance, but everything was back to normal.

On Friday 27th, exiles warned Pascaline, the police had photographed her license plate...

DISTRIBUTION BALANCE:

Between 2 and 3 distributions per week, depending on the situation (weather, dismantling, etc.)

In May, between 26th May and 30th June, the following were given:

- More than 10 tents for 2 people purchased by Salam (unit cost of 30€),
- 478 blankets and 36 sleeping bags,
- Shoes
- clothes by cartons: socks (more than twelve boxes and 2 bags), sweaters/sweatshirts (more than 16 boxes), trousers/jogging pants/jeans (more than fifteen boxes), t-shirts (25 plus 10 boxes), hats/scarves (more than 4 boxes) and jackets (one box and two bags, plus about 80), children's clothes in the second half of the month,
- 4 or 5 packs of diapers and several packs of wipes,
- bottles of mineral water (after the destruction of a pipe during the dismantling on 18th June, and during the heat wave): 48 half-litre bottles and 39 one-and-a-half-litre bottles.

THANK YOU.

All this is once again only possible thanks to donations (in the photo of the covers brought back from Belgium) and the people who sort them (Marie and Denise, sorting on a Wednesday morning)



A big "thank you" to all!!

And finally, a message of thanks received on Thursday 12 June by Quentin:

« Thank you very much for your services, you are the hope for a better future »

"Thank you very much for your services, you are the hope for a better future."

Pascaline and Quentin.

TESTIMONIALS.

*From here, first, and then from elsewhere,
because we must never forget that what is happening here is found on the other side of Europe and also of
the world...*

A SUNDAY AFTER THE PARTY IN CALAIS.

People are slowly waking up after the night of the music party.
However, at the quay, in the heart of the city centre, the awakening is rather painful.
As always, we meet men, women and children filled with despair and hope.
Like this dad alone with his 2 grandchildren... her 2-year-old daughter without shoes!!
The police took everything yesterday...
Because no mercy for people...
Or this man completely lost... he has serious heart problems... He arrived alone a few days ago...
looking lost... Tap feet... Where to go?
We meet this woman mother of a large family... calm and almost resilient.
And this happy father that his 3 grown sons switched to UK on Friday... even if he's still there.
We feed them this much-appreciated breakfast every morning.
But we also try to feed their hearts with a smile... A sweet word and a listening ear.
Sunday morning, Salam Calais starts its distribution and it's a unique moment each time...

You can help...
Need milk... jam... mayonnaise... coffee... sugar...
Clothes, men, women and children... and especially shoes.

Ferri Matheeuwsen (23rd June)
(Ferri, a volunteer in Salam, is Dutch).

ACROSS THE FIELDS, IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SLUMP, THE SKINS AND FACES TELL THE STORY OF AFRICA AND ASIA.

Like many of you, I have a deep admiration for those who work tirelessly to ensure that humanity can continue to uphold its values. It seems natural, obvious — and yet, it's often challenged.

For more than ten years, I have had the opportunity to go to Calais, alongside Yolaine, or to Grande-Synthe, with Claire, and the Fabulous Orchestra of the Volunteers of Salam. With a small group of Ile-de-France residents, we try, each in our own way, to bring our drop of water: a few things, a helping hand, a word, a presence, and always this need to say "we are here".

I am passionate about travel, fascinated by the richness of cultures, by the lessons that difference offers us when we encounter it in sharing.

Here I am on the road again, for the second time, with Ricardo — my bike. We cast off, carried by a slightly crazy dream: to reach Japan.

Already more than 2,000 kilometres on the clock, in this crossing of Italy. I am "in Puglia". Far from the main roads, where reality is offered without filter, I see the same paradoxes, the same injustices, that can be noted in France:

These African women, around the Reggio Emilia train station, obviously given over to prostitution...

On the hot roads of this month of June 2025, the bike trip takes me far from the beaten track. Across the fields, in the middle of the slump, the skins and faces tell the story of Africa and Asia — they toil hard, under a scorching sun, no doubt exploited on these farms!!



