

OCTOBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

And today...
The urgency is still relevant
We propose the only solution: a more generous asylum policy
And today...
What are our leaders waiting for?
A future tragedy
We sense it
It can only happen

Jean Claude Lenoir

These lines are taken from the "President's Message" of November 2021.

EDITORIAL

IF IT'S THE MINISTER OF THE INTERIOR WHO SAYS SO...

On 3rd October, he met his British counterpart.

His "X" account then proposed a new tone: "We also shared the observation that this (police) efficiency had harmful consequences with an increase in the number of deaths... »

Organising legal and safe pathways for immigration to the UK (as happened for the for Ukrainians in 2022) would already be a big step. In France as well.

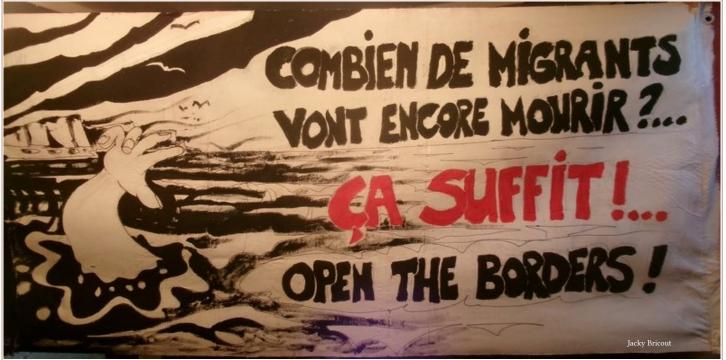
Bruno Retailleau,

quoted and commented on Olivier Berger, in the editorial of "La Voix du Nord" of October 25, 2024, p. 31.

EVENTS OF THE MONTH

DEATHS.

We were at 52 on 30th September (bodies found or missing), we are at 66 on 31st October.



banner from the hand of Jacky Bricout.

Four people died on the night of $4^{th}/5^{th}$ October, a two-year-old child, crushed in a dinghy, and three people, suffocated and drowned in 40 cm of water, at the bottom of another boat.

We had lost Dina (21 years old) on 28^{th} July, we had lost Sara (7 years old) on 23^{rd} April ... both suffocated, under the pressure of the other passengers.

Already on 26th September 2023, a 24-year-old Eritrean woman had died on the beach of Blériot. According to the testimony of her companion, she had been jostled and had fallen into the water as she got into the dinghy... Dead from being jostled, we could hardly believe it...

But on 5th October, this was the case for four out of four people...

We are devastated, ashamed as if we were the culprits... the people around us are indignant... And how can we defend those who behave like this, like animals, people who crush others by running over their bodies...

And yet...

We read in the press that the difficulties of the Lille metro train service led some, with the start of the school year in September, to wait an hour to be able to get on a metro train, and that it was necessary to put agents in place to force those who wanted to get on to wait until those who had to get off had been able to do so... It's abnormal, reprehensible, to crush another human trying to get somewhere. Some are in addition to the others:

- an hour of waiting, dry, with a full stomach of breakfast, is one mode,
- After hours (sometimes three days) of waiting in the dunes, in all weathers, without eating, another mode...

We must probably admit that human beings quickly return to the "challenge" and that, modestly, we simply do not have the right to judge...

A baby then died, on the night of Thursday/Friday 17th/18th October, drowned...

A four-month-old baby...

"There are no more words... I don't believe it... it has to stop... A friend tells me, overwhelmed... Except that... No... It's not going to stop... everything is done to keep it going... and anger prevails over sorrow. We repeat, all the obstacles reducing the departure from the coast only push people to take more risks. The proof: the police are more and more efficient (obstacles to boarding, confiscation or destruction of canoes) and the more efficient the police, the more deaths there are: 65 since the beginning of 2024 (bodies found or missing)...

We all check in the morning when we wake up, on our phones, that there has been no deadly shipwreck during the night...

This was the case on Wednesday, 23rd October.

But in the morning I receive a phone call from a friend:

"have you have seen: cross-Channel traffic is interrupted by a big shipwreck... »

No, I didn't see... We fear the worst... Finally two dead, then three...

I find myself sighing: "No more, phew..."

How can we get hurt at the point...

Jacky writes to us, in the aftermath: "In order not to fall into acceptance on a daily basis, a thought for these victims of insensibility... »

I relive the reaction of my little daughter (already told in the December 2022 issue of this newsletter) who thought that four deaths was not a lot, and to whom I had replied: "Oh yes? And if it's Dad... Let us never forget that a dead person is always "Dad", that it is not only a broken life, but those of a whole family, of a whole circle of friends.

This succession of deaths is horrible, but the worst is not for us...

On Sunday, 27th October, too, the night had spared the candidates for the passage...

But in the morning, we learned of one more death: about fifty people returned to the beach of Tardinghen after their boat deflated at sea. Everyone was able to get back to shore, but a 38-year-old Indian died.

Four more on 30th October... But will it never stop?

- *Several dozen people were trapped, in Hardelot, on a sandbank, trying to get on a refugee-boat. The sea was rising... One dead.
- * Two bodies were washed up in Equihen that afternoon.
- *Another was found on the beach, in Saint Etienne au Mont, at the end of the day.

On 2nd November, a body was found on the beach of Sangatte brought back by the tide...

The day after each announcement of the death of an exile, a farewell ceremony takes place in Calais, at 6:30 p.m. in the Richelieu Park, and the day after that it is in Dunkirk, on the beach of Malo-les-Bains: on 5th and 6th October, then on the 19th and 20th...







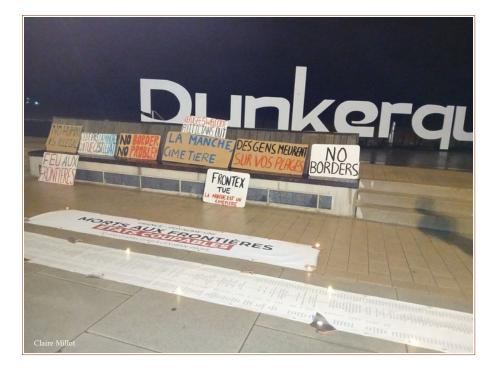






On 24^{th} and 25^{th} October also...

