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## MARCH 2025 NEWSLETTER

### EDITORIAL

#### IN THE NAME OF OUR DIGNITY AS MEN....

*We had met Paul Roos in 2017, he had accompanied us to the Dunkirk camp and had impressed us with his accuracy of vision. It is therefore to him that I have asked to write our editorial on the occasion of 22<sup>nd</sup> March, the International Day against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination.*

It's all the time that I come up against some of our fellow citizens, unfortunately numerous, young or not so young, ordinary people, but also because I am confronted with others, sometimes intellectuals: "*the Jew or the black or the Muslim, in short the foreigner, is still, somewhere, disturbing... if not worrying!*" Yes, we hear that, they say it, without always realizing the scope of their words. This is not a posture: for them, it seems, it is obvious!

Whatever the gender or status of the people concerned, men or women, they are locked in ready-made ideas, often received that they do not question, real prejudices clinging to their heads like parasites that gnaw at their neurons.

What can be done about this? I don't have a good answer or really a solution, only a few meagre recipes that don't work, it seems..

For my part, quietly, I try with those I happen to meet, to explain the "UNTERMENSCHEN", these Sub-Humans who included the Jews designated by the Nazis as "microbes or vermin", human beings to be eliminated in their eyes, as well as blacks, Arabs, gypsies, Polish, or those bastards of Romanians... Every auditor should realize that he could have been targeted...

I tell you that the deportees' trains had priority over everything, even over the military trains, how the techniques of collective murder were perfected, while the German cities were crushed under bombs... That if the Nazis had succeeded in eliminating all the Jews, they would have continued with the others, the Arabs, the blacks, and then the Asians.

In short, in reality, xenophobia ( extreme dislike or fear of foreigners ) and racism are fully and always rampant, and everywhere, every day, like anti-Semitism; they reign supreme in the minds of far too many individuals who, in fact, are afraid of the often colourful foreign presences, the number of which is constantly increasing... which in their eyes reduces their ridiculously requalified "*national*" space.

I also talk to them about other misfortunes that are emerging, human tragedies that are affecting our country as well as all of Europe; They spread out in the near silence of the cities and our countryside, felt by some as a disaster that affects so many uprooted humans, so many victims of their distant conflicts, who have come from everywhere with their children sometimes, and who are going through infinite trials!!

In misfortune, they are in anguish and distress and most often face undignified living conditions. They are sometimes in a simple state of survival, threatened even in their physical integrity and are sometimes forced to share promiscuity in makeshift camps; They are in the beginning of inhumanity. << *LIBERTY, EQUALITY, FRATERNITY* >> *WHERE ARE YOU?*

Some, we can thank them sincerely, devote themselves to these unfortunate people, whether they are migrants, refugees, or displaced people... who want to reach this shore where the sun seems to shine to enter the hushed world of European society. I mention it, I want to talk about it, even if it makes us feel bad!' Easy, disturbing.

<<... *There is no question of us remaining silent in today's absurd and savage world where wars and terrorism never cease to massacre; where refugees are rejected, where old people have their throats cut in churches at the moment when they celebrate communion among men.*

*It is not also a frightened and passive silence that I invite you, but to this silence that is listening, to this deep attention to living beings whatever they may be, to the secret path of things and to the environment>>* Thanks to Fabienne PASCAUD, journalist, who wrote these words in the Télérama week of August 16<sup>th</sup> / 19<sup>th</sup> 2016, that I make my own.

I do not forget how my family and I were looked at and seen as 'JEWS' under the occupation, and no longer as 'men' or as French citizens; I don't forget this infamy, the way it was underlined at the time, how some people wanted to mark it with determination, and cruelly mortally.

So let's not look at OTHERS the way I was looked, at and let's chase away INDIFFERENCE.

For another better History of the "FUTURE", let's change the way we look at the OTHERS.

*Paul Roos.*



*Above is the "placard/signboard" attached to the call to demonstrate on 22<sup>nd</sup> March (see below in "the events of the month") to be installed in symbolic places.*

## **EVENTS OF THE MONTH**

### **THE DEATHS.**

**There were seven dead since 1st January, among our exiled friends, at the end of February. We are at twelve now at the end of March.**

**Five new deaths were announced this month: five new days of sadness and anger.**

Each time a death is announced, a gathering takes place at 6:30 pm, the next day in Calais at the Richelieu park, the day after in Dunkirk on the Malo-les-Bains dike, Place du Centenaire.

**On Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> March in the early morning, a man was landed on the beach of Hemmes-de-Marck, in cardio-respiratory arrest. He could not be revived. He is a 64-year-old Kuwaiti. The boat had turned around to drop him ashore, then left again.**

The usual commemorations took place on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> March, but the information did not circulate well and they were less attended than usual.

The respite of the next ten days is a false respite: people simply did not set sail because the weather prevented any departure. Then we had, in a burst, almost one death per day, which is very difficult to bear, even for associations that stay on the water's edge in safety.

**On the morning of 19<sup>th</sup> March, a young man died in the English Channel, near Equihen, during an attempt to cross.**

**On 20<sup>th</sup> March, a dinghy that had left the west of the port of Dunkirk, overloaded in Gravelines, found itself in difficulty.**

**One person was winched out by helicopter and then pronounced dead.**

The commemorations were grouped together for these two people, on 20<sup>th</sup> March in Calais and on 21<sup>st</sup> March in Dunkirk.



It's carnival time in Dunkirk and Jacky points out to us the scandalous gap between the luxurious toilets installed in town for the next day's ball, and their total absence on the migrant camps...

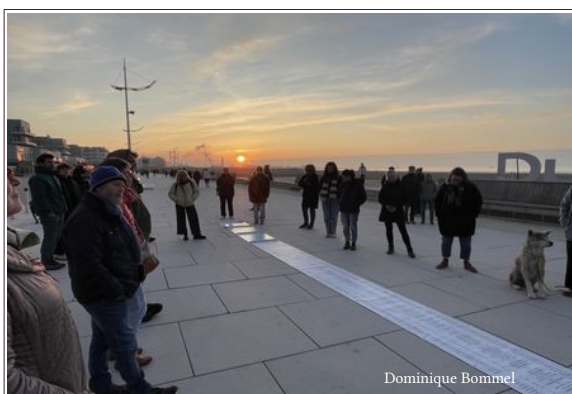
**On Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> March, the body of a man was found, hanged, in the dunes of Tardingham.**

The commemorations took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> March in Calais and on 23<sup>rd</sup> March in Dunkirk.

A suicide is even more unacceptable than other deaths: in our eyes, exiles are above all strong, determined people, full of hope. And if we know that everyone has moments of discouragement, we don't want to think that they can get to that point: they came in search of a better life, not to seek/cause their death, even if accidents are part of their daily life.

This is not the first: another had already hanged himself in a truck trailer, on 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2022, a Sudanese man had jumped from the Vic bridge on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2024 and above all a man threw himself under a train on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2023 under the eyes of the Salam team who had just given him breakfast. He waved "goodbye" to them and went for it.

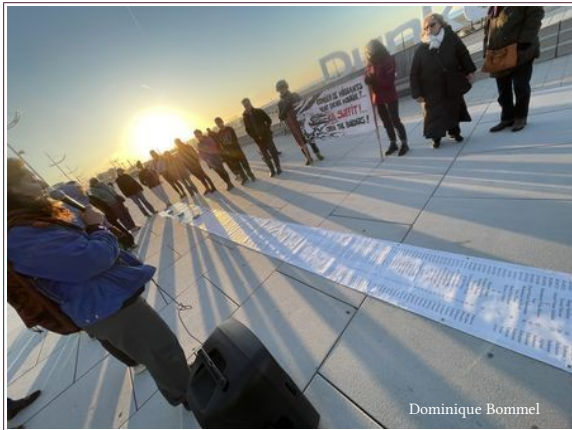
The commemoration took place in Calais on 22<sup>nd</sup> March and in Dunkirk on 23<sup>rd</sup> March..





