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NOVEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

A LETTER TO VOLUNTEERS, AFTER A DEATH (already!).

Jean-Claude LENOIR, 16th October 2015

Too hard.....
another 17 year-old Afghan boy died in the tunnel
simply for trying to LIVE
the walls of shame,
the massive deforestation,
the overcrowding of police
officers will not bring any solution,
everyone knows it
it's intolerable!
this inhumane situation has lasted too long,
and States must show solidarity.

EDITORIAL

GENERAL LECLERC :

"WE MUST NOT CARRY OUT STUPID ORDERS!"

30th October 2024, Hardelet, failed embarkation of about sixty exiles (at least one dead).

The citizens present, took shelter for the soaked people in the halls of buildings (see the article "Testimonies" in our October newsletter).

A Police Officer, however objected: "You cannot enter, I have received orders."

25th August 1944, liberation of Paris.

"Dronne, what the hell are you doing here?" asked General Leclerc to Captain Dronne, who was about to withdraw, before adding:

"We must not carry out stupid orders.

Go straight to Paris, enter Paris. Go wherever you want. Tell the Parisians and the Resistance not to lose courage. That tomorrow, the entire division will be in Paris."

Comments reported in the film "Is Paris Burning?"

LAST MINUTE: THE VISIT TO THE COAST BY THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR.

Several remarks:

***No humanitarian component in the promises.**

Of course it's desperate, but it's the opposite that would have been surprising: he said in an interview with the "Voix du Nord" Journal on Friday, 29th November by Julien Lécuyer (p. 4 "Region"): "All the solutions that will consist of entrenching the problem, of creating conditions of humanitarian reception, will increase trafficking and the pull of air. Only firmness can settle things. »

***We also find, unsurprisingly, a "reinforcement of daily security",** i.e. the quantity of Law and Order on the ground, while on the 3rd October it was he himself who said: "We also shared the observation that this (Police) efficiency had harmful consequences with an increase in deaths..." (We quoted him in our editorial in last month's issue of this newsletter).

* We read with amazement in the article by Aïcha Noui in the "Voix du Nord" of Saturday, 30th November, p. 4 ("Region") "An immersion on the beaches of Hemmes in Marck and Oye-Plage alongside elected officials and the Forces of Order, **Thursday "outside the press", announced her office, with the exception of the television cameras of the conservative channel CNews.** No press, for the serenity of the discussion, we can understand. But CNews as the only witness!!! Where is the concern for objectivity, neutrality, which a minister of the Republic should show in all circumstances!

DEATHS.

There were 66 deaths by 31st October since 1st January, 2024, and there are 76 on 30th November, including the missing.

The following list is tedious, but not as tedious as the grim reality...

The October newsletter had ended on 2nd November: the death of a body had been found on the beach of Sangatte.

On the evening of Tuesday, 5th November, two bodies were found at sea, then on the morning of 6th November another on the beach at Calais.

On the same day, 6th November, the Public Prosecutor announced **that another body had been recovered from the sea.**

On Tuesday, 12th November, two **bodies were found on the beaches of Sangatte and Wissant.**

On the 14th, a body was also found by a walker on the beach of Calais.

A person in his thirties in a terrible state...

On Sunday 17th, on the beach of Marck, a new body was discovered.

Another, on Wednesday 20th, on the beach of Quend, in the Somme.

"If the repetition of these tragedies is unbearable, we hope that some families will finally have answers," says the comment that accompanies the information on inter-associative WhatsApp groups.

For all of them, of course, they could be wanted people following the recent shipwrecks.

As is tradition, after the announcement of each death, a gathering takes place the next day in Calais, at 6:30 p.m. in front of the Parc Richelieu, and the day after in Dunkirk by the seaside in Malo-les-Bains, in front of the Kursaal, also at 6:30pm
It is a question of showing our solidarity with the relatives of the victims and against the murderous policies that govern the borders.

This was the case, on 3rd and 4th November, for the death of 2



then on 6th and 7th November, for the deaths on 5th and 6th November,
then on 14th and 15th November, for the deaths of the 12th, (picture on the right),
and finally on 21st and 22nd November, for the deaths of 17th and 20th November.

Last month, it was the suffocated dead that challenged us, this month it is the number of bodies thrown back by the sea... The disappeared... In November, there was only that...
One thinks of the belief of Greek antiquity, that a dead person cannot find peace until his body has been buried. We can't help but think, even if we don't share this belief, that a man has the right to a little more respect, dignity after his death than to be nibbled away by fish or by boat propellers.

We are shocked by the number of deaths that we had not considered, and by the idea, once again, that it is not going to stop, that it cannot stop...

How many are still floating between two waters, whose families are waiting for news, whom their relatives in the camps are looking for, from whom they ask for news from all those who may have crossed paths with them.

RFL of the Red Cross (This is the "Restoration of Family Links" service) collected and transmitted to the authorities fifteen reports of people potentially missing in the shipwreck of 23rd October.