... then the 28th and 29th were days of commemorations in Calais and Dunkirk...









On 31st October and 1st November, finally...



The state of the banner that bears the names of the dead on the border also makes us aware of the passing of time... It lengthens and it is damaged, like us...

(The photo was taken on 6th October in Dunkirk.)

THE PRESENCE OF A FEW AUTHORITIES AT OUR SIDE.

It's rare, but this month we had close visits:

- The Archbishop of Lille was with us on 15^{th} October. He took the time to come and talk to the team of volunteers from Grande-Synthe. Present at the distribution, he was the one who distributed the spoons.
- The President of Emmaus-France, who was distributing in the morning with our team in Calais on 22nd October, then joined the team in Dunkirk, also in the field.
- The mayor of Grande-Synthe joined us for food distribution on $28^{\rm th}$ October, accompanied by a regional councillor from the Hauts de France.

We start to dream that anyone who will have to vote on the next immigration law should spend just one hour in a migrant camp.

We don't come out of it unscathed, and the view of exiles becomes more accurate...

CROSSINGS TO ENGLAND.

Less and less safe, as we have just said, the passage by rubber dinghy remains the "normal" way to get to the United Kingdom.

5,417 passages recorded by the Home Office between 1st and 30th October on 99 boats. This is the highest figure for a month since I started recording it, i.e. since August 2023. That's an average of between 54 and 55 people per canoe. This is a slightly lower average than in previous months, but some figures are frightening: 64 per boat on the 18th and 26th of October and even 71 on the 11th!

These are only the successful passages.

Many more are those who fail: either they have not even been able to access the sea, arrested by the Police, or they have come out of the water soaked, generally barefoot (they keep their shoes, and often socks, in a bag to put their feet dry on arrival. In case of shipwreck, the bag is lost, of course...)

Salam in Calais makes "shipwreck kits": small bags labelled by size (S, M, L...) with everything in them to equip an honest man from head to toe (from hats to socks, including t-shirts, sweaters, jackets, underpants, long johns, heels and socks). There are always some "shipwreck kits" in the breakfast vans (we are the first to meet the "stranded" of the night), sometimes someone goes back to the depot to get some. But at the end of October, the shelves were empty...

Testimony of an exile: a failed passage.

At the end of the food distribution., a man with a survival blanket and speaking good French, asked us for dry clothes and explained the attempt to cross (10 p.m. – 3:15 a.m.) which they had to give up because of the rain, the swell, the boat filled with water without the possibility of bailing out and, which was sinking...

They were an hour away from England but didn't know it, almost out of fuel, a lot of young children...

He preferred to call the emergency services...

Testimony collected by Geneviève, in Dunkirk, on 17th October.

See also below, the article "Testimonies".

THE EVACUATIONS.

Dunkirk:

There were few of them this month:

9th October: the HRO (Human Rights Observer) was not available and therefore not present, and Utopia 56 was also busy with its missions. But exiles reported that by 8 a.m., the police had taken their tents and personal belongings. They said that the area concerned was on Mardyck, in the woods, and on the Total site.

The testimony of associations makes things convincing: some saw AFEJI buses in the Total car park, and Roots saw fifteen CRS (Republican Security Corps) vans, two National Police motorcyclists and a demolition team pass by.

On 22nd October, some families contacted the Women's Centre saying they had their belongings taken by the police in the morning, but there were no testimonies from associations.

A major evacuation also took place on 30thOctober, with "shelter" buses.

About a hundred people have been displaced (including 4 children). Some have not been able to collect their belongings or be informed about the accommodation proposals.

The tents are collected. We see them mounted above the bridge and loaded into a van,







or removed by a backhoe.

A short video by the HRO Human Rights Observer, allows us to follow a dialogue between them and a police officer who agreed to talk to them:

- It's called sheltering, a bus is there and takes them to hotels to take them to safety. If one bus is full, another one comes, but we don't force them...

Tents are dismantled, we can't leave tents on private land.

- People who don't want to be sheltered, they don't have a tent anymore, they're going to find themselves sleeping outside...
- No one has ever slept outside. I've never seen anyone sleeping outside...

Of course, this gentleman has never come in the evening at the time of the sandman...

Calais:

Evacuations continue (since 7^{th} August) to take place on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The locations chosen and the order in which the dismantling is carried out remain unpredictable, however...

At the end of the month, on 25th and 28th October, respectively at the Quai du Danube and at the Squat on Rue Marcel Doret, there was a difference with the usual procedure: the evacuation took place early in the morning, with the obligatory boarding of the exiles present on three buses (in the photo, on 25th October). We have come to understand (see our newsletters of March, May and June 2024) that there are evacuation buses when there is an eviction order by the Public Prosecutor. The legal basis is not the usual one, which is flagrante delicto ... "a blazing offence" (finding of illegal occupation of someone else's land, after the owner has filed a complaint).







The police officers present are obviously not aware of the legal frameworks, and it is understandable that their managers are asking them to keep quiet! "It's business as usual," replied the police officer questioned on the 25th at 9:09 a.m., while the usual answer, without mandatory shelter by bus, was "flagrante delicto".

In the photo of 25th October, Quai du Danube, taken by the HRO, we can clearly see a red vest from the Audasse, in charge of sheltering to the CAES. According to the testimony of those who escaped the roundup, 60 people were forcibly taken to Arras.

It seems that in both cases, there was a desire on the part of the authorities to definitively empty the premises:

Danube Embankment.

On the same day, the Human Rights Observer noticed a lot of seizures: the dump truck was overflowing and they fill a van. 25 people need tents, the police have taken everything.