**On Monday 24<sup>th</sup>, it was a woman, an Eritrean, whose body was found on the morning of 24<sup>th</sup> March on the beach of Marck, certainly following an attempt to cross.**

The commemorations took place on the 25<sup>th</sup> in Calais and on the 26<sup>th</sup> in Dunkirk.



### **THE PASSAGES IN ENGLAND.**

No passage was reported by the Home Office between March 10<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, the weather was so bad. It was very cold on some days, even if the sun often in the afternoon warmed bodies and hearts a little: on 12<sup>th</sup> March, behind the Stade de l'Épopée in Calais, the guys burned their clothes and blankets to keep warm. On the morning of the 14<sup>th</sup>, it had snowed, and it had held, the road was slippery...

But every day from 1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> March, there were many passages, they resumed on the 19<sup>th</sup> and there were some every day until the 27<sup>th</sup> inclusive followed by an interruption, again, between 28<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> March. The sea was too rough again.

The Home Office counted 4,583 passages for the month of March, on 80 dinghies (between 57 and 58 people per boat on average). Apart from July 2024 (almost 59 people per dinghy) this is the worst average recorded by the Home Office since we have been monitoring their readings daily, in July 2023 ...

But these are averages: on 7<sup>th</sup> March there were "only" 51 on a single boat, but on 24<sup>th</sup> March on 1 boat there were also 73 !!

Since the beginning of 2025, there has been an increase in the number of visits per month compared to 2024, despite police pressure. What is the point of this relentlessness against our friends?

The exiles, waiting to leave, were more numerous in the camps: in Dunkirk we went back to providing more than 600 meals on 13<sup>th</sup> March. In Calais, where Ramadan is much more respected, we cannot count (it is the number of cups donated that indicates the figure, as in Dunkirk it is the number of spoons) but we can see that we have to give more: on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, we had to go back and buy bread: 70 people were dying of hunger behind Fort Nieulay, waiting for the smugglers to call, and the next day they were still there, still hungry.

On 5<sup>th</sup> March, in Calais, we gave blankets to a group of Kuwaitis, who were leaving.

On the 7<sup>th</sup>, people set off... They come to get a piece of bread and they leave.

On Rue des Mouettes, several days in a row, there are more than a hundred people, on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, people from all walks of life, with life jackets on their backs. They were dying of hunger; we gave food to everyone.

It's the same on the 24<sup>th</sup> in the same place, but it's only Eritreans and on the 25<sup>th</sup> (Eritreans and Somalis)...

We give breakfast to everyone.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> and especially the 18<sup>th</sup>, in Dunkirk, we came across dozens of people carrying backpacks and plastic bags on the D 601, on our way to distribute lunch, who were heading to the Auchan bus stop. No doubt, it was to board... ..

### **JUSTICE DONE.**

**The orders prohibiting food distribution in Calais have been definitively annulled by the Administrative Court, at the Douai Court of Appeal.**

We are not surprised but still relieved.

Reminder: Between 10<sup>th</sup> September 2020 and August 2022, the Leader of Pas-de-Calais has prohibited, month after month, the distribution of food and drinks (free) in certain streets of the city center of Calais. We counted up to 31...

On 12<sup>th</sup> October 2022, the Administrative Court of Lille had ruled these orders illegal and had annulled them.

The State has appealed this judgment. The Douai Court of Appeal, meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> February, 2025, delivered its judgment on 27<sup>th</sup> February.

It was communicated to us on 3<sup>rd</sup> March.

The annulment of these prohibition orders is maintained.

The full text of the judgment is available on the website of Salam ([www.associationsalam.org](http://www.associationsalam.org)), on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025 in the "News" section.

Here are a few points that illustrate the spirit of these decrees:

#### Article 28:

To justify the existence of a risk to public tranquillity, the administration simply refers to six handrails drawn up by the Calais municipal police (...)

It is not apparent from these handrails, or from any other document in the file, that these disturbances have the slightest link with the free distribution of meals, drinks and foodstuffs organized by the respondent associations in the sectors concerned by the prohibition (...)

#### Articles 30/31/32

It is apparent from the documents in the file and is moreover acknowledged by the applicant associations themselves that the distribution of foodstuffs to the exiles living in Calais is accompanied by the illegal dumping of waste on the public highway such as to characterise a risk of insalubrity. However, by prohibiting the free distribution of foodstuffs only in certain areas of the city centre, the contested decrees do not preclude the distribution of foodstuffs from being carried out under the same conditions outside the areas of prohibition and therefore including in certain areas of the city centre. In these circumstances, the prohibitions enacted are not such as to remedy the abandonment of waste following the activity of distributing foodstuffs.

Moreover, as the applicant associations rightly point out, (...) the provisions of Article L. 2212-2 of the General Code of Local Authorities allow the mayor, if necessary, substituted by the leader, to take any police measure that becomes necessary, (...) such as the provision of garbage trucks near distribution points.

#### Article 41 (on the epidemic risk caused by the distributions in question):

(...) In particular, it is not apparent from the documents in the file that the sectors of the city centre of Calais affected by the prohibitions which the Prefect of Pas-de-Calais has issued have a particularly high population density such as to constitute a local circumstance justifying the mandatory prohibition of the distribution of food aid on the public highway. In addition, the ban necessarily led some of the exiles living in the centre of Calais to reach other distribution points, if necessary, by public transport, and thus led to even larger gatherings of people in the same place, which further increased the risk of the spread of the epidemic.

### **SALAM VOLUNTEERS TOOK PART IN THE 22<sup>nd</sup> MARCH DEMONSTRATION IN DUNKIRK.**

In photos: some of the volunteers present and Jacky who is carrying one of his paintings.





21<sup>st</sup> March is the International Day for the "Elimination of Racial Discrimination." It is in this context that a very wide range of associations, unions and political parties called for this demonstration throughout France and elsewhere.

These are the values we defend: below is one of the slogans proposed by the organizers:



#### THE DISMANTLINGS:

**In Dunkirk: there were three in the month, on 4<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> March.**

The legal basis is different from that of Calais where it is said day after day, that it is a question of flagrancy: in Dunkirk, it is a "sheltering on the requisition of the prosecutor", say the police on 13<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> March. The presence of buses (one on the 4<sup>th</sup>, four on the 13<sup>th</sup> and two on the 28<sup>th</sup>) confirms this intention (at least displayed) to provide shelter. On the banks of the Mardyck gracht, on 13<sup>th</sup> March, the HRO Human Rights Observers saw 22 people surrounded by the CRS Republican Security Corps in the direction of the buses, a policeman said that they would not be forced to leave. But the incentive to leave is clear.



The CRS Republican Security Corps were very numerous: sixteen vans on 4<sup>th</sup> March, between twelve and fifteen on 28<sup>th</sup> March.

A backhoe loader and a large skip complete the cleaning team at least on 4<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> March; it is reduced to two vans in general in Calais.

On 4<sup>th</sup> March, the HRO Human Rights Observers filmed a backhoe loader filling up and going back and forth on the road to empty its contents into a very large dumpster each time.



On the 28<sup>th</sup>, we see both the backhoe loader and a sheltering bus on a video by the HRO (Human Rights Observers).

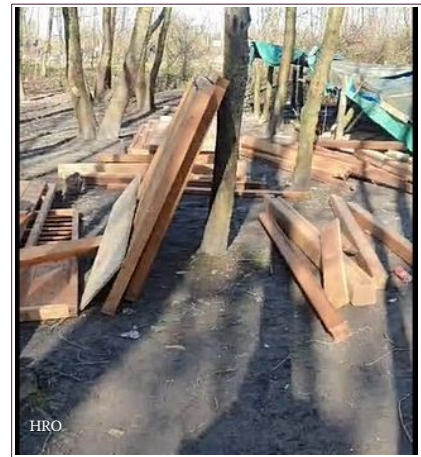


The dismantling of 4<sup>th</sup> March was not immediately spotted by the associations on the ground or by the Human Rights Observers. It was an exile who first alerted Utopia 56, around 11 a.m., saying that the tents were being destroyed by the police. He also says that personal belongings too and that they were not even allowed to take their cover. Another exile confirmed the news. The Human Rights Observers came back from Calais, Utopia 56 and MRS were on site and watching.