In village back rooms, I spoke with two French-speaking men. One Malagasy, the other Senegalese. Stranded for 13 and 20 years respectively.

Their story is as good as that of Cinderella, without us being able to feel the "happy ending"...

With modesty, they didn't really dare to depict the emptiness of their lives! So alone in the repetition of this day of endless work.

Cycling is conducive to reflection and meditation... It's not easy to manage or digest what the road gives to pick in the middle of the beauties.

These unique beings, denatured to become a mass, a statistical whole, are doctors, young people who dream of living, teachers; she is the one who could be you, he who is so close to me... All of them, stigmatized by dubious media that often make them profiteers of the system, the culprits of our crises. Judged and condemned in the public square, and in the shadows: co-opted and exploited for the worse or worse of the game of capital that knows how to invent the unthinkable for a little more profit...

I always have a bit of a harsh and caricatural line when a tear falls from me...
But when the pain of "injustice" subsides, I prefer nuance to Manichaeism...
I hope to tell you, next time, some treasures revealed in this world rich in hopes... again and again..

Greg (a free electron on a bike), June 29, 2025.

IN JUNE, SALAM WAS OUT.

On 31st May, in Fort Mardyck, May 31st, we were represented at the "Amazones Danse" gala, given for the benefit of Salam.

Soumaya and Ghislaine had presented the living conditions of the exiles on our coast, and our work. We reported this in the May newsletter, but we had not yet received any photos of this event. Here are three of them:





On 20th June for World Refugee Day, and for the tenth anniversary of "SOS Méditerranée France", we were present at the screening of the film: "Save our souls" at the same time at the Alhambra in Calais and at Studio 43 in Dunkirk.

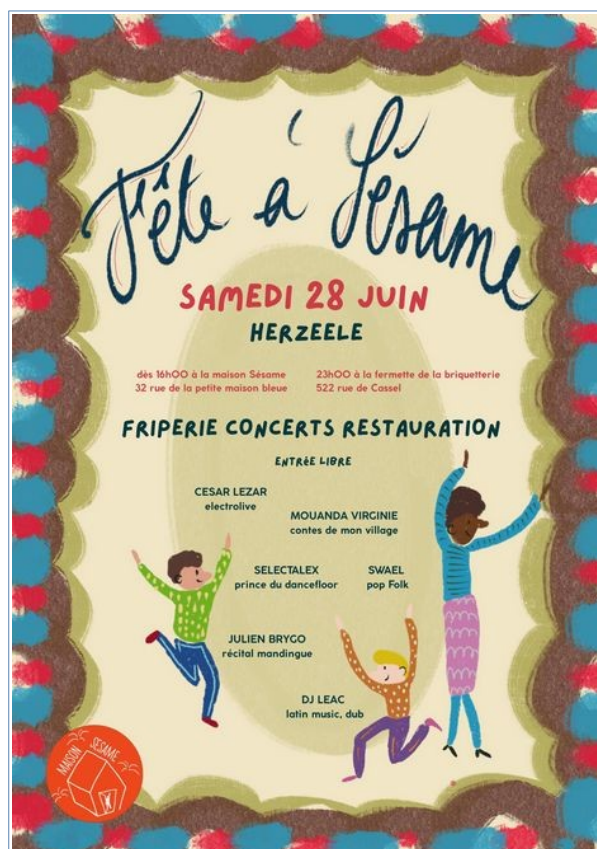
"Very beautiful film, which shows reality without emphasis but in real time, which is long... ", writes Josette, a Salam volunteer who was in the room.

This film, by Jean-Baptiste Bonnet, was shown at the same time in nearly a hundred cinemas in France. Salam was a partner in the operation, and at the local level, Arnaud and Thiery spoke on our behalf.

A debate was also broadcast live, with the director of the film, Diane Folgelman, in charge of migration advocacy at "Amnesty International France", François Thomas, the director of "SOS MEDITERRANEE France", Moussoni, rescued by the Ocean Viking and Nejma Brahim, journalist at Mediapart.

