

SALAM



SOUTENONS, AIDONS, LUTTONS, AGISSONS
POUR LES MIGRANTS ET LES PAYS EN DIFFICULTE

www.associationsalam.org

AUGUST 2023 NEWSLETTER

THE PHOTO OF THE MONTH

On 15th August, the Loon-Plage distribution team was offered wildflowers by children as a thank-you.



Children around the world are all the same.
I learned that in the meadow.
They didn't ask for anything, just a life.....and they will have the memory.
Really moving...
and maybe in three hours they will be in the open sea on a rotten boat.....

Henri Kupczyk

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Tonight, "A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT" was scheduled to be written.
And then the dreadful reality caught up with me!

Shame on those words I might have shared.
So many representations of what I believe is a good conscience!

Let me explain to you anyway.
Near Calais train station,
Dozens and dozens of Migrants.
Possibly dozens of children between 10 months and 3-7 years.
Triteness of our regional government I hear!
But as I put pen to paper what feels like a criminal policy is even more unbearable to me!
And to remind me of the memories always full of terror
From my parents and grandparents:
Their journeys to find a welcoming land.

And I ask:
What can we do to wake up our political leaders?
Wars are multiplying.
Disasters increase precariousness.
2023 will again witness what is effectively criminal indifference!
What can we do to ensure that this nightmare finally comes to an end?

Jean-Claude Lenoir (11 septembre 2023)

EVENTS OF THE MONTH

ANOTHER DEADLY SHIPWRECK OFF OUR COASTS, DREADFUL AND PREDICTABLE...

On the morning of 12th August, six bodies were found in front of Sangatte and at least two disappearances were reported. That means eight deaths and maybe more...
The same day in Calais, the Secretary of State for the Sea, Hervé Berville, points to "the responsibility of criminal traffickers". Of course, smugglers are criminals, no member of any association will say otherwise...
But the people smuggler is only the consequence of a forbidden border.
The next day on BFMTV, Jean-Claude Lenoir, president of Salam, responds to Mr Berville: "This criminal government and regional authority policy pushes them back to the sea, throws them back into the sea for multiple attempts ... »

Eight dead and maybe more...
About fifty people were rescued by French and British resources. Some sixty aboard an inflatable canoe!
Nothing exceptional: 5,374 arrivals on English soil recorded on the Home Office site during the month of August on 102 boats. That means between 52 and 53 people per boat, on average.
5,374 arrivals in August while everything is done to prevent embarkation...
But the more boarding is prevented, the more candidates are forced to adapt and put themselves even more in danger:

The "small boats" have been replaced by "taxi-boats" that must be embarked directly by passengers actually themselves in the surrounding waters and in which the weakest do not manage to board. We have cited in the July issue of this newsletter cases of children separated from their mothers...

On 29th August again, a citizen host reports a mother left alone at sea and the father with the children left behind...

The starting points are increasingly distant from those that are the shortest route. Mr. Bieuville, local government authority of Dunkirk, says (for the "Voix du Nord" of 17th August) that "the smugglers have effectively moved their activities to the Pas-de-Calais". He sees in it, adds the journalist, Alexis Constant, "the consequence of an almost permanent presence of the Police between Bray-Dunes and Leffrinckoucke, including a large number of Police reserve members who tirelessly crisscross the dune cordon". But none of them appreciates that by moving them we always make the crossings a little more dangerous: the times on the water lengthened significantly with exposure to winds, currents, and tides ...

The mayor of Le Portel, a popular place of departure since July (according to the "Voix du Nord" of August 24), declared in his columns: "After a while, the beach is so well supervised that these people who dream of England will no longer pass here". He also does not see (or it is indifferent to him) that people who want to embark will leave from further afield and take even more risks to the point of some dying. We are in the process of countering departures from the Bay of Canche (a floating dam was placed there on 10th August, we learnt from the "Voix du Nord" of 22nd August).