On the other days, the evacuations were – as usual – spotted very early in the morning: on the 13<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 a.m. there were four buses and many CRS Republican Security Corps vans waiting in the parking lot of the Palais du Littoral in Grande-Synthe, on the 28<sup>th</sup> the dismantling was noted by the HRO Human Rights Observers already shortly after 8 a.m.

The operations took place mainly to the north of the D601 (the old road from Dunkirk to Calais), in particular on the Total site and on the other side of the Mardyck road, but they also took place south of this axis: on 13<sup>th</sup> March near the Travellers' area and the Mattheuws company, on the 28<sup>th</sup> next to the Esso gas station.

The seizure of tents is abundant:



On 4<sup>th</sup> March, 68 tents, thirteen of which were full of equipment, were seized, all dragged on the ground,

And on 4<sup>th</sup> March, shelters were destroyed,



Tents were removed, in series, on the 13<sup>th</sup>.

On the 28<sup>th</sup>, the HRO Human Rights Observers filmed the vaning of about twenty tents (at least ten with personal belongings inside).



Deforestation accompanied these evacuations: The HRO Human Rights Observers heard the sounds of chainsaws (12:10 p.m.) on 4<sup>th</sup> March: probably deforestation. Then he sees a person from the cleaning team with a chainsaw in his hand. He heard, also on 13<sup>th</sup> March, the sound of a chainsaw, and we saw it in a photo.



On the morning of 13<sup>th</sup> March, the evacuation was particularly complicated and stormy, with the associations, on Loon-Plage and Mardyck

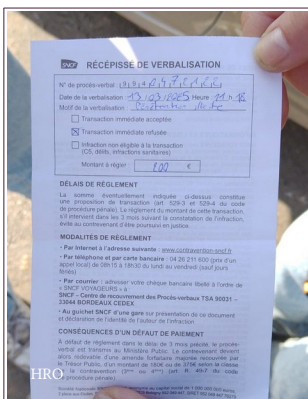
At the edge of the "Mardyck gracht", there are shields, an LBD and two HK 36 assault rifles,



\*A police check takes place in a brutal way for the HRO Human Rights Observers: a policeman asks that they stop filming during the check, which the lady who is filming disputes. The police made them empty the contents of their pockets "These are the instructions, Madame". Police officers refuse to show their RIO: a police officer says she is not aware that it is mandatory and a police officer says that he does not.



\*The Human Rights Observers' accompaniment outside the security perimeter is a little violent (first name, taken by the collar or by the arm.)



\*The Human Rights Observers is fined for illegal entry into SNCF land. A photo of the ticket shows a fine of €200.



\*Utopia 56 also undergoes a pat-down and their pockets are searched. They are forbidden to smoke during the check, a policeman tries to remove the cigarette from the mouth of a member of Utopia... A police officer took the phone of another member of Utopia 56 to delete a recording in progress.

\* Human Rights Observers ask to see the policemen's RIO. The end of the discussion can be clearly heard in their 11:33 a.m. video:

A policeman says: "Do you want to play? We're going to play... We will have the cars removed. »

**In Calais**, the rhythm of three times a week is maintained: dismantling every Monday, Wednesday and Friday. On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup>, it was a lightning eviction, between 4:07 p.m. and 4:19 p.m., limited to the City Centre, but it is an eviction nonetheless. The next afternoon in the city centre, without any real dismantling, in the absence of the Human Rights Observers, the associations present saw seven people arrested "on the order of the prefect" in two police cars...

The characteristics remain the same:  
Intimidation is king:

- the number of police officers is impressive,
- the weapons are conspicuously out (shields - gas, pictured on 14th March on the BMX),



searches, pat-downs and arrests are frequent, for example on 5th March rue des Huttes,

and even at 12, rue des Huttes too: that of two minors (clearly identified as such, rue de Judée: the Human Rights Observer hears through the policemen's walkie-talkie "We have intercepted the two minors".)



On 14<sup>th</sup> March, on the Quai de la Meuse, two people who wanted to leave (one of them with a tent) were checked by the PAF, patted down, searched and arrested. The tent remains there on the ground.

Tents were removed (in the photo on 10<sup>th</sup> March, Pont Mollien), and shelters were destroyed (in the photo on 17<sup>th</sup> March on the BMX).



Unimaginable material is collected which shows that our friends persist against all odds in making living spaces in these places evacuated three times a week...: not only pallets (used as firewood) and mattresses, but even chairs and an office chair:



These photos were taken in the city centre on 24<sup>th</sup> March.



The security perimeters prevent any observation of the Human Rights Observers by removing them in an abusive manner.

And regularly it is clear that it is not a question of security since other "innocent" citizens are allowed to pass through the roadblocks.

This is the case, for example, on 5<sup>th</sup> March (a lady at the Pont Mollien and everyone in Marck) and on 12<sup>th</sup> March for a person in the city centre. A Republican Security Corps justifies this inequality as follows: "We act with discernment".

The instructions are not rigorous:

The rule that the tents seized are those that are "abandoned" is not always respected. On 5<sup>th</sup> March, we even saw a tent under the Pont Mollien, the occupier of which had to be chased away in order to take it. And also on 3<sup>rd</sup> March, a cleaning agent shook a tent to get the two occupants out who did not want to do so at all.

On 14<sup>th</sup> March, a video by the Human Rights Observers on BMX was heard saying that "It's changed, we don't take the tarpaulins anymore".

Bullying against exiles is not uncommon:



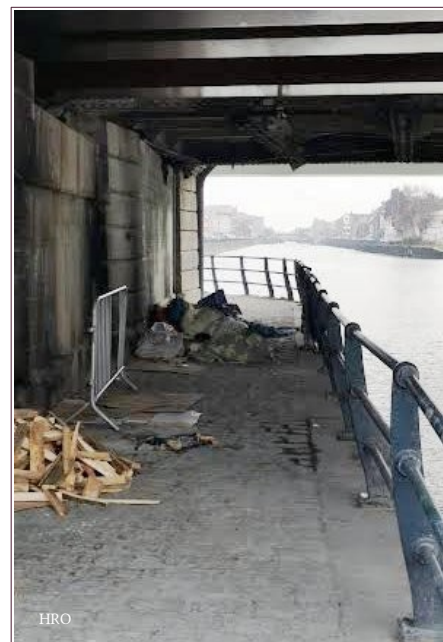
they were prevented from heating: on 3rd March at the Courgain Stadium East, the Republican Security Corps (or the cleaning team) put out a fire, on 24th March also in the city centre (the fire was extinguished by kicking and with water taken from a CFC tank, in a bottle of mineral water, not very visible on the photo, security perimeter obliges...)



And the pallets, which help to feed the fire, are collected: on 17th March on the Quai de la Gironde (in the photo below) and on the 24th in the city centre (in the photo above)

the equipment of the exiles is not respected: everything is removed from the tents before they are seized, it is surely to preserve personal belongings, but when you see how they are deposited (Mollien bridge, 10th March), you have doubts...

On the 21<sup>st</sup>, five tents were seized in the city centre, they were dragged on the ground and broken when they were put in the vehicle.



Fortunately there are counterexamples:

On 5th March, the exiles on the Quai de la Meuse can take their belongings.

On the 21st, one person is eating, he can leave afterwards, another can go and get his bag.

On the 28th, a family (parents with two children) can stay where they are settled, Quai de la Gironde.

After moving all their belongings, the exiles put them back in exactly the same place, often even before the departure of the police (Quai de la Gironde on 12th March for example, two people reinstall their belongings even before the departure of the Republican Security Corps).