On 26th June, Yolaine Bernard, our president, responded to the invitation of Christian Hogard, on behalf of the Secours Populaire de Loon-Plage, among the activists working on a daily basis for the most vulnerable people in the squat of this municipality, with a large delegation of the Friends of the CFDT in charge of integration and migration policies. Everyone was able to become aware of the difficulties of life of the people who live there..

On 28th June, it was a party at the Maison Sésame.



Volunteers from Salam had come. "A show where we talk about Salam, Ghislaine... and where we hear Claire M... Arnaud writes to us, who was one of them.

"WHEN MEMORY FADES, HISTORY BEGINS AGAIN"

Letter sent on 5th June by D. P., volunteer at the Loon-Plage camp, to Mr. Vergriete, President of the Urban Community of Dunkirk, to the Sub-Prefect of Dunkirk, to "La Voix du Nord", to Mr. Ruffin, to "Le Monde", so great was the frustration after the distribution (we gave food to 900 people but some got nothing...

Mr. Sub-Prefect,

I'll get back to you.

"When memory fades, history begins again."

Dunkirk knows this so well... paid for it in the flesh and displayed it on its walls during the month of May.

85 years ago, the debacle, the people of the North fled to take refuge.

Today, in Loon-Plage, people have fled to take refuge.

Our country is forgetting people who are damaged, uprooted and totally vulnerable.

History stutters....

So yes, bravo for the commemorations but also why these commemorations if today we are not able to...?

Why do those who preside over them and who then make acts of pedagogy and morality in their speeches... are forbidden to act or are forbidden to act in this present that is so urgent and so close? The stuttering of history is there before our eyes in Calais and Loon-Plage.

Why does the State offload its most elementary obligations on the Associations in order not to do its duty?

Powerless, he is powerless to distribute meals and organize a dignified welcome.

Strong and active, he is so to dismantle behind excavators.

Today, nearly 1,000 people, including young children, were waiting for some food. We left frustrated and angry because once again and once too much, as almost all the time for the past month, we did not have enough for everyone. It is a terrible injustice for these patient and disciplined people, to see us put our things away much too soon...

Why can't people of good will, people aware of the upheavals of history and concerned by the humanitarian emergency, talk to each other and act together to avoid a tragedy or tragedies?

Thank you for your attention.

Respectfully..

D. P. volunteer at the Loon-Plage camp.

***THE ROLE AND INFLUENCE OF NGO (A non-governmental organization (NGO) is a typically nonprofit organization that operates partially independent of government control)
FOR A DEMANDING, SUSTAINABLE AND SUPPORTIVE COOPERATION.***

Jean-Claude Lenoir, our president who passed away almost a year ago, said that our mission was to be a force for proposals... This is in line with what Bénédicte Halba shows, in the text below...

Associations and civil society play a role as "whistleblowers". They can identify new requests on the ground before the public authorities and warn of worrying situations. They are helped by their employees when they are lucky enough to receive substantial financial support; More than 90% of associations rely entirely on volunteering (1). Volunteers are "sentinels" - they work as close as possible to the public in the field. Their special status, a neutral third party between the donors (mostly public) and the beneficiaries they support.

The term NGO first appeared in 1945 – it was used by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations (UN) to refer to organizations that were neither state (public structures) nor commercial (companies). We have spoken of the Third Sector (neither public nor private). There is an artistic vagueness about the term that has not been given a universal definition. This is problematic when you want to clearly define their action or to know whether or not a structure can receive public funds.

A special report (2) by the European Court of Auditors (ECA) expressed surprise that the same criteria were not used uniformly within the European Union or between member countries. This is essential to understand exactly "to whom" European funds are granted and to facilitate the communication of "consistent and reliable information on the funding granted by the Union to NGOs". Of the 27 member countries of the European Union, only 6 have retained a legal definition of an NGO, 21 do not (including France). In January 2022, the Commission gave the following definition "in addition to being a non-profit organisation, an NGO must be independent of the public authorities". However, an NGO in the European sense is not always considered as such in the State to which it belongs. This contradiction is surprising and confusing.