On 28th November, we reach 9 bodies, recovered, not immediately identifiable, from which we do not know what shipwreck they came from.

The maritime prefecture (...) only counts as missing those whose bodies were seen by a means of rescue. This reduces the list a lot, it does not count those who others have seen disappear, not to mention of course those who drowned without anyone having recognized them or who are still alive afterwards to testify. Those who fall into the water, however, hope not to die ignored and their last words are not "Help": Some migrants report that at sea, those who feel death approaching cry out their names so as not to be forgotten.

(The passages in italics are excerpts from Julia Pascual's article in "Le Monde" newspaper of 9th November).



THE COMMEMORATION OF THE SHIPWRECK OF 24th NOVEMBER, 2021.

We were about 200 people to participate in the rally..



Dominique Bommel



Dominique Bommel

A round table at Studio 43, with Julia Pascual, journalist at "Le Monde" newspaper followed the march between Place Jean Bart and the Human Rights Stele, next to the CUD.

The film "I Won't Let Go of Your Hand" by Dominique Cabrera was screened on this occasion. We saw this at the Salam General Assembly on 23rd May, 2022. This 8-minute film presents the testimony of one of the two survivors of the shipwreck of 24th November, read by volunteers.



Laurence Pedrol

BURIALS.

WhatsApp messages inform us:

4th November:

"Tomorrow, at 3 p.m. at the North cemetery of Calais, the funeral of Abdelaziz, who died in a shipwreck on 19th July, will take place... The family would like to have support.

A departure will take place from the Secours Catholique day care centre at 2 pm"

7th November:

"Sorry in advance for a new message that is still sad..."

On Tuesday 12th at 3:30 p.m., the funeral of Meryem, the little baby less than 2 months old who died on 17th October in a shipwreck, will take place.

It will be at the cemetery in Grande-Synthe.

The family would like to have support. Please bring flowers.

For people who wish to come, there will surely be an organization of departure from Calais. »

The demand for support from families, so far from home, is striking and we are trying to respond to it.

(See below, the text of the Sesame House: "Do not forget")

CROSSINGS TO ENGLAND.

The Home Office counts arrivals on UK soil. They do not count, however, those they do not receive on arrival or those who still arrive by truck.

There are not many of them anymore, but on 22nd November news of a small group of Sudanese, who had just arrived by truck, reached the Salam team during its distribution. We are always relieved to know that they have arrived safely, where they wanted them to be.

The UK Home Office did not count any arrivals between 10th and 14th November inclusive, nor between 17th and the end of the month...

They report 2,692 successful crossings between November 1st and 30th, on 50 boats (that's 54 people per boat).

It's a huge average but quite stable since the beginning of the summer, we were at 59 in July, but I didn't have the previous months.

The least loaded boats were those of 2nd November (5 for 188 people: between 37 and 38 on average). We are getting closer to the figures of about thirty three years ago). But we also saw on 5th November 263 people on 4 boats (between 65 and 66 per boat) and on 7th November on 2 boats 133 people (between 65 and 66 per boat). It's getting scary...

There are always more crossing failures than successes...

The conditions for returning to land are very harsh.

On 8th November, the Salam team witnessed the departure of families with life jackets in garbage bags. The next day, one of them is back in an unimaginable state of fatigue. They eat quickly and go to bed.

Where?....Have they found their tent? (8th November is a Friday, the day of collection of "abandoned" equipment).

On 16th November, our team came across some twenty people who were completely soaked. They had a survival blanket, but no dry clothes. That's already it, but there was no way to know who had given it to them. No more information, three days later, in a meeting of associations.

Of course we went back to our facilities to get something to dress them...

We know that the Pas-de-Calais Prefecture (unfortunately not the Nord Prefecture) has put in place since 2020 a *"protocol for the humanitarian care of people intercepted or rescued following a shipwreck at sea" which applies seven days a week, including nights*. It is a question of *warmed tents, restocking of clothes, transport that can be mobilized at any time of the day and night, in order to transport particularly vulnerable people from any point of the coast*. (The passages in italics are excerpts from Marine Babonneau's article in the "Canard enchaîné" of 23rd October, 2024: "Migrants in the Channel: the bitter overflows".)

In addition to the "Canard enchaîné", this protocol can be found in the 2023 activity report of Utopia 56. For the moment, we have not found the complete text. But this protocol is NEVER applied...

The irregular passages in England, of course, do not make our work any easier: for example, in Calais, we gave 200 breakfasts on 10th November but 684 on the 11th (many of them came back because there were no visits on 9th and 10th November because of bad weather...)

It is difficult to predict the quantity of bread and hot drinks needing to be prepared.

On 30th November 800 cups were donated, everything was distributed, the last ones left with only a piece of bread in their hands...