On 19th March, on the Quai de la Meuse, however, when people began to return, the Human Rights Observer heard a riot police officer say: "They will come back", the convoy had left but the police prevented five of them from returning.

Worse, an unhealthy game was invented by the police on 21st March: the police evicted a second time about fifteen people who had resettled. As soon as the police turn their backs, they resettle again... The police come down and the exiles run away, which makes the police laugh.



Bullying also exists against Human Rights Observer members:

On 5<sup>th</sup> March, at the Courgain stadium, the HRO was escorted outside the perimeter by five policemen, without gentleness, and they did not manage to obtain the RIO from the man who pushed them.

A little note of "humanity": on 10<sup>th</sup> March, in Pont Mollien, a policewoman rescued a pigeon from the water "Otherwise, it will drown," she said. A note of humanity? The proverb says that "he who loves animals, loves people..." »

### **VIOLENCE TAKES PLACE ELSEWHERE THAN IN THE DISMANTLINGS:**

One of our volunteers in Gravelines attends a departure of exiles, by bus, at the Irish stop, on 2<sup>nd</sup> March, forced by the police officers.

Volunteers from associations testify to the frequent presence of police officers in train stations:

At the station of Calais-ville, on 4<sup>th</sup> March the police checked the tickets of all those who arrived or left, on the 14<sup>th</sup> three people were arrested because they had no papers, on the 15<sup>th</sup> the police took out all those who had taken shelter from the cold, on the 16<sup>th</sup>, around 6 p.m., 3 people were surrounded by more than seven Republican Security Corps)...

On the 10<sup>th</sup> in Boulogne, 70 people were pushed back while trying to take the train.



### ***Jean-Claude Lenoir wrote, at the beginning of September 2023...***

Near Calais train station,  
Dozens and dozens of migrants.  
Dozens of children between 10 months and 3/7 years old perhaps.  
Banality of our territory, you will tell me!  
But tonight, the criminal policy was even more intolerable to me!  
And to remind me of the memories always filled with terror  
From my parents and grandparents:  
Their journey to find a welcoming land.

And to tell me:  
What can we do to wake up our rulers?  
Wars multiplied.  
Disasters multiply precariousness.  
2023 will once again witness criminal indifference!  
What can be done to see this nightmare finally come to an end?

***... A year and a half later, absolutely nothing has changed...***

### **But to conclude on a positive note:**

At the Dunkirk distribution site,  
at the request of the associations, the CUD will have the dumpster collected every Thursday morning, before 10 a.m., i.e. before the influx of exiles and associations.  
It will also launch a rat control operation.

Many thanks to the Director General of the Urban Community of Dunkirk.

***Claire Millot.***



## AND OUR OTHER BORDERS ?

*With our nose in the handlebars, we easily forget that we are not alone in our fight. Testimonies from other struggles reach us and remind us of this.*

### ON THE BORDER WITH SPAIN.

*This photo was taken on 21<sup>st</sup> March at the Catalan border, on the eve of the international demonstrations (see above in "The events of the month") to "call for tomorrow's demonstration". It was sent to Jacky and Anne who met the "Viva la costa" collective (see their testimony in the January 2025 issue of this newsletter) and stayed in touch with them.*



### ON THE BORDER WITH ITALY..

*Links are created between the volunteers of Salam and the "Refuges Solidaires" of Briançon. Quentin spent the whole month of February there, helping to welcome those who cross this forbidden border, and here is his testimony.*

*Elisabeth and Jean had stayed there last spring (see the April 2024 issue of this newsletter).*

### **My four weeks of volunteering with the Refugees Solidarity Association in Briançon**

The Refugees Solidarity Association offers shelter for a maximum of 3 nights (except in special situations) in Briançon for exiled people who have just crossed the mountain on foot between Clavière (Italian border town) and Montgenèvre (French border town). This is done in an apartment building at the *Terrasses solidaires*. Other associations such as *La Cimade* and *Médecins du Monde* are coming to bring their skills and knowledge to welcome exiled people as well as possible.



The majority of exiled people cross at night to try to escape more easily from the patrols of French police who are equipped with drones and snowmobiles. Indeed, when they intercept adult men, they illegally send them back to Italy while they let women and minors through. Every night, members of the marauding collective (of which the advocacy association *Tous migrants* is a member) criss-cross the mountain to help people in need.

From Thursday 30/01/2025 to Wednesday 26/02/2025, among dozens of volunteers of all ages, from Briançon, from the four corners of France, even from other European countries, and supervised by several employees, I participated in the preparation of meals, the reception of new exiles, the cleaning of the premises and the linen, etc. Every day, several volunteers, helped by exiled people, cook a lunch and dinner based on rice, pasta or semolina. The association collects unsold food from several bakeries and supermarkets, but it is not enough. This means that she must buy food several times a week, which is a large part of her budget.

During my stay, the number of people accommodated per night varied between 30 and 60 (knowing that the building has a maximum capacity of 70 places). The majority of these people were young men between the ages of 15 and 35 from Algeria, Eritrea, Morocco and Sudan. There were also a few women with small children. Only a minority of these people planned to go to Calais or Grande-Synthe to try to reach England. A week after my return, I met a Sudanese man again in the Grande-Synthe camp when I was distributing blankets with Pascaline.



The kitchen

I also had the opportunity to participate in the Commemoration of the 11 exiles who died and the 5 who have disappeared since 2018 at the upper French-Italian border:

- Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February: Walk in Briançon with the creation of a cairn (a mound of stones as a war memorial) near the town hall. The cairn built in 2024 was destroyed by the town hall a few weeks later..

- Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> February: Walk in Montgenèvre with a long stop in front of the border police premises to remind the police that it is illegal to send people exiled back to Italy.



The reception desk

To remember the sentence pronounced by a volunteer "**It is not the deserts, mountains or seas that kill but the migration policies**".

If you wish to support the *association Refuges solidaires*, you can make a donation via *Hello asso* or you can become a volunteer. Free collective accommodation is possible in the Volunteers' Chalet (located right next to the refuge) provided that you volunteer for at least one week.

It was an enriching and inspiring experience... because whether in Briançon or in Calais/Grande-Synthe, let's continue to fight for a dignified welcome for exiled people!!

*Quentin* (from the Saturday team of *Salam Grande-Synthe*)



## TONIGHT I'M COLLAPSING...

Tonight I collapse after reading a press release.  
"A refugee found dead in Tardingenhen"  
I say to myself... "No, not yet"  
And after reading the article...  
I collapse  
A young man... apparently found a refugee hanged near the beach in Tardingenhen.  
What a horror... To make the way to the Opal Coast and finish like this.  
What a horror  
What loneliness  
What despair  
What a lack of welcome  
What a lack of humanity  
Poor France... poor Europe.  
I find this world ugly,  
So ugly.

***Ferri Matheeuwsen, 21<sup>st</sup> March 2025.***  
*(Ferri, a volunteer in Salam, is Dutch).*

## ONE DAY, ONE DAY, YOU WILL SEE...

*The author wrote this text, after a first experience of distribution in Dunkirk, and he imagines what it is like to live in France with an OQTF (Obligation to Leave French Territory) and an IRTF (Ban on Return to French Territory) and the dream of revenge on life that comes with it.*

"One day, one day, one day, you'll see, when I get my papers, you'll see that day, how stressed I'll be, for being your equal, for having swallowed my illegality.  
I will show you the man that I am, the one who dreams of being without clandestinity, to have the license to stand up as I see fit and to be heard without fear of being dissolved.

One day, you'll see, the man I am. "man" as you have never seen me, I know, I will have life at my feet, the street will be my living room, and the stations, the airports, the boats, will call me Sir, and I will laugh, laugh out loud, to make a little too much noise, to dance where there is no dance, to laugh, to laugh to be able to take a step, Imagine... in any direction, without permission just because I have the right to do so. And I can lose myself, and I can try myself, to be a new man here, like I've never been... .