NGOs are also not a homogeneous group. Some are small organizations that carry out actions at the local level. Others are large international NGOs with a presence in many countries. The human and financial resources vary from a few thousand Euros carried out by a small team of a few people to more than a billion Euros for actions in about 50 countries. However, they have in common that they intervene in countries of the South on equivalent missions.

The most detailed study carried out among 117 French NGOs is that of an associative platform, Coordination Sud, created in 1994, to bring together all French associations "non-profit structures, resulting from a militant and citizen mobilization of a private nature, acting for social causes and of general interest, with a transnational dimension" (3). The term used is Association de Solidarité Internationale (ASI). In its introduction, the study recalled the role played by NGOs/ISAs as "actors in the co-construction process" enshrined in the programming law on inclusive development and the fight against global inequalities (4). Since 2003, the International Solidarity Volunteers (VSI) have finally benefited from a legal framework (5) whereas for decades they were based on a simple decree. In the hierarchy of norms, moving from a decree to a law had been a considerable step forward. The VSI have all the profiles but their recruitment is more demanding than for civilian volunteering, it is necessary to justify very specialized technical skills to be effective in the field in difficult areas of intervention (natural disasters, armed conflicts, etc.) where the populations need knowledge, know-how and very precise know-how.

NGOs and international cooperation benefited from a period of unprecedented growth and development between 2000 and 2023. Official Development Assistance (ODA) budgets have increased from \$80 billion to \$233.3 billion (OECD). The French situation (Coordination Sud, 2023) speaks for itself. International aid represented 75% of public budgets with the following distribution: 47% of the funds came from foreign bilateral cooperation (United States through USAid, Germany, United Kingdom), 32% from the European Union (direct or indirect management), 16% from UN agencies, and 4% from other sources. National support comes from the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE) and the French Development Agency (AFD) with 21% of total public aid (2020). Territorial support (5%), also known as "decentralised cooperation", is provided by the regions, departments or municipalities (twinning, various agreements depending on their field of competence). Between 2016 and 2023, there was a reversal of the trend: private aid, which had previously been in the majority, was overtaken by public aid. It has increased from 778 to 953 million Euros (2016-2020). Donations and bequests remained constant (70% of total private aid) followed by corporate sponsorship (11%, 2/3 of which came from foreign companies), 11% from foundations and 8% from equity (sale of products and services).

ODA came to a halt in France in 2024 in the face of public debt. The target set at 0.7% of Gross National Income (GNI) will not be achieved. More seriously, since January 2025, official international aid has been going through its biggest crisis since it was launched in the 1960s, at the time of independence.

The US presidency of Donald Trump has decided to cancel 83% of current contracts indefinitely, without any evaluation, depriving millions of beneficiaries of essential and sometimes vital aid. The year 2025 will be the year of a catastrophic assessment where we will be able to measure, by its absence, the importance of ODA through the missions carried out by NGOs - Education and training, Governance, Human rights, Food security, Environment, climate, Rural development, Water, Sanitation, Health, emergency medical assistance, Gender equality, Hygiene, Nutrition... ODA undoubtedly deserved an in-depth audit to assess its effectiveness. The administrative and financial aspect is the speciality of the European Commission and international organisations, with the efficient and expert help of powerful Anglo-Saxon firms. Its questioning is very problematic.

A Swiss NGO Advisor (5), which specialises in the evaluation of NGOs, suggested a convincing evaluation to measure the real influence of NGOs in the world. It has retained three criteria – transparency, innovation and financial autonomy vis-à-vis governments (the original criterion for the definition of an NGO). In its ranking, the first place goes to BRAC, an NGO created in Bangladesh in 1972, which has helped lift millions of people out of poverty through micro-credit. Second place goes to Doctors Without Borders (MSF), an NGO created in 1971 by the "French doctors", 90% financed by private donations and which intervenes in 68 countries. Third place goes to the Danish Refugee Council (DRC), which is based in Denmark and intervenes in all unstable areas for demining operations. The war in Europe, in Ukraine, has shown the importance of this mission.

The weight of NGOs is not only measured by their budget but by their governance, their impact on the populations and their real influence on the ground. The European Union and France should draw inspiration from this example of good practice from Switzerland...