A criminal policy:

Jean-Claude Lenoir continues (in a 13th August interview on TV 5 Monde): "We are asking the government for a little humanity. Think that a few hours later (*after the deadly shipwreck on 12th August*) while the sailors were trying to recover more bodies, while the minister and the regional elected representatives greeted both the survivors, at the same time (...) we dismantled the camps on the territory of Calais: we make people get up, we dismantle the tents. The guys cross the road, the police leave, the police obey their orders, they are not happy to do this dirty work. And then a quarter of an hour later other people take the same places. (...)

They try because they know they have no other solution. They have no other solution because for twenty-five years this criminal policy has been completely stupid. It is ineffective. »

Jean-Claude Lenoir says it otherwise in the interview on BFM TV quoted above: "They want to stay in France but can't because they are hunted and harassed."

Indeed, in Calais, dismantling continued this month every other day in Calais.

With the riots in July, the CRS were the big absentees last month. After two dismantling still without them on 4th and 6th August 4, they are now back for evacuations.

They are not heavily armed. The HRO reports shields on 1st August (as well as a rifle of an unknown kind – pictured below – and a gas mask!), on the 20th and 22nd too (as well as a "multi-shot" weapon on the 22nd, and a large LBD on August 4th).



City center on 26th August.



In general, five sites are evacuated (those of BMX, Marck, Rue de Judea, the Hospital and behind the PASS). The City Centre has only been visited regularly since 22nd July.

A special case: that of the Turquerie site in Marck, evacuated each time, but in a particularly radical, two days in a row: August 1st initially when no other site is concerned and where the eviction is done, that day, with three tractors and a construction machine to remove the tents and especially tarpaulins.

In photos: the third tractor and the construction machine came to pick up the belongings.



The evacuation is made necessary, it is explained to the HRO, "for their protection" (that of the exiles), because of works.

The next day the convoy of the Police is back to correct the work.

Over those two days, the Salam team saw the machines that cut wood and reduce it to sawdust.

November weather and yet no mercy for our refugee friends.
 Destruction of living spaces and cutting of trees to be sure that no shelter is possible...
 Disgusting.
 Soon there will really be only walls and barbed wire left in Calais.
 How are the environmentalists to react????
 And where is humanity in this hostile land???

Ferri Matheeuwsen, 2 August 2023, (Ferri is a Dutch Volunteer in Calais).



At each dismantling, for months, everyone must pick up their equipment, put it off the site and hand it over until the departure of the Police. Whoever is not there will not find their belongings, they will be removed by the cleaning company that is part of the evacuation convoy.

Often the police shake the tent to wake up exhausted people who have tried to rest in the night...

Even a man with a crutch is not exempt from carrying his tent on 26th August behind the PASS.

That the police seem to make him a guard of honour does not help him much!

The refugee support organizations are kept away by a "security perimeter", i.e. the forces of order that prevent them from advancing. This is the case in particular, for the HRO (Human Rights Observers) responsible for observing (as its name suggests) possible human rights violations.

These evacuations are unworthy, especially when it rains and is windy: there has been a lot of talk in the media about the heat in France but in the North, it has been autumnal, with chilly temperatures, soggy grounds and food distributions being made in the rain ...

Indeed, even if there were no such dismantling, the conditions of survival are absolutely unworthy.

The weather has often been rainy.

The campers are wading through the mud...



Our distributions too.

If you're here with a smile despite a horrible weather...

This is because THEY...

Our friends on the road

are still there with a smile despite the inhumane conditions they are subjected to.

Ferri Matheeuwsen, 6 August 2023, (Ferri is a Dutch volunteer in Calais).

The care is not up to what the France must offer: on the 26th a young boy tried to cross the barbed wire that defends access to the port. He is greeted in the emergency room with a knee and a foot in a terrible state (our barbed wire is not bristling with wire spikes but razor blades. In 2015 we saw a number of them with their hands slashed after an attempt to pass. Now in general only young men know... usually..)

The next day the bandage is dire. Back to the emergency room where the reception is more than fresh... But how do you keep a bandage clean when you survive, surrounded by mud?