One day, I will carry you, and I will introduce you to my family, I will offer you lodging, and my best sheets. One day you will see, what I contain, inside me, what drowse, what I suffocate, what I secretly chew and which I am sure of it, will fly away. One day, I will be able to say who I am, and offer myself to you entirely, to call you my brother, to tell you my sister, to tell you I love you, the day I am puffed up, to be your equal, to have swallowed all my illegality."

***G. of the Hauts de France.***

## **MON AGRESSION AVEC UNE ARME BLANCHE !**

Quand j'ai été poignardé dans le ventre, c'était le pire jour de toute mon existence. C'était la période la plus difficile de ma vie. À ce moment douloureux j'étais couché au sol sans espoir de vivre dans ce monde, en ce moment j'étais en train d'attendre la dernière minute et la dernière seconde. Tout ce que je pensais et voyais à ce moment c'était la mort... C'était vraiment horrible ! J'attendais juste que l'Ange de la mort vienne me retirer mon âme.

Je tiens à remercier la femme qui est venue à mon secours et a appelée les ambulanciers pour me sauver la vie. Madame merci pour tout ce que vous avez fait pour moi ce jour là. Sans toi je ne serai pas arrivé à l'hôpital, je ne finirai jamais à te dire merci de toute ma vie. Merci, merci et encore merci.

**AUJOURD'HUI JE REMERCIE LE BON DIEU DE M'AVOIR SAUVÉ LA VIE.**

Merci de m'avoir donné la chance de revivre dans ce bas monde, et je tiens aussi à remercier toutes les personnes qui m'ont soutenu dans ce moment douloureux et difficile mes sincères gratitude envers vous. Si je suis en vie aujourd'hui c'est grâce à vous, je suis reconnaissant pour toutes les personnes qui sont venus me voir à l'hôpital, et tous les gens qui m'ont envoyé des messages et des appels de soutien. Et aussi des personnes que je ne connais pas mais qui sont venues me voir merci à vous tous. toute ma gratitude envers vous ! Un immense merci à toute mon école pour les cadeaux, soutiens et messages d'amour à mon égard. Que ce soit les enseignants, élèves, parents d'élèves, personnels administratifs, agents merci à vous tous et je n'en finirai jamais à vous dire MERCI. Merci aussi à toute l'équipe de L'ALEFPA d'avoir été là pour moi dans cette situation douloureuse. Merci à vous ALEFPA ! Je tiens à remercier mon club de football # Malo, Entraîneurs, joueurs et présidents. Merci à vous encore et encore !

**SI JE SUIS LÀ OÙ JE SUIS AUJOURD'HUI C'EST GRÂCE À VOUS ET VOTRE SOUTIEN INFALLIBLE .**

**MERCI À TOUS ET À TOUTE !**

**BANGALY TOURÉ**

*With his permission, we transmit this testimony from Bangaly.  
You don't know him, I think.  
He is enrolled in the "Transport and Logistics" baccalaureate ( Examination ).*



His schooling was abruptly interrupted because this young man was violently attacked by two thugs at Christmas time.

Very, very seriously injured, he spent a month in hospital and is being monitored by daily care.

He has to have another operation in April/May depending on the availability of his surgeon.

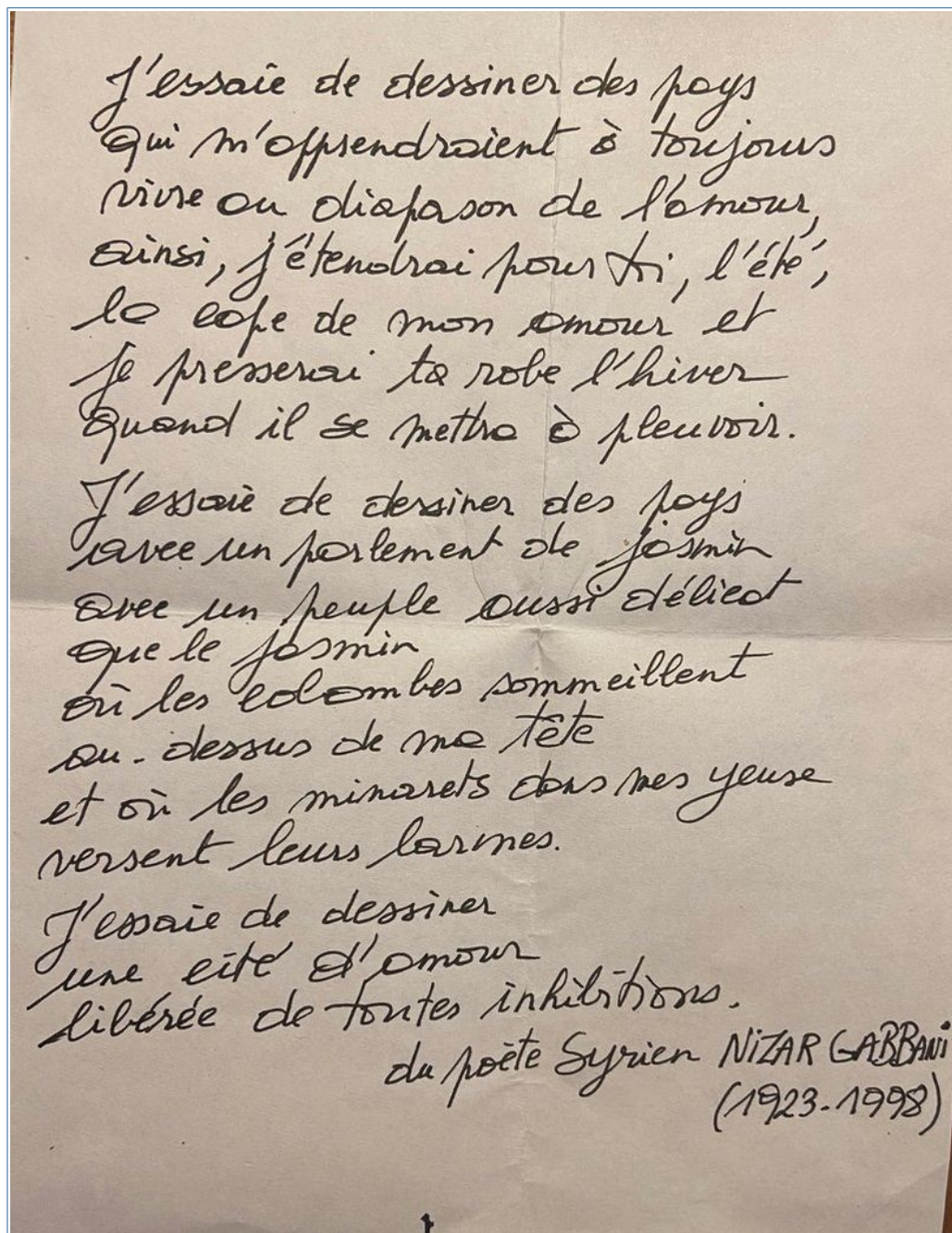
I go to see him regularly.

This is what he told me.

**Marie, Volunteer at Salam.**

### I TRY TO DRAW COUNTRIES...

This poem was read by Anne at the commemoration of 21<sup>st</sup> March on the Malo dike, after the two deaths of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> March.



This text is taken from the long poem by Nizar Kabbani, a Syrian poet, published in "Poèmes chantés et autres succès" (Sung Poems and Other Successes) published by Marsan (17<sup>th</sup> July 2007).

You can find it more quickly on the website:

"[www.poesielavie.com](http://www.poesielavie.com)>2023/05>nizar-kabbani"

## TO THE PROMISED LAND

*This song was played, several times, to conclude the commemorations after death in Dunkirk, on the Malo dike. Thank you to Dominique for this enriching contribution and for having brought the essential material for its dissemination.*

On asphalt, cobblestones  
There are several thousand of them  
Leaving for the unknown  
another land in sight..