To increase the amount of hot water for tea and coffee, we cannot add gas stoves (the room is too small), the volunteers take time off from their sleep: the one who heated the water on 1st December arrived at 5:45 a.m.



In Dunkirk, there were 400 meals served on Thursday 28th, but more than 600 two days later... The distribution area is really too cramped... (the photo was taken on Thursday 28th)

EVACUATIONS.

On the Dunkirk side,

The last one took place on 30th October, and there were none between that date and 20th November.

The convoy was present before 8 a.m. south of the D 601, on the Loon-Plage side.

There is a bus and two PAF vans, the Human Rights Observer notes at least one arrest.

The entire road is blocked by a security perimeter. The Human Rights Observers cannot approach but believe that the operations have been concentrated on rue des Prés février.

A policeman, very courteous, explains that it is not an eviction but a proposal for shelter.

Exiles, however, in the morning, say that the police have taken their tents and blankets.

What hypocrisy, if we don't force them to leave on the bus but destroy their living space!

The policeman also says, speaking of themselves, that they are very not bad compared to the police in other European countries. They don't realize that beatings and gassings are not the only possible violence, that making someone move all their equipment in the early morning is also terrible violence. And how does it feel, when he returns from a failed crossing, if his equipment has been declared "abandoned" and has been removed?



The police officer adds that the Human Rights Observers (which they mistakenly believe is an international association with members in the UK) should also document the conditions in which they will live on the other side (which they see as unenviable). We know that they can't find the Eldorado they've dreamed of. But it can't be worse than the situation they are in, in our country, in the mud and without toilets...

On the Calais side.

As for the past three months, the evacuations are taking place every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

There were two exceptions:

an evacuation of the BMX camp on Tuesday, 5th November during which the equipment was seized,
a trip from Friday 29th to Saturday 30th because all the forces of law and order were mobilized by the arrival of Mr. Retailleau on our coast.



For the evacuation of the BMX, on 5th November, already the day before, the convoy had come, with the dismantling of the other places... There were five buses from 6 am.

The occupants had fled, the convoy left... Salam had been able to give breakfast a little further away.

It is a place that is targeted by a municipal decree prohibiting access, dated 6th November.

But the evacuation began even before the order was posted on 8th November. The rumour had preceded the display.

The occupiers, the vast majority of whom are Eritreans, have been in hiding ever since, hoping not to be spotted by the police, but their fallback positions are quickly ploughed and deforested... and this from evacuation to evacuation.



On 6th November, the Salam team noticed the installation of barriers and the ploughing of the new installation site. The photos show the destruction of the camp on 7th November,

The Human Rights Observers noted the destruction of the camp on the 8th. On the 8th, the water tanks installed by CFC were also seized. The HRO witnessed deforestation on the 13th.





In general, during this month, the Forces of Law and Order do not give the impression of trying to scare people first, the HRO reports shields on 1st November at the BMX,

a tear gas grenade on the 13th and 25th,

and a baton on the 5th, both on BMX.

We can guess an LBD rifle in a photo of the HRO at the football fields on 20th November. However, on the Danube Quay, on 1st November, the Human Rights Observer testifies that some people run and climb the embankment to leave.... And on 13th November, that some of them, behind the PASS, took their belongings and ran off the rails when they saw the police arrive.



Otherwise, very large security perimeters remain normal and we see arrests that seem arbitrary to our eyes as volunteers...

The photo was taken on 13th November at BMX; another was reported by the HRO on 11th November rue des Huttes and one on 25th at Quai de la Gironde.

Some are excavated during the dismantling, for example on the Danube Quay on 4th November.



Many things give the impression that one of the aims of these dismantling is in disgust of people being there, to make them go anywhere but elsewhere, as long as it is not to England; yet it is the only dignified solution left to them...

On 7th November, a squat in the city was totally destroyed.



On 8th November, the Human Rights Observers announced the arrival of new rocks in the city centre to prevent the installation of tents. Behind the PASS, on 15th November, people were forced to leave the site from the back, crossing a small slippery ditch.

The usual rule remains the same, on the basis of the "flagrante delicto"... "blazing offence" of illegal occupation of someone else's land, in a meeting" according to a police officer, on 22nd November. The exiles must leave the land with their belongings (their tent and personal belongings), what remains is considered abandoned and is collected.

On 4th November, the Human Rights Observer was surprised to see a tent removed from the Danube Quay, while its owner was present next to it. A new rule was then announced by the head of operation: "It's because it's in Calais. She adds: "Those who took their tent before us, good for them... What I left behind were families with children... »

On 11th November, however, in the same place, the cleaning team tries to find out which tents are "nobody's" before picking them up...

Conversely, on 13th November, at the BMX, a person just wanted to get a pair of shoes, the police referred to the authority of the commissioner who replied:

- * that the gentleman puts himself in danger by entering the land where there is construction machinery,
- *that the gentleman commits an offence by entering private land.