More and more people are hungry: not all have access to any other food distribution than Salam's breakfast, which is struggling to fulfil its task in the face of the growing number of exiles who come to queue.

Often someone from the team goes back to buy bread in the morning to meet the demand (7th August for example, 26th 27th August...)

The maximum figure was that on 7th August: 1,435...

With the crossings (or attempted crossings) we went down to 706 on 22nd August. It's still huge, in May we had around 500 per morning...! But the number rose again at the end of the month: 1,041 on 1st September ...

Attempts at crossings are not always successful... The weather and the sea, in addition to the Police, often make crossings difficult or impossible...

On Dunkirk, the exiles are lucky: only one dismantling of the Loon-Plage camps in on the 8th August.

But it is a very brutal evacuation: people are pushed towards the buses (there are at least six) and searched before boarding. It is such a crowd that the HRO (Human Rights Observers) initially has the impression that everyone is being taken away. .

However, this is not the case: at the end of the operation, there were about 500 people left on one side of the road and 400 on the other!

They have been at least ten arrests..





The material is seized:

A lot of tents and blankets are picked up by excavators and dumped.

The number of refugees present at our distributions varies as in Calais:
The Monday team announces 600 meals distributed on 7th and 14th August but 250 on 28th August ...
Here too the camps were emptied because of attempts to embark for England.



The 12th August cast.



New fact: harassment in Calais station, to discourage those who arrive on the coast to cross into the United Kingdom.
The associations noted the presence of the PAF at the station on 9th August, the presence of the PAF and the National Police on 17th and 28th (and that day 40 people were prevented from boarding the train to Boulogne), the police and customs officers (control people) on the 29th, they control of those who get off the train on 11th, 18th and 23rd August, arrests (3 on 17th August, 2 on 19th and 4 on 23rd).

On 1st September, about sixty people who wanted to take the train to Boulogne were also prevented from doing so. The HRO saw the police enter the station armed with the tear gas canisters.





They unfortunately still frequently use tear gas on our sites recalls this stencil of Banksy, seen in January 2016 on a wall in front of the France embassy in London: "Calais or Cosette's tears"

2016-2023: nothing has changed...

The sea rescuers are doing a great job that cannot be recognized enough. The difficulties they face, both moral and physical, are terrible. The patron of the "Notre-Dame du Risban" recounts, in the "Voice of the North" of 16th August: "As they had no life jacket, the bodies were between two waters. So just a few centimetres below sea level. If they had had life jackets, we could have found them right away. The helicopter saw them because it was high." Of course, no one will blame them for showing how hard their work is... But with a little hindsight we also think: "If they had had life jackets, they might not have drowned..." "

All is not negative this month fortunately:

We can greet some dignitaries of the Catholic Church...

who had the courage (despite some protests in the public, *Voix du Nord* of 16th August 2023) to take a stand in defence of those who risk their lives on the water in the hope of finding a better existence.

During the traditional blessing of the sea on 15th August in Dunkirk, Romuald Carton, episcopal vicar, said: "We are here to pay tribute to those missing offshore, to all those lost at sea. I invite you to pray for the migrants, who tried to cross the Channel at the risk of their lives, yes at the risk of their lives... Let us pray that solutions will be found to this crisis, that the tense geopolitical situation will find peace... »

... and greeting some members of the Law Enforcement is not so frequent in our pages...

On 23rd August (*Voix du Nord* the next day) a resident of Le Portel heard a woman "cry out fearing death". She couldn't get into the canoe... "At one point we only saw the mother's back and the daughter's shoes, they were unable to get out of it" Two gendarmes of the company of Ecuirens get into the water, reports the newspaper, three other CRS and police follow suit. The two victims are brought back to dry land, as is a third woman. »

This is really a rescue. Unfortunately, the police often feel that they are doing useful work, that they are playing a humanitarian role by participating in these evacuations:

On 8th August in Loon-Plage the Human Rights Observers heard a police officer say: "We save lives, we save them from drowning".