An entire people get bogged down  
I hear the crowd screaming  
to the promised land  
they left Mosul

Children, women, old men  
at the mercy of the barbarians.  
It's happening today  
not very far from here

An entire people get bogged down  
A mass exodus  
to the promised land  
to flee from Damascus

Hidden disappearances  
Prisons full to bursting  
Opponent journalists  
and many other artists.

An entire people get bogged down  
A headlong rush  
to the promised land  
far from southern Sudan.

Deep are the wounds  
inflicted by dictatorships  
Doctors Without Borders  
to fight hell.

An entire people get bogged down  
Walking day and night  
to the promised land  
very far from Burundi.

Moves then  
when we are exiled  
crossing borders  
to reach England.

An entire people get bogged down  
Far from the truth  
to the promised land  
In Grande-Synthe or Calais.

Poor populations  
Revolt and xenophobia  
the richer the countries  
the more men don't care.

An entire people get bogged down  
Dying for peace  
to the promised land  
A bowl of freedom.

***Jean Zibart (text and music).***

Song from « DKenFlandre2 » , it's a "multimedia" USB key and its booklet, whose profits are entirely donated to the [SNSM Dunkerque - Les Sauveteurs en Mer](#)  
Vous la trouverez

- à [La Librairie dunkerque 3 rue Emmerly 59140 Dunkerque](#)

- à [La bierotek Dunkerque 9 rue du président Poincaré 59140 Dunkerque](#)

-Saturday mornings, generally exclusively, at the Dunkirk SNSM Station  
[471, Avenue des bancs de Flandres 59140](#)



## **A MODERN « ULYSSES »**

The world was hard... Life has become impossible... For many, it was necessary to leave!

Like Ulysses ( a legendary Greek hero) , he had to sail to find a homeland, a homeland that was not his homeland but that would become one. The goodbyes were heartbreaking, hearts were bleeding but... leaving was necessary. The gods had decided so! It was fate, fate.

The trip was as terrifying as the goodbyes. Charybdis and Scylla were on the lookout; shipwrecks were a risk to take. One could have sinister encounters, even more sinister than that of the Cyclops. The terrible eye that devoured us was rather that of the smugglers who, in an instant, undid our lives, took our money and sent us on the deafening waves.

The ships were not war " ancient vessels", they were only pneumatic flats swept by the waves, and in which souls were crowded in love with elsewhere, with freedom, with rights, with happiness...

There were young people, beautiful, muscular, courageous, full of energy and life. There were mothers with children clinging to their breasts. There were fathers who struggled against the cold and the mud. There were frightened young girls..

There was misery, fear, despair, ... But there was also and above all hope, the hope of a better world where we would live in peace without fear of tomorrow, without fear of talking, without fear of revealing ourselves.....

The arrival was hard in the camps of Calais and Grande-Synthe. The mud, the cold, the Republican Security Corps, the hunger... All this odyssey to get here, the stench and the noise, being seen as enemies.

In the midst of all this tumult: a voice: A human voice, a comforting voice! This voice was that of the volunteers of Salam. Like a wonderful mermaid, she welcomes migrants and carries them away with delight. This voice gives hope to the abandoned souls. These lost "Ulysses" have met their mermaid, a benevolent mermaid who, far from the one of the myth, only seeks to help them. A little hot food, a warm smile, a benevolent look... and life resumes!

These forgotten "Ulysses", these abandoned "Ulysses", these soiled "Ulysses" find thanks to her a moment of humanity.

***Anne-Catherine Mourgue.***

*Anne-Catherine Mourgue is a professor of literature at the Darius Milhaud College in Sartrouville in the Yvelines. Since 2020, her 3rd grade students have been discovering the reality of our camps and producing, guided by the sound of our friend Bélanda's harp, texts and drawings that we publish, year after year in our newsletters.*

*This year, a hospitalization prevents Mrs Mourgue from entrusting us with the work of the young people (finishing touches and legal framework). We hope to be able to make up for this delay by June.*

## **IT WAS AMERICA.**

The months of February, which celebrate Valentine's Day, have been deadly for the past three years. After a Russian aggression against Ukraine in 2022, a US attack on Europe in 2025.

What European has not been attracted to the "American dream"? During the most difficult periods of our European history, when our countries were going through major social and economic crises, millions of Europeans found refuge in the United States to build their lives. Italians, Irish, Poles or Hungarians... in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries arrived in New York. Ellis Island symbolized this agonizing passage where new immigrants had to pass a medical examination so as not to become a "public burden" for their host country. Under the benevolent eye of the Statue of Liberty "*Liberty Enlightening the World*", a gift from France to America that recalls the privileged relationship of our country since Lafayette, which valiantly participated in the independence of the New World, against the British "colonizer". The American flag recalls this epic - the red and white stripes (the first colonies that became states) and the stars for each state that gradually rallied the most symbolic and mediatized democracy in the world.

During the first two world wars, the United States intervened twice at decisive moments. They enabled the victory of the Allies. During the First World War, they accelerated the collapse of authoritarian empires (Prussia, Austria, Hungary, the Ottoman Empire, etc.). During the Second World War, the courage and idealism of thousands of American indentured workers (who came to die on the D-Day landing beaches in Normandy and elsewhere in Europe) gave a final blow to fascism and Nazism, which were planning the end of the Europe of the Enlightenment and democracy. Thousands of refugees from Central Europe, because they were Jews, were able to escape the worst by leaving for America. There have been darker episodes where refugee boats have been turned back. But history has remembered the commitment and the fight of America and so many Americans for freedom.

Hollywood has vividly recalled these glorious episodes, the best weapon of soft power to defend the American values of freedom and democracy. An Italian immigrant, Frank Capra, embodied this American idealism in "*Life is Beautiful*"(1). Steven Spielberg took up the torch with panache by celebrating the heroism of Americans in "*Saving Private Ryan*" or the courage of certain Europeans in "*Schindler's List*" (2). More recently, Mike Nichols (whose family came from Germany and Russia), recalled in "*Charlie Wilson's War*" how the commitment of a Texas congressman, Charles Wilson, made it possible to arm Afghanistan to face the Soviet invasion after visiting an Afghan refugee camp in Pakistan. The transatlantic relationship has rocked the childhood and adolescence of millions of Europeans. Hollywood told us, with its happy endings, inspiring stories of Americans or Europeans, whose destinies were intertwined. We were part of the same world, that of universalism, justice for all and equal opportunities.

During the Cold War, a Democratic president, John Fitzgerald Kennedy, came to Berlin in 1961 to denounce the wall built by the USSR to prevent East Germans from fleeing to the West and regain their freedoms, public and private. "*Ich bin ein Berliner*" (4) he proclaimed, spokesman for the free and democratic world. We were all Berliners. What would he have thought of Vice President J.D. Vance's speech at the Security in Europe Conference in Munich on Friday, February 14, 2025 (5)? Curious Valentine's Day for Europe. All shame drunk, while the same Vance had in the past denounced a Republican president, Donald Trump, with an authoritarian, anti-immigration and protectionist discourse, he has been a zealous supporter of his new mentor. He posed as an outspoken opponent of Europe and its European allies, through a trade war (tariffs) and an ideological war (our values).

The instrumentalization of immigration is the favourite weapon of authoritarian and anti-democratic discourse. He used the good figures between 2021 and 2022 for immigration to the European Union, which reached an all-time high. He forgot to mention that in 2022, because of Russia's war against Ukraine, EU countries welcomed more than 1.8 million Ukrainian nationals compared to 100,000 the previous year. According to JD Vance, the Russian president, Vladimir Putin is no longer the aggressor, it is the Ukrainian president, Volodymyr Zelensky. He forgets that Ukraine has been suffering from an all-out war by Russia since 2022. J.D. Vance has finally interfered in Germany's internal affairs by supporting a far-right party (6), which advocates "remigration" and holds an openly xenophobic discourse. Last but not least, JD Vance has "recovered" with the bad faith characteristic of European and American extremist parties, the act of madness of a young Afghan refugee who drove a car into the crowd, or the act of insanity of a Syrian refugee who attacked a teenager with a knife.