On 28th October, the police returned with a cleaning team who were obviously ordered not to leave anything. The Human Rights Observers saw: they throw the belongings in the air and break the poles of the tents. 17 tents were seized (all the tents in the living space). The belongings emptied of the tents are left abandoned.



On 29th October, new riprap was installed.

We were not really aware that there was a lack of them Apparently we were wrong. The new rocks didn't stop the guys from settling down, however, if the evacuation of their equipment on 30th October is anything to go by!







At the squat on rue Marcel Doret, On the same day, the cleaning vehicles are full to bursting,





including eight mattresses in the dumpster. There are about ten tents on the ground. Enedis is present on the scene, probably to cut off the power...

A machine clears the courtyard.

On 29th October, two police vans were parked in the back to prevent the relocation.

Even in the most banal situation, we have surprising statements from members of the Police Forces, which prove that they are totally lacking in information:

4th October brings together "pearls":

*In BMX, the Human Rights Observer asks if there are translators. "Yes," replies the policeman, "there are 'associative members of the prefecture'!!! A little later: "We are not evicting, we are dismantling, liberating the illegally occupied space, it's different... "We are still waiting to understand how it is different...

*On the same day in Marck, the police officer confuses the complaint with the court decision. He thinks that the complaint is enough to trigger a police operation... "If someone steals a phone from you......"

*The rule is that it is the equipment considered abandoned that is collected.

(On 25th October in BMX, for example, this rule is not respected: A person who asks to enter the site to pick up his belongings, it is refused.)

The dialogue that follows, also on 4th October, between a policeman and a member of the Human Rights Observers is delightful:

A policeman explains that they only take unoccupied tents, moreover his colleague could not carry a tent with one hand with people in it!

- What if the person comes back afterwards?
- "She sleeps in a shelter, if she wants."
- Do you offer them structures in this operation?
- -Now? Well, no, you're preventing me from working properly...

Apart from the bus operations of 25th and 28th October, evacuations follow one another, in a sinister routine.



The convoys are often impressive, for example on rue de Judée on 30th October.

We must undoubtedly discourage any hint of revolt... by the number...

These days, we see few heavy weapons: an LBD rifle is however reported on 2nd October in Marck, then two LBDs and shields on 16th October Quai du Danube, as well as gaseous ones in Marck, also on the 16th and others on 30th October.





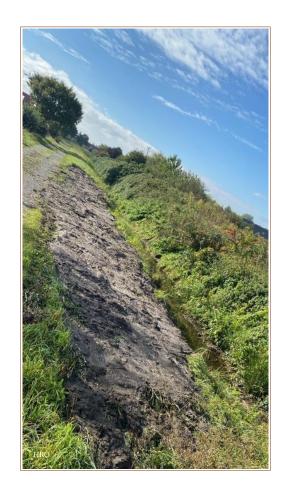
The security perimeters are set up extremely wide to prevent the HRO from seeing what is happening. It is repeated: but what is there to hide?

On 23rd October at BMX, people who accompany children to the sport have the right to pass. The Human Rights Observer is unfortunately not accompanied by children... This leaves us dreaming about the danger against which this so-called "security" perimeter is supposed to protect...

On 2nd October, the Human Rights Observer noted that the passage at the back, behind the PASS, had been cut off with an excavator and the stream had been dug, to further complicate access.







Some of the exiles' equipment was seized.



2nd October, rue de Judée



23rd October, behind the PASS



25th October, BMX

When the police leave, they can resettle, but there are regularly a few arrests... (in photo: an arrest with search on 9th October, Danube Quay).



VERY DIFFICULT FOOD DISTRIBUTION CONDITIONS.

In Dunkirk.

The number of meals remains around 500 per day. But jostling is commonplace. Often it is the presence of the ADRA who gives breakfast on Thursday before our lunch distribution that saves us: very kindly they wait for us by putting the exiles in line. The other days, it's often Roots... Thank you to these friendly associations.

In Calais, the number varies from day to day: 433 on 5th October, 654 on the 6th, 780 on the 8th, more than 1300 on the 11th (and not all of them had their breakfast: there was no more tea, coffee, no water, only milk, from the cup...), and then... 760 on the 12th... It is very difficult to predict how much will have to be prepared: 130 litres of tea and coffee were not enough on 13th October for 955 people. The next day, the team came with 180 liters for the 980 people who showed up.

On the 19th, we give 1130 breakfasts but a volunteer went back to the room to heat water for tea. On the 22nd and 23rd, we had to go back and buy bread... Other days too.

DUNKIRK: RELATIONS WITH THE CUD.

A new meeting took place on 1st October,

We have reported that

*the water holes sink into the mud,

*taps are too close together to be used all at the same time

*The distribution space is also very muddy and still too small.

Mr. Pidoux (Director General of Services) saw to it that the broken door of the garbage truck was repaired and had the ditches cleaned for water flows.

The dumpster is raised regularly, without any need to claim.

He announces gravel for the three water points and for the distribution site, if there are any left.

These are small steps forward, but they prove that the link is not broken and that's already huge...

Claire Millot.

TESTIMONIALS

FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS IN CALAIS.

At the beginning of October, near the hospital, the Salam team saw by chance a group of exiles, 100 to 150 people, Somalis, Syrians, families, many. We stop. They missed their crossings by trucks (yes, it is still done). They are hungry. Of course, we give them what we can.

The next day we go back, on purpose this time. The camp is very far away, only the tonne of water signals a human presence. A guy goes to get his friends. The same people, Somalis, Egyptians, Syrians...

They arrive, five, then ten, then twenty, then a flock of sparrows.

There are at least 150 of them, with kids... They are there, all nationalities mixed.

They are hungry, as if crazy. There was one who stuck three pieces of bread in his mouth at the same time, with a spare pastry in his hand... It's awfully how bad you feel.

They come and go between the table and the truck, to serve themselves, you don't stop a hungry man... The truck is emptied in no time. Even unfresh bread is washed away.