This gentleman is invited to go and see the owner who is in his office to obtain his consent to enter the land... Of course, it is difficult to imagine that he would take the step...

The same paradox persists, nothing changes, no one prevents the exiles from relocating immediately after having been chased away, let us remember, for illegal occupation of someone else's land."

We no longer usually hear about a possible recovery of equipment by the exiles at the Ressourcerie.

Still, behind the PASS, on 1st November, the cleaning team told the Human Rights Observers that everything goes to the Ressourcerie, that everything is washed and given back to the people "on the spot. Only the things with holes in them are thrown away.

When we see how the equipment is dragged on the ground, we have doubts about the possibility of returning equipment in good condition to the exiles (photo of 13th November, Quai du Danube)..

In addition, on November 15th, in Marck, two seized tents fell into the mud... The same thing happened on the 25th: "two seized tents were dragged on the ground in the mud", reports the HRO.



For the equipment to be returned, it must at least be in good condition, and complete.



On 13th November, in Marck, a large spade is hung on trees and in a video by the Human Rights Observers we see a cleaning agent cutting the ties to the pruning shears. You can hear his sharp sound...

Police behaviour is not always consistent:

On 22nd November, the HRO reports that some had to bring their tents near the cleaning truck (themselves!), behind the PASS, but that in the end the tents were not seized.

A special situation arose on 22nd November, a day of cold, cold: no temperature below zero degrees, but only one or two degrees with a sharp north wind.

Three CRS vans arrived on rue de Judée, the CRS said it was a "cold operation" that proposed bus departures. The exiles told Salam's team that the operation began at 5 a.m.

The exiles of Marck told the HRO in the afternoon that they had also had a "sheltering" operation with a bus to Lille and another (probably) to Amiens.

A policeman, at the Gourghain stadium, the same day, says that accommodation was offered to everyone, because it is cold, but that they all refused.

But the next day, some told the Salam team that getting on the buses was mandatory...

In any case, the blankets that we had distributed on 20th Wednesday have been seized, the exiles told us.

Three short stories, to lighten the tone of this report:

A dialogue between the Human Rights Observers and a man from the National Police (we will not say the day or the place so as not to harm an honest man):

What's the point of the operation if people just take their tents and put them on the sidewalk opposite?

If we did useful things, it would be known.



Another day behind the PASS, the police officers who were escorting the HRO outside are unable to find the exit...

One morning of distribution in Calais, very young exiles, still teenagers, ask us for bananas for friends who couldn't come, and no, no, no bread...

-Oh, really? And how much?

- 200 Bananas !

Of course, we didn't believe them...

Claire Millot.

Tonight, in Dunkirk, it will be the commemoration for the shipwreck of 24th November, 2021 when 31 people disappeared during a crossing to the United Kingdom.

In 2024, 71 people died. The Sesame House is of course impacted by these terrible tragedies. It welcomes family members or friends of the deceased.

She learns to welcome, to listen...

Here is a testimony

At Rola's funeral

There were a lot of people,
A lot of people
There have been flowers,
Lots of flowers
Spring flowers
It was at the beginning of March



We didn't go to Sarah's funeral

At Meryam's funeral in November

There were also people
But fewer people
There were flowers
But fewer flowers
Autumn flowers
It was yesterday

Rola, Sarah, Meryam,
3 girls, 2 of whom are 7 years old,
the age of "reason"
The last one has barely emerged
from this warm internal "sea",
her mother's entrails
Two months ago



Child travellers are dying, our border has killed them
They were our future.

Then, then, after the ceremony,
And according to their customs,
We met at the **Sesame House**.
Meryam's family was there, in the living room...
Volunteers, friends of the House,
Other people from various backgrounds were also present.

It's like entering the intimacy of these families
Whom we don't know and who have lost everything
Even their child.

We are left-handed
Shameful, perhaps

Dana
One of the first people welcomed 5 years ago at the Maison Sésame
Today is the coordinator.
Dana welcomes the family,
Dana explains
He has the words, the culture and the language that we don't have.

It's all heavy
Luckily Dana is here
One feels from his looks, his attentions, that the conversations are light or painful.

And then
There are many of us around the family
Refugee Community Kitchen, from Calais, made a delicious meal
Faithful, project play makes children play
Because life goes on

Let a little time slip

And everyone is starting to let themselves be numbed by these moments
Serious but imbued with so much humanity. The family doesn't really understand who we
are. Maybe regrets for the mother for not having known or dared to use Sesame.
The father didn't come. Too much pain, too much remorse
He will not see this little white coffin

Then the family decided to take the road back to Germany. Everyone has asylum there,
Except for this young couple and their 3 cubs. But they leave anyway, and maybe they will
ask for their request to be re-examined?

We hug each other
Wet cheeks
Deep Looks

We continue

Thank you all for supporting Sesame.
We knew you were with us.