The head of the Lille Aeronautical Police Brigade, which monitors the coast of the Bay of Somme on the Belgian border, was interviewed in *La Voix du Nord* on 17th August. Its role is to monitor, to prevent departures by sea. "Preventing departures is also assistance," he says. "Migrants are victims in this trafficking."

On this we can only agree with him, but they are twice as victims as this gentleman imagines: forbidden to leave but forbidden at the same time to stay, (regular dismantling of camps). The only solution would be a real welcome, in comfortable premises (with beds, meals, toilets and showers) and very quickly the authorization to work to be able to stabilize ...

Timid experiments are fortunately being tried in France now, and far-right opponents are not always successful.

Our friend from Corrèze, after a violent opposition to the installation of asylum seekers near her daughter's home (see the Newsletters of February and March 2023) writes to us this month: " I am in Corrèze, I see that the CADA of Beyssenac is still in place, there is no more problem.

Signs to show the disagreement of some, but no clashes. »

Finally good news!

On 10th August in Calais, during the evacuation of the city centre, at the Faidherbe bridge, a policeman suggested to the HRO that the exiles go to campsites. "Find them a place to live. The state is already doing a lot of things. Yes, the state spends a lot of money... to prevent people from leaving (barriers, law enforcement, ground and air surveillance).

Regarding the role of the police, Wilma, one of our most attentive readers, responds to the text "Law enforcement in civil disobedience?":

"I'm overwhelmed. I felt it there, on the beaches, in the places of distribution and dismantling. I cried for the mothers separated from their children and for these lonely young men. It's all a heartbreaking, nightmare. Not only do you find the strength to face so much misery and cruelty day after day, but you also dare to believe in possible changes in the behaviour of law enforcement officers. It's generous, and it gives hope. " Hope is tenuous, but it must be kept.

Some continue to try their luck by trucks, sometimes successfully; On 26th August, the Sudanese present at the Salam distribution received a phone call from London: two of their own had just arrived. It is a moment of joy for everyone, there as in Calais, among the volunteers and their friends.

We must hope for all, some evening the mode of passage, a welcome a little less sordid than what the authorities announce. The barge installed in Portland UK, to allow the government to save hotel costs welcomed its first occupants on 7th August (according to BFMTV of the 8th). Let us hope that it is true that they will be able to enter and leave as they wish.

We already reported last month that on the night of 17th / 18th July the British Parliament passed a law prohibiting those who have entered the UK illegally from seeking asylum...

This law "contradicts the United Kingdom's obligations under international law on human rights and refugees," said in a statement by the heads of the UN agencies responsible for these subjects, Volker Türk and Filippo Grandi", *Le Monde* of 18 July 2023.

Let's end with a glimmer of hope:

- in image: Arthur volunteer of Salam in Dunkirk sends us, on 6th August, this photo of the boys dancing, with this comment: "It was a long time ago. "

- in words: a quote from Olivier WEBER, in "28 mn samedi aujourd'hui" of Saturday, 5th August 2023: "What surprised me especially through these hundreds, if not more, of migrants that I was able to meet at the borders, is **the immense hope that lives in them**, for themselves, of course, but also for their families, even for their country. "

Claire Millot.



THE DAY AFTER THE TRAGEDY



BEACH LIFE DEATH AT SANGATTE

An unusual and disturbing image this morning of 13th August 2023 on the beach of Sangatte. The tide dares to bring back to the sand what can be the remains of a life and a few steps away, people enjoy the joys of the beach, a disconcerting contrast in my eyes. Is it unconsciousness, ignorance, or indifference? Do these people know that not far from there, a new drama has just taken place?

Six dead and possibly two missing people.

We volunteers are once again upset and outraged.



Text and photos Annick Coubel (August 13, 2023).



Geneviève Cresson



Annick Coubel

THE COMMEMORATION CEREMONY.

After each death of an exiled friend, a commemoration ceremony takes place in Calais at the Parc Richelieu, the day after the announcement in the press.

Banners evoke the shipwreck of the day before...

... and border deaths since 1999.



Texts were read.

Ferri, a Salam volunteer, read one she had written for the occasion.