The hardest part in the same place was on 11th October: more than 1300 cups distributed in the morning and more would have been needed... In any case, the thermoses were empty, there was no more tea or coffee...

The children took water from the puddles with their cups, they were so thirsty...

We were helpless, devastated, with a lump in our throats. We will never forget...

We were accompanied that morning by the companions of Emmaus Saint-Nazaire. They are not soft-hearted; they have seen some... but they wipe away a tear...

There were two groups of about 200 ready to leave for a crossing. They faced each other for a while... We feared a fight... And then the smugglers chose to let them eat something. The second group sat on the floor and waited for their turn. They ran by, each one got a piece of dry bread and a banana (what a miserable luxury!) and "Emmaus Saint-Nazaire" was able to meet everyone's requests for clothing, with their big truck.

On the Dock de la Moselle, the situation is also often terrible.

On 4th October, a hungry Syrian threw himself on the food and was sleeping, on the floor, with nothing under him, nothing on him, when the team left...

On the 17th, the guys waiting for breakfast were soaked after a failed passage.

The Salam team returns to the premises to get the "shipwreck kits": the bags where everything necessary to dress a man from head to toe is stored by size (S, M, L, etc.).

Everything is distributed.

CARE.

On 18th October, there were about 200 of them, still next to the Hospital, after having missed a crossing, without even being able to enter the water. They were not wet, but in a frightful state of fatigue, limping, their feet and legs covered in bandages. A gentleman was leaving the hospital, burned to the second degree by diesel (he showed his medical certificate)...

There are several of them, burned to the third degree, as though their skin had been put on the barbecue grill... They are all rescued from the same boat. One has a necrotic leg, of all colours, even purple-black... Another is covered in blisters.

Yet another was burned on both legs up to the hip.

On Friday they were bandaged at the hospital.

On Sunday, they went back to the hospital and were dismissed: no vital emergency, they just have to come back to the PASS the next day...

The two most seriously ill were screaming in pain, we called the firefighters who took them back to the hospital, which nevertheless accepted them.

For the others, the team does what it can, with compresses, trying not to stick the plaster on the skin, because it would risk leaving with the tight skin...

They had to suffer, suffer, suffer...

Our two young interns from Sciences-Po Lille were devastated...

Finally the next day, the more affected of the two (although declared without a vital emergency!) was taken to Lille to the CHR, his friend tells us. He thanks us and thanks again...

On 2nd October, it was an upturned wrist that alerted us, behind the PASS.

It took all the persuasion of MSF to get him admitted to the hospital: once again, the emergency room only takes exiles in the event of a life-threatening emergency!

We knew that State Medical Aid was threatened; we didn't know how hard the reception at the Hospital and at the PASS became...

The same day, a quadriplegic boy was refused admission to the hospital.

MENTAL DISTRESS

On 24th October, the team waited, five minutes, ten minutes, next to the Hospital. She was going to leave... And all of a sudden 200 people... They were coming back from a failed crossing, they had been stopped by the police, they were in a state of fatigue!! But they left the same evening...

On 25th October, a lady in tears fell into the arms of a volunteer from Salam. It was a lady who lost her sister a few days ago in a shipwreck, and that night she saw her friend die before her eyes, also drowned. She was hugging her children very tightly and could not reach out to save her... "You know her, she had a red jacket..." ». Indeed, we knew her...

On the 27th, there are a lot of people on the Quai de la Moselle.

All of a sudden, a phone call, in French: "My friends have fallen into the water".

There are 50 of them, soaked from head to toe, barefoot or in socks (see in the article "the events of the month", above, the paragraph "crossings to England").

But Salam, who does not mind going back to the local to get shipwreck kits, has nothing left to do with them... Utopia 56 has nothing to dress these people either. At least we gave them food and a hot drink.

Three men each arrive with a red rose, to thank these volunteer ladies...

A moment of strong emotion...

But every day an additional misery is added to the previous ones...

A moment to smile, though.

A young Sudanese man comes every morning, with his bicycle, to ask for a bag of bread for his friends in the jungle.

Every morning, he has trouble getting up, not missing the distribution.

So he puts his phone ringing and he arrives running: "Dialing dialing," he says in French, "Adji Mousa (the big mother), she's here!"

Yolaine Bernard.

THOSE WHO ARE BLOCKED IN THE STATIONS.

On the night of 5th to 6th October, about 250 people spent the night in Boulogne station. About fifty were able to sleep in the theatre, thanks to the intervention of the Osmose association.

The 6th is a Sunday, trains are cancelled because of works. An SNCF bus is announced but the driver refuses to let the exiles board...

Quentin (also a volunteer in Salam) had collected a surplus of bread from Osmose for Salam. He did not hesitate and distributed it.

The same morning, many people were also blocked at Wimereux station.

It is impossible to shuttle the Salam vans: there are too many of them and the vehicles are used, at that time, to distribute breakfast.

The volunteers of Salam, who happened to witness the scene, bought what was needed...

IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO LEAVE THEM WITHOUT ANYTHING...

There are days when you wake up with a lump in your stomach

Blue sky... no wind... calm sea.

We know it... everyone is hurrying to try for the UK.

Because winter is almost here.

Because Calais is... It's so hard.

For the hope of this better life is stronger than anything

There are days to the food distribution of SALAM... we know it... you can feel it

part of the world try .. try... try

And we wait for helicopters everywhere.

The more we come across civil protection.

And the fear in the stomach rises.

After the terrible news

The one you never get used to!

Another death... a small child.

And a little later in the day, three more deaths.

More... We know the day is not over.

No trains... only buses to get back to my mini home.

Buses with very racist remarks from the driver.

We don't take them..

There are too many of them...

And finally arrived in Wimereux I see about 50 refugees lying in the grass...

I can't stop even if I have nothing to give them.

I promise myself to come back.

Because I come home with tears in my eyes.