SESAME HOUSE, November 24, 2024
"If your friends are our friends, these friends are our friends"

A VISIT TO ROLA AND MERYEM

Amélie, who was a permanent member of the "Maison Sésame" for several months, had thought of inviting people to a moment of contemplation at the Grande-Synthe cemetery where Rola is buried. It was her birthday: she would have been eight years old on 29th November...

But too many deaths, too many commemorations at the moment...

"Today, 29th November, is Rola's birthday, she would have been 8 years old.
But she drowned last March in the Aa River.

I went to see her, that's how I say it modestly to her parents and brothers, because I can't even write the word "grave" to them, let alone pronounce it.

When I arrive, I clean the grave of its leaves and weeds, I adjust the flowers... I thank a few people on this Friday who, passing by to honour a loved one, stop in front of Rola to meditate or pray.

And I call Nour, his mother, by video. She always answers me with a big smile, we chat a little. Then I put the phone on the white pebbles that cover Rola. And she speaks. I don't understand anything, but I recognize the tone of voice of a mother for her daughter, a tone full of love and concern and then the sobs that are difficult to contain.

Then I hear "Amélie ... I continue, she wipes her tears and asks me how my daughter is doing. Rayyan is in his arms, the youngest, a Dunkirk native by birth.

This Friday, Hassan, 10 years old, is also there. He didn't talk to his sister, but I could hear him crying.

The little brother, Mimo, didn't want to come, he stayed in his room. The father and the older brother are absent at the time, one at the doctor's office, the other at the school.

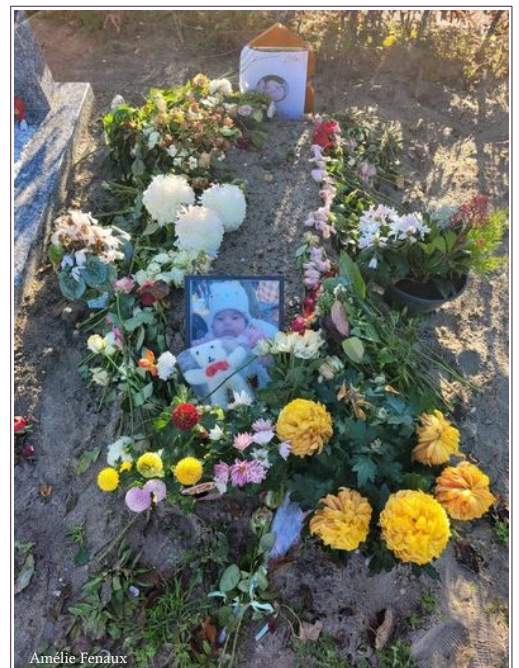
I'll call them tomorrow "at home, not with Rola," Hassan tells me. And we'll talk about their lives, laugh at the eldest's hairstyle, and marvel at Rayyan's progress.

Life goes on for them, without her, without their princess, their dear little sister. All that remains are photos and videos of this little girl adored by her family.

They are now regularised for a few years in England. They can't wait to come back to France, to see their daughter, and to visit the country..



And me, just after hanging up, I went to another place in the Grande-Synthe cemetery to see Meryem, to adjust the flowers and her photo a little... her little baby face. She was not even three months old. She's been there for two weeks. One more, much, much, too young.



Life goes on but the dead are piling up on our borders. Horrible and unbearable.
And I feel so helpless..."

Amélie

CHILDREN IN TURMOIL

A child should not drown or be crushed to death in a rubber dinghy because his or her parents had no choice but to flee their country.

We can quote endlessly this excerpt from Warsan Shire's Somali poem ...

"You have to understand
That you don't take your children on a boat
Only if the water is safer than dry land. »

A child should not take his first steps between the legs of the Republican Security Corps (CRS) who will force their parents to move all their belongings two or three hundred meters.

(Photo 15th November, Quai de la Gironde.)



It will be just enough time to prevent them from contributing to creating a "fixation point" and that's still too much.

Some police officers sometimes have the humanity to leave families alone, but this is not the rule.



Ours and theirs sometimes mingle: that of Régine (the eldest) with the little ones of the Mardyck camp, with happiness, as we can see.



As Jacques Brel sang, "All children are like yours."



We can hope that our little ones will take over: some will have fallen into it when they were very young, like Zamir (20 months) who came with his dad to prepare the meal on 9th November.

Claire Millot

The European Pact on Asylum and Migration (AMP) adopted on 14th May 2024 by the European Council is a good example of understanding the decision-making process in Europe and the pedagogy applied by the European Institutions on a sensitive issue that divides the Member States. The chronology is closely linked to national, European and international news. The AMP was ready before the European elections in June 2024, with the real threat of extremist anti-migration parties, which are very strong using disinformation strategies and anxiety-provoking information.