Mental health problems have become better known in Europe since Covid. Why should young refugees whose social and economic status is precarious, who are often prey to mafia groups, and who feel perpetually rejected by European populations that are increasingly sensitive to hate speech against foreigners, escape it?

The nightmare continued on Friday, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 2025 when Republican President Trump and his Vice President Vance attacked President Zelensky in Mondiovision, repeating Russia's discourse and trying to humiliate the Ukrainian president who has been fighting for three years to defend his country, and Europe.

When a dream turns into a nightmare, we rub our eyes and pinch ourselves to make sure we are awake. We are going through a period of intense turbulence. Our American partners are practising shock therapy with regard to Europe. You have to have strong shoulders and a strong heart to get through it. The Europeans and their allies will need all the goodwill. We cannot deprive ourselves of partners, but we must protect ourselves from our opponents. Story telling has changed. The glory days of Hollywood are over. It's no longer a "fairy telling". Let's have a dream with the Rev. Martin Luther King in the times of the civil rights struggle – that the America of heroes and the fight for freedom is waking up. We will then be able to resume our journey with it, alongside the millions of refugees thrown out of their countries by a violent and unfair geopolitics. Long live Europe!

**Dr Bénédicte Halba, President of IRIV ([www.iriv.net](http://www.iriv.net)), mars 2025**

*Bénédicte Halba directs a research institute (iriv) which has been working on the theme of migration since 2003, she has led a club at the Cité des Métiers for a migrant public (2012-2022) and published a weblog dedicated to migration (2024)- <https://actions-migration.blogspot.com/> .*

(1) Franck Capra, "Life is Beautiful", United States, 1946

(2) Steven Spielberg, "Saving Private Ryan", United States, 1998, "The Schindler List", United States, 1993

(3) Mike Nichols, "The War According to Charles Wilson", United States, 2007

(4) *I'm a Berliner*

(5) William Audureau, Philippe Bernard, Maxime Ferrer, Assma Maad and Manon Romain "Behind the words of J. D Vance in Munich", *Le Monde*, 23 & 24 February 2025

(6) AfD, which won more than 20% of the vote in the German parliamentary elections on 23 February 2025.

**THANK YOU**

**THANK YOU TO THE VOLUNTEERS.**

**The regular volunteers, of course, and then the exceptional:**

**The new ones:**

- young people passing through:

\*the young people entrusted by the AFEV on Thursdays in Dunkirk (Younès, Fatima, Fadoua and Zahia).

\*Marie-Hélène, a high school student whom we shared in an internship with ADRA for two weeks, including a week of pure volunteering, enthusiastic and efficient.

\* Kéo and Pauline from BSB, a week of internship in Calais, who are also enthusiastic and immediately competent in their tasks.

\*the young people of Amnesty International from Nevers also a few days in Calais and shaken by their experience: "They were very touched by your humanity, your involvement, your tireless work with migrants. Pierre was particularly impressed and admires your commitment. You are his new heroes, and it is with emotion that he talks about his experience with you," their manager wrote to us."

\*the young people of the Epide de Doullens, with us on 4<sup>th</sup> March in Dunkirk.

\*Elisa and Maxence, on 6<sup>th</sup> March in Dunkirk, on behalf of Mediapart, asked lots of questions, and gave a hand to the distribution of tea in the field.

\*Lola, in Dunkirk for a trial day on 10<sup>th</sup> March, before a possible training camp.

\*Léa, sent to Dunkirk by Secours Catholique for a day of discovery on 17<sup>th</sup> March.

- The not so young:

\*Olha, the Ukrainian, brought by Annie who teaches her French,

\* Johan, who comes from the other side of the Belgian border, and who was propelled into the basement kitchen as soon as he arrived to prepare a Tuesday lunch.

\*Emine came to accompany Manu, with both their children. And on the same day, Gauthier and Karine..

### Those who have gone off the beaten track:

\*For the Tuesday kitchen: 4<sup>th</sup> Hubert and Annie (from FTS), 11<sup>th</sup> Hubert, Charline and Marianne (from FTS too), 18<sup>th</sup> Yohan and Claire, 25<sup>th</sup> Ghislaine and Dominique.

\*For shopping:

Denise, on 12<sup>th</sup> March, filled up with Henri on pasta and some preserves..



\* for repairs:

Jean-Pierre, always ready to intervene.

On 6<sup>th</sup> March, Henri and César, explaining themselves with the neon lights of the Salle Guérin.

\*For cleaning:

On the 27<sup>th</sup>, our friends from FTS (Jean-Paul, Thierry and Véronique), with the support of Sylviane and Samira, did a spring cleaning in the basement (fridges, garbage cans, under pallets, under tables, shoe corners...) We already knew Patrick (from FTS) had a degree in shoe sorting, but the competition is strong!



\*For the manufacture, by Gérard, of a mailbox outside his house, specially designed to receive cans of sardines to be distributed in the camps.

\*For special transports of blankets left at the Petite Chapelle Notre Dame des Dunes (Eric, stopped by an illness, we wish him a good recovery. Then Marie-Christine and Claudine on the 11<sup>th</sup>, then Denise on the 21<sup>st</sup>).



\*For a transport of foodstuffs between Salam Calais and Salam Dunkirk (Dominique, Joseph, Ghislaine and Sylviane)

\*For the banana collection, on March 20<sup>th</sup>, Younès as Geneviève's backup during Dominique's absence.

\*For the transfer of tools for the Woodyard project of the Auberge des migrants, from Dunkirk to Calais (donated by Elise, transported by Claire)

### **Visiting alumni:**

\*Marie-Françoise and Brigitte, convalescing came to spend a few hours to help us, on 13<sup>th</sup> March.

\*Clara: one last time before the start of her end-of-studies internship on "the support of migrants authorized for employment, the stay". Yes, she had a hard time finding it, but good news also exists!

\*Quentin, back after his stay in Briançon, at the beginning of the month.

\*César and Leslie, as reinforcements on 6<sup>th</sup> March.

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

### **Food donations:**

\*Elisa and Maxence, on 6<sup>th</sup> March, left for Auchan, came back with the 5 kg of sugar we needed.

\* On 8<sup>th</sup> March, a lady dropped off two packs of water and a gentleman some potatoes.

\*Mohamed arrived on the 27<sup>th</sup> with small jars of sauce, including mayonnaise.

\*On the 29<sup>th</sup>, a gentleman came to drop off bread and pastries, another dropped off a box of chicken. And Nathalie offered water packs that were distributed as a priority to families.

### **Textile donations:**

\*On 17<sup>th</sup> March, an anonymous lady arrived with her car full of clothes, up to the ceiling.

### **A little bit of everything:**

\*Message from Carole who dropped off donations on 1<sup>st</sup> March:

"I forgot to say that my aunt Isabelle (my mother's sister) gave clothes and bought canned goods and baby products (which were taken directly for the little ones when I dropped everything off in Guérin)," she wrote to us.

\*Message from Lisa, an apprentice with us, very invested, during the year of COVID.

"I came by on Tuesday (4<sup>th</sup> March) and dropped off more than 10kg of chicken to the team after reading that you were in trouble at the moment.

We have just dropped off 8 bags of blankets to help our brothers and sisters in the camps.

Good luck to all the teams. »

\*Béatrice dropped off milk, sweaters and trays on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

\* On the 29<sup>th</sup>, Manu brought back hygiene products, a few coats and a duvet.

### **And then:**

\*On 1<sup>st</sup> March, Anne-Marie came to complete her donation of school books, after the one in February, for Annie's French classes.

\* on 2<sup>nd</sup> March the great Patrick (from Belgium) offered us an electric knife.