It is impossible to leave them without anything.

A phone call to Yolaine.

A phone call to Mumu

And here we are shopping.

Water.. milk.. bread.

Buns...

.... full in the shopping cart.

An unknown woman in the supermarket gives us brownies.

A little moment of hope... Thank you Madam.

Some very young Afghan and Sudanese refugees are there to help us.

An unauthorised distribution was improvised in front of the church of Wimereux.

And we come back a little less sad.

Filled with their smiles

Vietnamese.

Syrian... Sudanese... Iranian... Afghans.

Wives... Children and men washed up in front of a closed church

on a Saturday night on this earth.

Ferri Matheeuwsen (volunteer in Salam).

And Ferri comments:

"A church should be everyone's home and open its doors wide.

A mayor must see the miseries of his city and come to the aid.

There NOTHING!

Or does everything change as soon as the people are foreigners?

More laws... nor church and above all more humanity.

Poor people!! »

BOARDING THAT TURNS INTO A TRAGEDY...

Hardelot this Wednesday morning.

Last week of the holidays, the sea is calm, flat, without wind.

A small boat arrives, a stone's throw from the beach, passengers with life jackets, followed by a boat from the French Navy.

He set sail for England.

A little later, a second small boat (refugee boat), full of passengers without jackets, which approaches the beach north of Hardelot.

About sixty migrants then enter the sea, in single file, as far as possible from the shore.

At least 150m, which is made possible by the sandbanks that outcrop at low tide.

A firefighters' Zodiac approached the "taxi boat" to discourage it from approaching the shore.

Many police officers and beacons must also have had a deterrent effect.

So he walked away, to the cries of migrants waiting in the water.

But....the sea is rising, quickly.

The police officers and associations are trying to reason with them, to make them come back.

The bank is soon surrounded by deep water. You have to swim...

Silence... chilling, replaces the screams.

Fear...

Many do not have a life jacket or can barely swim.

Gendarmes get into the water, the navy helicopter arrives, to hoist a few of them, as many as possible.

Back to the beach, then to the lobbies of buildings on the seawall.

They are on the ground, like dogs, shivering in a survival blanket. But against each of these men, in one of these halls, an Osmose volunteer lay down to warm him up. A solidarity that brings tears to the eyes... The firefighters are doing what they can, but at least five are in severe hypothermia, in extreme weakness. And one dead.

His brother cries out and cries his despair, inconsolable, for an infinite time: "my brother, my brother".

Osmose was present very quickly with survival blankets and hot drinks.

We went down with residents with tea, coffee, biscuits, and human warmth.

The migrants are Iraqi, Somali, Syrian, Bedouin (Kuwait).

Many women, and a few families with children.

A lot of dignity in misfortune.

They will do it again.

And two hours later, a new refugee boat, which turns towards Equihen.

In a few minutes, it embarks about thirty passengers, at ebb tide,

and there, no problems...

Given the weather, it's going to be a long week....



Text and photos : Antoine de la Fouchardière



PS: At the end of the afternoon we learn that 4 people died between Hardelot and Equihen this morning...

BUT ALSO, WHAT HUMANITY, WHAT SOLIDARITY...

What is happening in front of my house, in front of you: it is horror. Distress and misery. I saw looks that I will never forget. Fear, cold, dread. I saw police do everything they could to save these people from drowning, try to resuscitate this 28-year-old man, and then the doctor declare him dead. I saw scattered families looking for their loved ones. I saw this man ask the firefighters to lift the white sheet to check if it was not his brother. I saw this man collapse, soaked, covered in sand and tears, recognizing him. Unfortunately, this man will not be the only one to have lost a member of his family; Three other bodies were found on the beach this afternoon.

The hope of crossing, the despair of failure.

But I also saw help: residents of the building brought warming supplies, tea and coffee. A building lobby to shelter. The members of the associations who embrace, reassure, translate. I saw the civil protection running, organizing the rescue. VSAVs and firefighters transport the most severe cases of hypothermia. I saw people do what they could with the means they had. Dry clothes, comfort, that was already a lot. And, during all this timeless time, I also saw this gentleman who was busy cleaning and washing the floor of this building lobby that had just welcomed him.

I saw the misery and despair, but I also saw the solidarity, the humanity, this morning. 60 is the number of people who have died trying to cross the Channel this year. It's 4 more today, on the beach of Hardelot.

Julie Leprêtre

https://www.facebook.com/julie.lepretre

LAST MINUTE: 31st OCTOBER, A HEARTBREAKING FOOD DISTRIBUTION...

Our team, on Thursday 31st October, saw between 250 and 300 people arrive at BMX in one fell swoop, Eritreans for the most part, young people, women, no children...

They were back after three days waiting to go to sea, three days where they received nothing to eat or drink...

They were not wet: they couldn't even leave, the police punctured their boats!

What a sad moment...

Danielle Herbecq

THE EUROPEAN UNION DEFENDS FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT.

Freedom of Movement - In and Out in Europe

Since Brexit, the United Kingdom has left the European Union. The Channel has become an "external" border for Europe. This is the new geography but above all, administrative configuration has caused a lot of difficulties, and an infinite amount of time, for the European and British negotiators to unravel all the advantages for the United Kingdom of belonging to a vast common market, the basis of the European construction which is accompanied by the 3 fundamental freedoms of movement – capital (acquired a long time ago), goods and services (highly developed) and people (the least successful so far between Europeans to at least work).

Intra-European mobility is low. The proportion of citizens who have gone to live and work in another Member State is limited. In 2018, active mobile citizens accounted for only 4.2 % of the total workforce in the EU-28 Member States (before Brexit). The main countries of residence of active mobile citizens and all mobile citizens were Germany and the United Kingdom (each just over 2 million); Spain and Italy (about 1 million each); and France, about 600,000. In 2019, these five Member States accounted for almost 80% of active mobile citizens. (1).