On 23rd September 2020, the European Commission discussed a new Pact on Asylum and Migration. On this basis, the Council adopted its position by five legislative acts in June 2022, June 2023 and October 2023 respectively. It then negotiated with the European Parliament to reach an agreement on a common position. On 5th December 2023, the Spanish Presidency presented a progress report on a new AMP. An agreement was reached on 20th December between the Council and the European Parliament on the necessary reform of the asylum and migration system, the flaws of which had been denounced by the countries most affected (geographically) by the arrival of exiles. The representatives of the Member States gave the green light for an agreement with the European Parliament on 8th February 2024.

The operation is being launched with the firepower and regulatory expertise that the European Commission and the Parliament are familiar with. In three months, the European Parliament adopted the new AMP on 10th April 2024. The texts were debated and clarified in January and February. In the process, a set of 10 regulatory texts were published. The first concerns Eurodac, the database for collecting more accurate and comprehensive data on different categories of migrants, including applicants for international protection and irregular migrants in the European Union. Two other regulations concern the asylum process and the procedure for returning asylum to the border. A fourth regulation establishes a framework for resettlement and humanitarian admission for applicants for international protection. A fifth regulation provides for crisis situations and cases of force majeure (unforeseeable circumstances that prevent someone from fulfilling a contract). Two regulations concern the screening that allows national authorities to return irregular migrants and asylum seekers to an external border, with the relevant procedure and that ensures the fairness of identity, security and vulnerability checks and health assessment. Two other regulations provide for longer-term management of asylum and migration as well as reception policies. A final regulation specifies the conditions to be met in order to benefit from the right of asylum.

Finally, a directive, which has the force of law above regulations (and must be transposed into national law), specifies the conditions of reception..

Texts are as important as context in understanding the motivations of their authors and the audience they are aimed at. In September 2020, when a new Pact was relaunched, European countries and the European Union were mobilized by a global pandemic that had shaken our certainties. European solidarity was not immediately apparent when Italy was the hardest hit country in March 2020, and then the disastrous episodes of mask purchases for its own nationals. The European Commission, and its president, have finally reacted collectively for vaccines, and to support economies. Honor was safe, in Europe, and in the eyes of the world.

In June 2022, the war in Ukraine began in February, with a massive exile of Ukrainians. Temporary protection has allowed immediate and collective assistance for a large number of displaced people who have arrived in the EU with no hope of returning to their country of origin in the short term. Solidarity with Ukraine was evident with Poland and Germany, the two countries that took in the largest number of Ukrainian refugees. In June 2023, Italy, the founding country of the EU, has been governed since September 2022 by a post-fascist *Fratelli d'Italia* party. The first skirmishes began in the Mediterranean with attacks by the Melloni government on NGOs rescuing exiles at sea, accusing them of playing the game of smugglers. Since October 2023, international geopolitics has been increasingly explosive and does not give hope of better relations with the countries of the South (with terrorist organizations supported by Iran in the Middle East, Taliban in Afghanistan, persecution in China and India against minorities...).

The European Union is accused of practicing a "double standard" by welcoming and supporting its Ukrainian neighbours, Europeans, while ostensibly closing its doors to third-country nationals (non-members of European Union countries).

The important words of this new European Pact on Asylum and Migration (PAM) are responsibility and solidarity. The European Council states that "the new rules combine mandatory solidarity to support Member States facing a large influx of migrants with flexibility in terms of the type of contributions". Member states have two years to put into practice the legislation adopted in 2024 with the help of the European Commission. Mindset is key to anticipating how different governments will proceed.

Cimade, a French "non-government organization" that defends the rights of exiles, has offered a very useful analysis to understand the European legislative process that began in 2015. The migration crisis in Europe (with the civil war in Syria) is the consequence of the major destabilization of the region after the Arab Spring (which began in 2011 in Tunisia). According to the association, the new PAM does not introduce any upheaval in the current system, and follows the same "repressive and security approach in the service of containment and expulsions, to the detriment of a reception policy that would seek to guarantee and protect the dignity and fundamental rights of non-EU people".

The new Pact for Asylum and Migration lacks a more constructive, long-term approach to migration policy. The PAM is mainly aimed at national public opinion, which is often manipulated by extremist parties that hype up news items involving foreign nationals. The WFP also sends a very negative message to the countries of the South, and reinforces the idea of a "Fortress Europe". You can't prevent mobility, you don't leave your country happily. You have no choice when you are born in Afghanistan, Iran or Syria, or in countries where people are persecuted by their governments..

Welcoming third-country nationals, whom the European Union needs, in a very dignified way in a wide range of economic sectors (personal care, construction, catering, cleaning, etc.) would be a first step in changing our mindset. It would also be the best way to tackle the massive disinformation against the European Union coming from both countries hostile to Western democracies and extremist and anti-migration parties in Europe.

A text (the PAM), a context (the rise of extremist parties), but above all a state of mind (European governments increasingly sensitive to the issue of migration) are essential to mobilise civil society – Europeans need the countries of the South, and vice versa. Non-Government Organizations have two years to prepare a plea that is convincing to public opinion.