Bénédicte Halba, president of iriv

(www.iriv.net) qualified person of the Order of Chartered Accountants Paris Ile de France since 2017, article published after JMA 2025.

- 1) Viviane Thernonog "French Associative Landscape", 2023 edition (2020-2021 figures), ADDEs, Paris: JUri associations, 2023
- 2) CEC "Transparency of EU funding to NGOs", Special Report 11/2025, Luxembourg, April 2025
- 3) Coordination Sud "Etude Argent ASI" Paris, April 2022 edition.-
<https://www.coordinationsud.org/wp-content/uploads/Etude-MSE-Coordination-SUD-1.pdf>
- 4) Law No. 2021-1031 of 4 August 2021
- 5) NGO Advisor - ranking of the 10 most influential NGOs-<https://www.courrierinternational.com/grand-format/quelles-sont-les-dix-ong-les-plus-influentes-du-monde>

TO VOLUNTEERS OF GOOD WILL.

Sometimes it doesn't go the way it should...

But in the end, in Salam, we always get by.

THIS TUESDAY IT WAS NOT THE NON-ALIGNED PLANETS BUT ALL THE GALAXIES...

After a certain amount of time of operation, four gas cylinders stopped in concert. Never experienced. It was 8am when the short OS call was made.

Auchan Gaz only opened at 9 am Thank God there was one left in reserve and one still on the way Nightmare in the kitchen..... would say Etchepire.

Gas purchase: 40 minutes instead of the usual 20, causes a loan vehicle to be received... It takes a long time for explanations, plus two people in front of me.

Aldi: same ... a lot of time due to unavailability of the service.

At the same time the neon above the Vogica bowls that falls by itself because rotten at the attachment ... without falling into the bowl or hurting anyone.

Françoise who misses her bus that leaves too early (before time).
And everything was on time for the service: I don't know how they did it.

Henri Kupczyk, 3rd June 2025..

HE TELLS ME THAT HE COMES FROM THE CADA OF CASSEL BY BIKE FOUR TIMES A WEEK...

I talked a lot with Nazir, while working of course. He tells me, through Google translate, that he comes from the CADA of Kassel by bike four times a week to learn French among other things and he proudly shows me his paper received from the prefecture of work authorization etc... I tell him: "Listen, the weather is threatening. As we are leaving for Bailleul in a moment, on the way we drop you off in Cassel. At the end of the distribution, Isabelle, Nazir and I set off again. I take the highway. At Armbout-Cappel, he asks me to stop and tells me that it is not the right direction and shows me on Google maps where he should go. And then we realize that Nazir is indeed at the CADA, but the one on the rue de Cassel in Dunkirk. So here we are again to turn around at the next exit to drop Nazir in the right place.

An additional anecdote, Geneviève, who lives in the vicinity of Kassel, offered to take him to Nazir on the way to Kassel. It was a good moment of laughter and good humor despite all these misunderstandings.

Patrick Freyss, 28th June 2025.

THANK YOU

**THANK YOU TO THE VOLUNTEERS,
We have just saluted, through two testimonies, volunteers of good will.
But of course, the others are also of good will:**

- Those who give a new lease of life to the teams: our interns (Célia, Saïna, Line) or former interns, who are back, like Marie-Hélène, those who are sent by the AFEV and by the AFEJI, and the others (Nami our Japanese student, Flavie student at Sciences Po from the Maison Sésame...)

- Marie's team, every Saturday present in Grande-Synthe to collect, sort and put away Emmaus surpluses.

Marie gave us the presentation of the team on June 6th:

"In the background Abdulkarim the heartbreaker, top of the class from January 1st to December 31st

In the middle, Ibrahim, a hell of a character (we often get divorced but we always find each other, that's his expression).

And on the right, Ibrahima who is currently making the hearts of the grannies of Zélie Quenton capsize.

It comes to us from Chad, nicknamed "little Chad",

In class it's a bit complicated but we're not going to let him.

Here is a team that did not complain this Saturday morning: loading, unloading and tidying up... »



- Those who come to lend a hand from other associations: Will from Strix, Adèle and Emma from CHIP.