Of the 512 million people living in the EU in 2018, 7.8% have a nationality other than that of their country of residence: 3.4% have the nationality of another EU Member State (Europeans) and 4.4% have the nationality of a non-EU Member State (third countries). The distribution is unequal between the Member States. In 2018, Luxembourg had the highest proportion of citizens from another EU Member State (41% of the population), followed by Cyprus (13%) and Ireland (9%). The highest proportions of third-country citizens were observed in Estonia and Latvia (14% each) and Austria (8%). (2)

The number of people immigrating to EU Member States includes people who have immigrated permanently and those who have immigrated for a period of one year or more. Over the period 2013-2017, total immigration to France, including European immigrants (EU members) and immigrants from a non-EU country (third countries), amounted to 3.4 million people in 2013, then reached a peak of 4.7 million in 2015 (migration crisis with the wars in the Middle East, particularly in Syria). Immigration decreased by 8% to 4.3 million in 2016, then increased by 3% in 2017 to 4.4 million. (3)

In 2018, the main destination countries were Italy (70% of the total number of immigrants), Slovenia (65%) and Sweden (62%). For third-country nationals, the highest proportions are observed in Luxembourg (68%), Austria (58%) and Malta (54%) (3)

Irregular immigration is the movement of people from non-EU countries across EU borders without complying with the legal requirements for entry, stay or residence in one or more EU countries (4) The year 2015, with the migration crisis, saw a significant increase in the number of irregular border crossings into the EU. Frontex, the EU's border guard agency, recorded more than 1.8 million illegal border crossings, the highest number ever recorded. Since then, their number has greatly decreased. In 2023, around

355,300 people entered the EU irregularly, the highest figure since 2016. (4)

Immigration has been a priority for the European Union since 1997 with the Treaty of Amsterdam. Various measures have been taken to manage migration flows and improve the asylum system. In September 2020, the European Commission presented the Pact on Asylum and Migration.

In April 2023, Parliament approved its position on the Covenant; it is ready to start negotiations with the Council. The EU has increased its funding for immigration, asylum and integration policiessince 2015 with €22.7 billion of the budget for the period 2021-2027 dedicated to migration and border management (compared to €10 billion in the period 2014-2020).(4)

This European budget is a bet on the future. Even at the height of the migration crisis (2015-2016), the maximum number of immigrants from third countries, whether they arrived legally or illegally, was negligible compared to the total European population. European demography (low birth rate, general ageing of the population, etc.) is important to understand the need to call on a workforce from third countries – thousands of jobs are not filled and are needed to meet the pressing needs in many sectors. Personal services are particularly concerned - carers (for the elderly), domestic helpers, and childminders (for early childhood) need foreign labour.

The number of detected crossings has increased on all irregular migration routes. The crossing of the Central Mediterranean remains the deadliest of the four migration routes to Europe, with an estimated 1,400 people dead or missing in 2022 (European Parliament, ibid.). The Channel is not the most dangerous sea for exiles but the way in which families or young people from Afghanistan, Syria, ... are mistreated by the police is symbolically very fraught with consequences. It feeds a "double standard" instrumentalised by countries hostile to the European Union and Western democracies in general. If the exiles risk their lives to cross the Channel, it is because no alternative is offered to them in France or in Europe.

The European Union defends freedom of movement, its DNA, with the Erasmus + programme, which has touted the advantages of mobility for its nationals in Europe (open-mindedness, social and intercultural skills, etc.). It seems to forget this for third-country nationals, whom its economy needs so much and from which European diplomacy, with the countries of the South in particular, could also benefit with such a troubled geopolitics where Europe needs allies.

Dr Bénédicte Halba, President of IRIV (www.iriv.net),

She directs 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 has participated in many European projects on migration.

- 1) Eurostat, 2020
- 2) INSEE, https://www.insee.fr/fr/outil-interactif/4268204/bloc-1a.html?lang=fr
- 3) INSEE, https://www.insee.fr/fr/outil-interactif/4268204/bloc-1b.html?lang=fr
- 4) European Parliament, https://www.europarl.europa.eu/topics/fr/article/20170627STO78419/lutte-contre-la-migration-irreguliere)

THE JUDGMENT OF GOD

Two telephone conversations echoed each other, the same week, in my head...

With François, on Friday 4th October, we talked about shipwrecks and deaths at sea... and appalling conditions of survival in the camps...

- Finally, he told me, they are condemned to death...

Let's not exaggerate, I replied.

Of course, we did not yet know that the following night four new deaths would increase the toll. I started to think that François wasn't so wrong...

Less than a week later, Pierre said to me: "In France, the death penalty has been reinstated"... They are right...

I then thought about God's judgment.

In the Middle Ages, women suspected of witchcraft were thrown into the river with a stone around their necks. If they sank, it was because they were indeed witches. If they survived, it was because God had decided to save them because they were innocent.

The small boat is the modern version of God's judgment.

People are put in conditions unworthy of survival, in the mud, sleeping under a tarpaulin or sometimes even without a tarpaulin, in a place where there is no tap connected to the drinking water network, no toilets, no showers.

After a certain number of days (weeks/months...) to see if God deems them worthy of living, they are put on a rubber dinghy, without a rigid bottom, at 60 or 80 per boat, without a life jacket, while you're at it... and we observe the result from the shore...

Back to the Middle Ages, to the middle of barbarism...

Claire Millot.

PS. And now, nothing is right! I consulted Wikipedia... it is the woman who sinks who is innocent and the woman who floats can only do so because she has received the help of the Devil...

Never mind, I prefer my version of a less cruel God...

THANK YOU

First of all, thank you to the volunteers.

To those who cook,

A special mention for Amara and Mory who are there every Saturday morning to relieve the team.







To those who distribute,

In particular, in order to put a smile on the faces of the little girls at the Dunkirk camp...