Dr Bénédicte Halba, president of IRIV (www.iriv.net), november 2024

Bénédicte Halba runs a research institute (iriv) that 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/>.

Conseil européen- <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/fr/press/press-releases/2024/05/14/the-council-adopts-the-eu-s-pact-on-migration-and-asylum/>

Cimade-<https://www.lacimade.org/publication/decryptage-du-pacte-europeen-sur-la-migration-et-lasile/>

THANK YOU

THANK YOU TO THE VOLUNTEERS.

To the new ones:

- Justine and Roselyne, nuns of Claudine's congregation, now regularly present.
- Joseph, brought by Françoise from Monday, adopted immediately by the Thursday team and very quickly became a disciple of Dominique, for the management of the truck and even for the collection of bananas.
- Pilar, intern in Calais for about ten days.

- Eléonore and Emma, of a journalism school at the ESJ in Lille, were too disappointed to have come on a Thursday without being able to stay for the food distribution, so they came back on Saturday the following week and held their place perfectly...
- Benjamin, Fanny's roommate, came with her on a Tuesday. Fanny was on her third day in Salam, but had let several years pass between the first and the second.
- The "avant-garde" of Help 4 Dunkirk: Gwen from Striks, then two young Help volunteers (Olivia and Laura, who arrived from Toulouse). All three came to us to discover the action of Salam and the life of migrants, and to look for places to house people and equipment.
- Anne-Laure, who currently divides her time between Kassel and Brittany, did a first day with us on a Thursday and will come back.
- Finally, the hero of the month: Zamir (20 months), probably the youngest volunteer at Salam, who came with his dad Noor Islam on a Saturday morning to help prepare the meal... (see also below the article "*Children in turmoil...*")

"But to well-born souls, value does not wait for the number of years," said the great Cornelius.

To those who come whenever they can:

our friends from Bailleul de FTS,
Jean François of the mining basin.
César, leader of our New Year's Eve chip shop.

To the pillars of the association:

those who prepare:

in Calais.



In Dunkirk..



Those who distribute in Calais.



In Dunkirk



Those who clean :

- After each distribution, the dishes, storage and floor cleaning are carried out by an efficient team.
- on 7th November, Yusupha cleaned all the garbage cans,
- on the 14th, Sylviane cleaned the fridges and swept the entire basement.

- On the 28th, there were many of us: Anne-Laure broke the small black cabinet in the cellar and the boys from the EPIDE swapped places for a freezer that was malfunctioning with another one that was almost new and that was not plugged in. They took the opportunity to move pallets and ash blocks and give a good sweep. It was not a luxury!





Arnaud Leclerc

Those who collect the funds:

In particular the Saturday collection at Emmaus Grande-Synthe (in the photo the one on 16th November).

those who repair:

Jean-Pierre, on Thursday 21st, gave us back a splendid stove with a beautiful inscription of the brand and the whole thing shone and above all worked! He also shows remarkable patience with the barriers that Geneviève brings him and reports quite often...



Ghislaine Leurs



Joseph

Those who speak to the press :

Thank you and hello to Yannick, a former volunteer who came for a little walk, a little disappointed to only know Claudine. He at least says a big hello to Marie...

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

Food donations:

*A very important donation of food from Manon, a friend of Carole's, who came on Saturday 9th to drop off the first part of the purchases.

There is still money that will be converted into chicken in the coming days.



Carole Sename



Carole Sename

- *bottles of mineral water, offered by Noor Islam, Saturday 9th,
- *nuts, brought by Anne and Jacky. They were a huge success,
- * two bags of bread from a stranger, Saturday 23rd,
- * apples.

Textile donations:

- *a large donation of clothes and blankets from Sylvie, who came from Arques on 2nd November.
- * a lady and her husband came from Tourcoing, for the second time, with a large donation. Following a personal tragedy, she wants to get involved and Salam's action has touched her.
- *Mr. M. de Berthen has made a donation of clothes and blankets. He will continue to prospecting in your surroundings.
- *César arrived to distribute, with a large package of duvets and clothes.
- *hats, gloves brought by Jacky and Anne.

And then:

A friend of Annie's gave away toothbrushes.
 Another Annie, also a friend, has undertaken a collection of very small toys, which a wandering child can carry everywhere in his pocket. And she doesn't intend to stop there...
 The young people of the EPIDE also brought back a bag full of very small toys...



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

The Secours Populaire de Loon-Plage/Copains du monde.

Historical partner always ready to help us.

Our messages of thanks:

**9th November:*

Well, of course, it's not as good as the droppings of the Saint Martin donkey... But it's still really good, pastries for our friends, brought to Calais on Thursday!
 Thank you World Friends, thank you Christian, thank you Caroline.
 From those who are looking for a donkey (and a rubber dinghy) in the dunes.