- Those who work overtime (of course not paid more than the others),

Like what

* Arnaud, who drove the truck for the Emmaus collection on Saturday morning, 21st June, which would not have been possible without it,

*Dominique who made the trip from Calais on 13th June to pick up the spoons that were starting to run out for the Dunkirk distributions.



*Jean-Pierre in his workshop in Pitgam:

We read in the report of 12th June 12 Geneviève: "We also took three barriers, a table that had suffered a lot and a broom to be replaced, for our "magician" from Pitgam. Many thanks to him for his availability and his good will to do, redo, re-do ... »

*Henri, Marie and Denise who cleaned up all the mud that had once again invaded the basement on 6th June. On 26th June, it was Patrick and Oumardeen.

*Josette and Elisabeth, specialists in the dessert supplement: cakes baked the day before (Sunday) for the distribution on Monday.

- Those who do the shopping: Denise, still assisted by Henri, this month in Grande-Synthe on 6th June: "We have dropped off 400 kg of pasta, 30 cans of peeled tomatoes and 30 of tomato paste," she writes to us in the evening.



- Those who prepare and distribute meals, for example on 12th June in Loon-Plage:

THANK YOU TO THOSE, KNOWN OR UNKNOWN, WHO GAVE US GIFTS FOR OUR EXILED FRIENDS.

Food donations:

- Abdelkader's friend who gave him something to prepare our meal on 12th June, following Eid: four sheep in three pots and 20kg of rice, and in time for 11:45 a.m.!!



- The anonymous donation made to Josette on June 2 of 384 eggs.

Textile donations:

-Bénédicte had come from Argentan with blankets.

- Nami has donated Japanese heaters that can be very useful this winter.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO HAVE HELPED US IN THE NAME OF A FRIENDLY ASSOCIATION OR IN THE PROCESS OF BECOMING ONE...

The Emmaus Thouars community:

A team that provided valuable help in preparation and distribution on Saturday 26th: Henri, Olivier, Nasser, Binto, Malika, Nadine, Léonard and Sébastien.

The Emmaus Saint-Omer community

Ursula makes the connection regularly, and also a beautiful report on 2nd June:

"A big thank you to the Monday team that we disturbed during the meal, and just before leaving for the distribution, and also to the team that was finishing cleaning the kitchen. We pushed everyone around, like the sun was beating down on the truck with the frozen food. And especially thanks to Françoise and Josette who helped to empty all the products that are less fearful and who finished the storage and labelling afterwards (cans without labels and according to the expiration date.)

With Catherine, we also brought other foods. (She is a volunteer at Emmaus Saint-Omer and tells me when there are things that could interest Salam.)

Just recently, Emmaus made a major donation to us:

- A freezer full of breaded fish.
- 10 packs of milk- 8 cases of canned vegetables - 4 large boxes of pasta- 6 large boxes of chips- brioches, chocolate petals, applesauce, Basque rice, and I forget. - 6 crates of ripe bananas (it happens at least once a month)
- blankets.

The solidarity grocery store in Dunkirk, which entrusted Josette with at least one hundred trays of gazpacho and unseasoned salad for our distributions on 15th June.



Josette Vauché



Josette Vauché

The gardens of Cocagne de Leffrinckoucke,

Back home on 5th June with a big donation of potatoes, turnips, carrots, beets and onions.

Old friends from the Maisons-Laffite team came, three of them, with a nice load of donations.

They accompanied us to the distribution.



Denise Cassignat

The college of Aire sur la Lys:

Following their intervention at the Vauban high school in Aire sur la Lys, Denise and Ghislaine went on 26th June to collect five large boxes of clothes that had been washed and ironed by Mrs. Clipet's separation students.

A team of "Scouts and Guides of France from the banks of the Aa" joined us on the morning of May 31 (they had, by mistake, left for Calais...). They unloaded the clothing collection they carried out. They then helped with the fruit salad.

AND FINALLY THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO GAVE 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 bottles...

Thank you to everyone (close friends and strangers) who slipped us a note, sent a check, made a transfer directly or through Helloassos.