To those who have made cakes at home, to improve the ordinary supplies:

Elisabeth and Josette, well-known pastry chefs on Mondays. A special mention for Malvina who did wonders for the distribution of the 21st, using sugar decorations recovered from the collection at Aldi a few days before.

To Annie who brought the surpluses from the "FEST NOZ" on 21st October in which she had participated the day before.

To Marie and her young people who regularly ensure the Emmaus collection on Saturday mornings, thank you also to Guy and Régine who came to lend her a hand on the 19th (it was a week of distribution by the Dutch of "Stand by You" while the Salam team was off).

To those who do the shopping

In the photo, Denise's on 16th October, for Dunkirk.

To Greta who made the journey from Calais, expressly to bring us to Grande-Synthe our order of trays and cups for distributions.





To Thierry and Guy who took care of the collection of bananas, during Dominique's absence.

To those who have come in addition,

Back after a period where they were busy elsewhere...

- *Fred, who came from Angers, as almost once a year,
- *Brigitte, kept away for a long time due to health problems,
- *Dominique, our photographer from Ardèche, the last week of October with us in Calais and on Thursdays in Grande-Synthe,
- *Louis le Breton, loaded with all his goodwill and 60 tubes of toothpaste,
- *Elise and her three accomplices, with their "collection project" more and more developed.
- *Jean-François, who comes without hesitation from the earth mine when we need help.

... or totally new:

- *Céline on an internship in the last week of October, as part of her studies at the "Haute Ecole de Louvain en Hainaut".
- *"Thank you to those who crossed the Channel to come and help for a great weekend!" wrote Julie. : four new London friends, present on 12th October, "Gary and the gang": Gary, Betsy, Carly and Edie (sorry if we struggle with the spelling of their names!)
- *Claire, from Grenoble, friend of Dominique d'Ardèche, who accompanied her the last week of October. *Sister Justine.
- *Maryan, a journalism student in Paris, but a native of Grande-Synthe, on 31st October returning to... Grande-Synthe!
- *With us also on the 31st, Gwen, in the vanguard of Help 4 Dunkirk, whose return we are waiting for the winter.

To those who offered very quickly to collect donations of food or textiles, or to welcome donors at the local level:

Brigitte, Claudine, Clotilde, Denise, Elisabeth, la grande Françoise, Henri, Marie-Christine, Marie-France, Thierry...

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

First of all, thank you to all the anonymous people who came to our two sites following the call on Facebook and Instagram, on 10th September.

And then for:

Food donations:

*On 17th October, Elisabeth's Dad dropped off bottles of water and two pallets.

Textile donations:

- *Christine and Eric de Rosendaël brought three bags of clothes and blankets on 12th October after the distribution.
- * Thomas and a lady from Gravelines brought several donations of clothes and shoes on 17th October, as well as Elisabeth's father. Thank you to them, and to their encouragement for everything.
- *A few tents, blankets and warm clothes entrusted to Thierry by a lady from Rosendaël.

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

First of all, those who have wet their shirts with us: FTS (Danielle's team, on the Calais side every Thursday; so often Elisabeth, Hubert, Patrick... on the Dunkirk side) and Maison Sésame (Titouan and Constantine came from ESSEC twice in October).

Patrick has become a storage specialist in Dunkirk.

And donor associations or institutions.

There have been so many of them this month that it gives us a lot of courage and here they are simply in alphabetical order!

*ALEDS provides lunch in Dunkirk every last Sunday of the month. In October, for the third time, on the 27th, they entrusted Clotilde with things they could not distribute: this time pulses and rubber boots.







*The Nature Centre of Wormhout, which produces vegetables for the discovery classes, donated to us its surplus of potatoes and large Courgettes, well appreciated by our cooks, and brought back by Gaby on 14th October.



*Emmaus Saint-Nazaire :

On 12th October,, they successively helped with the distribution in Calais and Grande-Synthe, and then made a massive distribution of clothes and blankets that brought a smile to the faces of our exiled friends.

"And the precious help in preparation and distribution from the representatives of the Emmaus community of St Nazaire: the companions Joseph, Mathias, Fabrice, Laurent and Hamza accompanied by the volunteers Pierre-Antoine, Rémi and Caroline," writes Arnaud in the Report of the day.

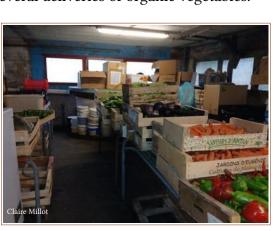
*Emmaus Vauban in Dunkirk, which has stockpiled several arrivals of blankets from Zuyscoote for us. Thanks to Brigitte who went to pick them up.



*Flandres Terre Solidaire which offered a pallet of milk for the distribution in Calais and brought back several nice lots of blankets in Grande-Synthe.



*The "GAEC des sabots communs" in **Bourbourg** has taken the excellent habit of calling Elisabeth and Jean when they have surpluses, and we have thus taken advantage of several deliveries of organic vegetables.







*The Jardins de Cocagne in Leffrinckoucke have twice brought us a full tank of organic vegetables. We missed the moment of arrival for the photo, but if we know that the tables in the basement were totally empty before they passed, we have an even more accurate idea of what they brought us on 15th October.





*The Maison de Quartier de la Tente Verte, where the ladies knit for the exiles.

Brigitte and Marie-France went to pick up a beautiful collection of multi-coloured woollens on Friday, 11th October.

"Here are the photos of the handing over of hats, scarves etc. knitted by the ladies of the knitting workshop of the Tente Verte.

Brigitte and I were invited for coffee, a time when they asked questions about Salam and the exiles. They showed a lot of interest. Marie-France wrote.

" Good reception and nice exchange with these ladies," comments Brigitte.

Onjali, our faithful English donor, in foodstuffs. She was back on 26th October and she had two huge bags of magnificent meat delivered to us on the 28th, through MRS.





*Parishes:

- Our parish of Grande-Synthe, Notre Dame des Salines. Thank you to Daniel-Marie, our parish priest for the superb flyer calling for donations.
- The one in Bergues, which has been collecting for Salam without interruption since Easter 2022 and has just had multiple donations after a call at the end of a Mass.