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

### **Collections were carried out in the two places where we carried out interventions this month:**

**The Gambetta high school in Tourcoing** welcomed Antoine and Claire on 5<sup>th</sup> March for a meeting with two classes of second grade, well prepared by their teachers and by the librarian.

Claire's car on the way back was filled to the ceiling with what the students had gathered: boxes of food and bags of clothes and shoes.

## The parish of Erquinghem-Lys:

For several years, Martine has been coming regularly with her van full of clothes. This was the case, especially on 17<sup>th</sup> March. On Sunday, 23<sup>rd</sup> March, Claire was invited to speak at Mass, at the time of the homily, about Salam's work and the conditions of survival of the exiles. It was an opportunity to exchange with some parishioners and at length with Martine and Nicolas, her husband. The church fund was filled with bags of clothing donations.

**- Our biggest donor in material donations is the Secours Populaire/Copains du Monde, behind Christian Hogard, Caroline and their team, especially Bruno and Evelyne.**

*The best was the last one of the month* : Christian's call on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> March in the early afternoon:

- Is there someone at your premises to receive 42 tents?

- Yes, yes, gladly. Thank you!

And if there had been no one, we would have found someone to send!

(you can see some of the tents in the photo, above the blankets)



Every week, often twice a week, we receive bread and pastries.

Here are our thank you messages:

*The one on 7<sup>th</sup> March:*

Thank you very much once again for this donation on Tuesday: the usual bread and especially the large quantity of pastries that makes our friends so happy at the beginning of Ramadan.

They take what we give them for the evening, and a little sweets, does them so much good!

Thank you Christian and Caroline, thank you Les Copains du Monde!

*The one on 9<sup>th</sup> March:*

One more thank you for one more gift: a delivery of bread on Friday (the day before yesterday) with a mountain of pastries that our friends jealously carry away for the breaking of the fast in the evening. Many thanks to you, our Copains du Monde, for your constant support.

*The one on 14<sup>th</sup> March:*

Thank you Christian, Caroline and all the Copains du Monde for your uninterrupted help.

Thank you for this new donation of bread and pastries that you brought us the day before yesterday.

It's so cold in the morning right now, despite a spring air in the afternoon that the sweets you bring are especially welcome.

In a word, THANK YOU.

*The one on 20<sup>th</sup> March:*

Thank you Les Copains du Monde, Thank you Christian and Caroline,

Thank you for the bread and pastries brought at the beginning of the week: the attempts to leave for England have resumed and we saw our friends leave for the seaside to wait for the signal of the smugglers.

On Monday and Tuesday, we saw some of them set off. Some waited two days in the dunes.

Thank you for giving us something to fill their bag to hold on in the meantime.

With all our gratitude and friendship.

## Associations of Koksijde and Veurne.

Johan came to do a first day of volunteering with us on Tuesday, 18<sup>th</sup> March.



His van was full of belongings collected in Belgium, in Koksijde and in Veurne. There were more than 25 clean and neatly folded blankets and duvets and clothes perfectly sorted and stored in boxes, and even a box of towels.

### **Audotri: Donations are very frequent.**

Nathalie explains:

"For Audotri (Saint Martin les Tatinghem), it is every week of the year that their team prepares donations of shoes, jackets, clothes, duvets...

When I can't go, it's Pascaline or her husband who goes, or Ursula.

Their donations are not exceptional but weekly; Solidarity is part of their charter. »



**Jeannette's kitchen** has donated us 85 jars of jam, which will please the exiles of Calais to whom Salam offers breakfast every morning.



<https://www.lacuisinedejeannette.com/le-projet>

Thank you to them and thank you to Gaby and Régine who provided the transport

### **Donations and sharing of Valenciennes:**

On 8<sup>th</sup> March, Mehdi from the "Dons et Partage" collective in Valenciennes was returning from distribution in Calais and dropped off a few dozen sandwiches, apples, biscuits...

Pascaline and Quentin offered to distribute them in the evening during their delivery of clothes and other items.

**Emmaus St Omer** gave away two boxes of ripe bananas, on 1<sup>st</sup> March and 8<sup>th</sup> March, a lot of food: pasta, lentils, canned vegetables, jam, brioche...

**FTS**, on 11<sup>th</sup> March, brought half a container of rice which we reheated with chicken and tomato sauce.

**The Jardins de Cocagne** once again delivered a beautiful cargo of 88 kg of vegetables on 20<sup>th</sup> March and another 66kg on the 27<sup>th</sup> March!

**Maison Sesame** offered us their leftover fruits and vegetables (all the occupants, incredibly, had passed through England by sea... the opportunity to take a break and clean up...)

On that day, a magnificent chain of solidarity was set up, described by Claire:

"My husband kindly agreed to accompany me.

- We went to Herzelee with the truck. Valérie and Benoît were waiting for us and helped us load, with also a sad-looking gentleman, the only one currently welcomed in Sesame with his two nephews while his wife is in the maternity ward. He doesn't speak a word of French. He wanted tomatoes and potatoes. Of course, we let him take what he needed, and that wasn't an exaggeration.

- There were also several packs of six milk cartons, left by Help 4 Dunkirk.
- On the way back we had an appointment in Bierne with Geneviève who loaded us with two large bags of potatoes.
- On arrival Henri, Annie and two gentlemen who were there to give French lessons helped us unload. »»

**The municipality of Grande-Synthe:** after the call for donations during the Christmas period, the source never completely dried up, and on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> March we went to pick up several boxes of clothes at the Maison de la Citoyenneté, which really deserves its name.

**Onjali, back from England** with food donations for Eid: spices, enough to make a delicious tea and above all a donation of meat (magnificent beef said the team who went to get it from the butcher) for a festive meal.

**The Little Chapel "Notre-Dame des Dunes" and its parishioners:** it remains a place to collect blankets that are so useful on our camps.

Eric from OGS Rugby, who had taken charge of the transfer of the blankets left at the Petite Chapelle Notre Dame des Dunes, is ill. We wish him a speedy recovery.

He wants to resume this task as soon as possible.

But in the meantime, we have to make sure. That's what Marie-Christine and Claudine did, then Denise, and it's not over...

**The Refugees Womens Centre** brought back from Belgium a large batch of blankets, entrusted to Pascaline (from Salam) for her evening distributions.



Pascaline Delaby



Pascaline Delaby



Claire Millot

#### **The parish of Wattrelos :**

On 1<sup>st</sup> March, Bernadette and her husband arrived with two cars full of blankets and men's clothes (jackets, sweaters, sneakers...)

**The Val des Roses**, whose residents for years give us a tote bag full of hats that they have knitted for our friends once a month or so.

**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 banknote, sent a cheque, 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 each month clothes brought to Calais by André de Merlimont, to the Calais bakeries and to those opposite the Noordover, "La mie du pain" and "Aux pains du Nord" in Coudekerque. Week after week, they are there to help us.**

**Thanks** to the Human Rights Observers and Dominique Bommel, who allowed us to publish 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 about 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 Quentin who opened an Instagram account for Salam in May (almost a year!):** 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 2pm and 4 pm). In between, we distribute the meal.

Call Claire (06 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](http://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 laws)

*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)

### **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 thresholds.

## CONTACT US

<http://www.associationsalam.org>

[salamnordpasdecalais@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://www.linkedin.com/in/association-salam-nord-pas-de-calais)

and the brand new Instagram account: salam\_calais\_grandesynthe

Association SALAM  
13 rue des Fontinettes, 62100 CALAIS  
BP 47  
62100 CALAIS

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



Nord/Pas-de-Calais

# Bulletin d'adhésion 2025

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.

"Au regard de la loi n°78-17 du 6 janvier 1978 relative à l'informatique, aux fichiers et aux libertés, l'association s'engage à ne pas utiliser les données à des fins commerciales. Quant à l'adhérent ou donateur, il peut exercer son droit de regard et de rectification concernant ses données personnelles conformément au RGPD en vigueur depuis le 25 mai 2018"