**18th November:*

Thank you friends, for your new donations brought to Calais on Friday, bread, pastries and sauces!
 Thank you for this gift which allows us to vary the fruit intake at the breakfast given every morning by our teams.

**22nd November:*

Thank you, Les Copains, for this week's donations, Tuesday, 19th November, and today's, Friday, 22nd November.
 Thank you for the bread and pastries brought back to our Calais location, an indispensable base for daily breakfast.
 Without your help, we would have to go to the baker every day in the morning to meet the needs of the hungry exiles who are waiting for us.

**27th November:*

The same needs and the same remedies.
 Thank you for the thirteen boxes of bread and pastries that arrived the day before yesterday in Calais, to calm the hunger of our exiled friends.
 Thank you for your continued support.



Régine Meausoone



Marie-Christine Vandeveld



Marie-Christine Vandeveld

The town hall of Grande-Synthe offered us
 *boxes of blankets, the result of a collection,
 *99 volaeren bread rolls that remained from the
 feast of Saint Martin on 8th November. They were
 distributed at the camp the next day at noon and
 made the children (and some adults) happy.

The parishes:

*the one in Bergues, donations brought
 back every week by Marie-Christine
 (thanks to her), sometimes even twice a
 week:

*The small chapel of Notre-Dame des Dunes in Dunkirk, and its parish priest Pierre H.: a collection of
 blankets has been going on there for years.

* Martine and Raphaëlle, from La Chapelle d'Armentières, come regularly. This month, they brought clothes,
 blankets, pillows, bags...

Our long-time accomplices from FTS, in Bailleul, brought us this month, several times:

blankets,
 a few k-way, hats and sneakers, which very quickly found takers,
 containers,
 canned goods,
 oil in cans,
 tomato sauce,
 150 apples

Representatives of the Emmaus Dijon community, with us on 29th November.

The young people of Science-Po Lille who, as for several years, take turns at the weekend of early
 October until the exam period in May. They are a significant help for the Calais team.

The Jardins de Cocagne de Leffrinckoucke brought us their surplus of vegetables again on 28th
 November: 193 kg of vegetables plus pairs of bunches, unused at home!

A company gave us a large quantity of foodstuffs: the damaged packaging prevented us from selling
 the products and they thought of us.

Thanks also to Lut who travelled 235 km to deliver them to us, from
 Heusden-Zolder, near Hasselt in Belgium.



Pascaline Delaby



Pascaline Delaby



Pascaline Delaby



The "GAEC des sabots communs" in Bourbourg, once again entrusted Elisabeth (thanks also to her) with organic vegetables, on 8th and 18th November.



MRS took advantage of Lut's visit to send us trays that they don't use.

The EPIDE of Doullens once again sent us five young people to discover the reality of a camp and give us a hand.



Apple growers:

*a donation, for the third year, from a producer in the Montreuil-sur-Mer region: boxes of apples and others of apple juice, to be shared between Calais and Dunkirk.

*A team from Calais, with Georges, Guy, Régine and Jean-François, went to pick (about a tonne!) at Nathalie and Laurent's at the Cueillette d'Agnez lez Duisans.



The friends of St Jans Cappel: a lady came by, who collects trays and various containers from the home helpers and the Sapinière home..

The Boulogne biocoop (via Osmose) gave us 7 kg of Chocapic cereals.

Emmaus St Omer sent us oranges and bananas.

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 all those (close friends and strangers) who slipped us a note, sent a cheque, made a transfer directly or through Helloasso.

A special thank you to Vianney who committed himself last summer to a swimming challenge to raise a nice sum of money for us. He has just sent it to us (*see our newsletters of last June and August*).

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 tonne of bananas offered by CONHEXA once a week, to EMMAÜS 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 COMORIAN LADY, to the Calais bakeries and to those opposite the Noordover, "La mie du pain" and "Aux pains du Nord" of Coudekerque. Week after week, they are there to help us.

Thanks to the HRO (Human Rights Observers), Dominique Bouday 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** about three years ago, **and Quentin who opened an Instagram account for Salam since May** (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 food preparation chores (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 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 covering 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 john's 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. From outside France 00 33 6 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 2024 is attached to this mailing. Even at the end of the year, you can still join!

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 2023, 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 brand new Instagram account: [salam_calais_grandesynthe](https://www.instagram.com/salam_calais_grandesynthe)

Association SALAM
BP 47
62100 CALAIS

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

Bulletin d'adhésion 2024

Merci de remplir le bulletin ci-dessous et de le renvoyer à l'adresse suivante :

Association SALAM-Nord/Pas-de-Calais

BP 47
62100 CALAIS

Monsieur/Madame : _____ Prénom _____

Adresse _____

Code postal _____ Ville _____ Pays _____

Téléphone _____ E mail _____

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

(5 € pour les étudiants et demandeurs d'emploi , adhésion valable jusqu'au 31/12/2024)

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.