Thanks to Marie-Christine who provides weekly transport.

And thank you for his little words of information:

that of 1st October: "As I have already written to you, the box placed in the church of Bergues is regularly filled for our exiles:

This week. donation of blankets (10) and various clothing.



Most of the covers come from Wormhout by Claudine M. »

And the one on 24th October: "Brigitte called me to remove some tents, blankets, sleeping bags, warm and/or waterproof clothes

On Tuesday I was helped by Patrick from FTS. We unloaded 3-4 tents, sleeping bags and blankets but also warm and waterproof clothes for men and some shoes. In fact, Patrick and his colleagues cleaned, sorted and put away the shoes in the basement room. »



- The one in Wattrelos: donations of clothes, shoes, blankets, water bottles by Bernadette and Alain who made the journey, loaded.

*The Secours Catholique from Dunkirk, from whom Thierry went on 24th October to pick up a good pack of blankets of all kinds and some men's clothes, but not much because they also have a big demand from people in difficulty in their area. And of course, there is no question of putting precariousness in competition!

*Le Secours Populaire de Loon-Plage/Copains du monde. *Historical partner always ready to help us.*

Our message of 2nd October:

Hello "Friends",

When Yolaine asked me last night not to forget to thank me for "bread today", it was the expression "daily bread" that came to mind... And that's exactly what it's all about: when you distribute breakfast every morning, you have the worry of the man of the Middle Ages, the fear of running out of bread. Thank you for being there to help us, to complete our collections.

Moreover, the "friend" is the one with whom one shares one's bread... the "Friends of the world " are aptly named. In the name of those who distribute it and those who eat it, THANK YOU.

Claire

Same day response:

How well all this is said, my dear Claire. Fraternal friendships and above all solidarity. Christian





Message of 5th October, after the donation of the day before:

Dear Friends of Salam, a new important delivery of bread and pastries yesterday to our Friends of Salam Calais, to the delight of the migrant friends. Together we are stronger... Thank you very much for your struggles and commitment over all these years.

Be certain of our commitments at your side, dear friends.

Good luck.

And our immediate response:

Oh, thank you Christian... If you knew... more than 150 people found yesterday, by Yolaine in a corner of Calais where no association goes. Men, little ones too, hungry as we have rarely seen... who thrust three pieces of bread into their mouths at the same time, at the risk of suffocating or making themselves sick... Thank you for being here and supporting us... Thank you to your team.

Our message of 13th October:

A THANK YOU again to the team of Les Copains du Monde, for the pastries brought to Calais on Friday (the day before yesterday) and so well timed!

We are in a period of particularly numerous distributions! 955 people this morning at the breakfast in Salam... and so happy to be able to add a pastry to the piece of bread given to everyone!

Thank you very much, very much.

With our gratitude and friendship.

And the one of 16th October:

And at the beginning of this week, a delivery of bread with boxes of pastries arrived in Calais, brought by our Copains du Monde...

It was Monday,

The next day, Tuesday 15th, the number of breakfasts distributed by Salam again exceeded 1,000 (1,180 to be exact).

Thank you very much friends for this help to survival, because it is really for the survival of the exiles that we are fighting at the moment...

With all our friendship.

Our message of 31st October:

For the milk, for the bread and for the doughnuts, thank you. There were those dark days when Salam's reserves were not enough, when someone had to be sent to buy bread or heat more water to increase the quantity of tea...

The glass of milk given to those who had not had a hot drink, the carton of milk given to the mothers of the little ones... It's the little extra that saves a distribution...

Thank you for the pallet of milk that you gave us on Wednesday, and which allows us to renew this miracle.



Thank you also for the bread and doughnuts brought to our Calais location today. Bread, of course, is the base. But a breakfast with a cake on top of that, it becomes like in a hotel!

On behalf of the Salam team, THANK YOU.

Answer the same day from Caroline Hogard:

With pleasure!

Unfortunately, we couldn't help the teams because we were in the middle of a construction site and we really apologize for that.

So much the better if we can help you as much as we can. So beautiful what you do.





*Utopia 56, which took us through Elisabeth, foodstuffs that they do not distribute.

*Wise, who arrived on Saturday 26th with canned goods and three large bags of julienned frozen vegetables.

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 check, made a transfer directly or through Helloasso.

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 storefrom 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.

Thank you to the HRO, Olivier Schittek, Dominique Bommel, Les Copains du Monde, ALEDS, 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 chore (8 a.m.) to the end of the dishes (between 2 and 4 p.m.). In between, we distribute the meal.

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

Calais:

Salam continues to distribute improved breakfasts every morning with tea and coffee. But we are sorely lacking in volunteers, especially volunteers with driving licenses: Meeting at 7:45 a.m. at the premises, 13 rue des Fontinettes.

Call Yolaine at 06.83.16.31.61. From outside France 00 33 6 83 16 31 61

CALL FOR DONATIONS

MONEY NEEDS.

Without state subsidies and with a very significant reduction in subsidies from local and regional authorities, we still need money to make the association's work last:

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

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

Go through HELLOASSO:

https://www.helloasso.com/associations/salam-nord-pas-de-calais/formulaires/2/widget

or simply send a cheque to: Association Salam BP 47 62100 CALAIS

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

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-p

as-de-calais

and the brand new Instagram account: 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

02100 CALAIS			
Monsieur/Madame :		Prénom	
Adresse			
Code postal	Ville	Pays	
Téléphone	E mail		
○○ J'adhère à l'associat	ion en versant la somme de 10 -	€.	
(5 € pour les étudiants et	demandeurs d'emploi , adhésio	on valable jusqu'au 31/12/2024)	
Date et signature :			
	ssociation Salam en versant la se ssociation Salam. Un reçu fiscal vol	omme de : us sera adressé	

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