THANK YOU TO BETHLEHEM, ABDELKADER AND THE RENAISSANCE ASSOCIATION, 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 EMMAÛS who give us surpluses every week, for Calais as well as for Grande-Synthe, to the Maison Sésame who shares with us two mornings a week the surplus fruit 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 every month clothes brought to Calais by André de Merlimont, to the Audotri association which regularly supports us with donations of clothes and blankets, to the Calais bakeries and those opposite the Noorderover, "La mie du pain" and "Aux pains du Nord" by Coudekerque. Week after week, they are there to help us.

Thanks to the HRO and Greg who allowed us to post their photos.

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

THANK YOU to Michel who has been ensuring 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 has been managing the Facebook Page, also without fail, since 2017,
to Guillaume who introduced us to the LinkedIn network three years ago,
and to Quentin who opened an Instagram account for Salam a little over a year ago:
salam_calais_grandesynthe.

And I ask forgiveness from all those who helped us in one way or another and whom I forgot, or who were forgotten to report to me...

Claire Millot

OUR NEEDS FOR VOLUNTEERS

Dunkirk:

We need people on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from the beginning of the peeling chore (8 a.m.) to the end of the dishes (between 2 and 4 p.m.). 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 to distribute improved breakfasts every morning with tea and coffee.

But we are sorely lacking in volunteers, especially volunteers with driving licenses:

Meeting at 7:45 a.m. at the premises, 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 association's work last:

Maintenance of premises and vans, fuel, purchase of missing foodstuffs...

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

BP 47

62100 CALAIS

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

A big thank you to all our generous donors!

TENTS AND TARPAULINS!

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

You can also buy tarpaulins, pieces of 3 m by 3 m (or 2.50 m by 3 m). They cost much less and allow an honest man to spend a night in shelter.

Otherwise, the most pressing needs at both sites:
BLANKETS (DUVETS, SLEEPING BAGS).

men's clothing from XS to XL: underpants, long johns underpants and thermal leggings and thermal sweaters, socks, jogging pants, jeans, shorts, t-shirts,
MEN'S SHOES: trainers or light hiking boots (sizes 40 to 46),
flip/flops, sandals, caps
backpacks,
lamps and batteries,
water packs,
bags (small backpacks, garbage bags, freezer bags, shopping bags and plastic bags)

clothes for women and children: while we have received too much for them for a long time, in recent times the number of families has increased a lot in our camps...

Food for Calais:

JAM and MAYONNAISE,
Milk
tea and sugar, instant coffee,
cookies (or pastries, or cake bars or pound cakes etc...)

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

And for Grande-Synthe:

Especially canned vegetables of all kinds (we receive much less fresh produce for some time),
bags of pulses, pasta, rice.

Drop off your donations in the Salle Guérin, 1 rue Alphonse Daudet, behind the church of St Jacques on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

The membership form for 2025 is attached to this mailing.

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 the union! We were more than 250 members in 2024, help us to exceed the 300 threshold.

CONTACT US

<http://www.associationsalam.org>
salamnordpasdecalais@gmail.com
Facebook page: [SALAM Nord/Pas-de-Calais](#)
The LinkedIn page, which can be consulted at the following link :
www.linkedin.com/in/association-salam-nord-pas-de-calais
and the Instagram account: [salam_calais_grandesynthe](#)

Association SALAM
13 rue des Fontinettes,
BP 47
62100 CALAIS

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

Bulletin d'adhésion 2025



Principaux objectifs de SALAM :

- Apporter une aide humanitaire aux migrants (soins, hygiène, nourriture, vêtements...)
- Accompagner les migrants dans leur demande d'asile
- Informer et sensibiliser l'opinion publique sur la situation des migrants du littoral Côte d'Opale
- Combattre toutes les formes de racisme et de discrimination
- Agir dans les pays en difficulté
- Soutenir juridiquement les membres de l'association

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 (important pour la convocation à l'AG) _____

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

(5 € pour les étudiants et demandeurs d'emploi , adhésion valable jusqu'au 31/12/2025)

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.