"Tonight, another sad appointment in front of this park.
Sadly, many of us have been here too often.

We are here to say goodbye to a migrant again...
migrants... refugees... or humans is the way as I prefer to refer to them.
We are here to remember that all these deaths at our borders are human beings like you and me,
who have a mother... a father... a woman or children who will wait for them in vain,
and who had dreams... dreams of a better life,
and who had the courage to follow their dreams,
far from war, dictatorships, or famine,
to come to us hoping to finally find a real life.
They believed in Europe and oh how disappointed they were,
facing closed borders, hostile gazes, barbed wire and rocks.
Europe has become a RUTHLESS fortress.
And whatever the Secretary of State or the Mayor of Calais say, there is no real welcome here.

It remains only people like you and me to continue to be their voices.
We volunteers,
activists or ordinary citizens,
Citizens of a world
dreaming of a world without borders.
Because our borders KILL again and again.
So, it's up to us to be there again and again,
and to say STOP to harassment.

Open the borders.
Open the borders.

Ferri Matheeuwssen, Calais on August 13, 2023.

RIGHT TO LEAVE AND BE WELCOMED - DUTY TO SAVE

Dr. Bénédicte Halba, President of IRIV (www.iriv.net), August 2023

Bénédicte Halba dirige un Institut de recherche (iriv) qui intervient sur le thème de la migration depuis 2003 et propose un club à la Citédes Métiers pour valoriser un parcours migratoire depuis 2012.

The Mediterranean meetings organized on September 22nd and 23rd 2023 will welcome Pope Francis who is not coming to "France" but just to Marseille, at the invitation of the archbishop of the city, Msgr. Jean-Marc Aveline. This meeting is not reserved for Catholics alone but open to all faiths, believers and non-believers, in the ecumenical spirit of the Second Vatican Council, which it is important to recall in times of identity withdrawal and regression, especially within the Catholic Church, a reflection of a society divided, fractured, and tired by national and international conflicts.

For Pope Francis, Marseille is a city symbol of a "generous openness". These meetings will be a moment of reflection and celebration, which will recall the "mosaics of peoples, cultures and religions that make up the Mediterranean and share the same hopes". The vicar general of the diocese of Marseille and director of Bishop Aveline's cabinet, Xavier Manzano, share the popular enthusiasm aroused by the pope's visit. Francis will raise the issue of migrants; He has already denounced their criminal exploitation. A structure to help newcomers exists within the Church of France, "La Pastorale des migrants", happy with this unexpected support from the sovereign pontiff whose commitment to the service of exiles began as soon as he was elected in 2013. His first official trip was booked to Lampedusa, a Mediterranean island closest to the African coast, which has become an emblematic crossing point. The mayor of Marseille, Benoît Payan, said that as an elected representative of the Republic, he would respect secularism, and the law of 1905, adding that "the message of fraternity, humanism, sharing and especially reaching out to the poorest that the Pope carries" is universal. The beautiful unity of local decision-makers, various local authorities and state services, convinced the organizing committee of the Rugby World Cup to leave at the disposal of the diocese the Stade Vélodrome, setting of OM, emblematic club, fraternal and multicultural symbol of the Phocæan city that has crossed borders. A *Norwegian Cruise* liner, chartered to accommodate spectators of rugby matches, will be made available to the Mediterranean Matches to allow pilgrims to rent rooms.

This spirit of solidarity and sharing, openness to others and humanity, is an exception in the policy in favour of exiles in Europe, in the Mediterranean and in the English Channel. The summer and the whole year have been deadly. The Mediterranean is one of the deadliest migration routes. Sub-Saharan migrants have been mistreated, tortured, abused during their migratory journey - in Tunisia, Algeria but also in Saudi Arabia, without the international community really being moved and continues to let it happen. A petition was launched by MEP Raphaël Glucksman to denounce this undignified situation and recall the number of deaths "at least 50,000 exiles have suffered the same fate in the last 30 years at the external borders of the European Union, mainly trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea. "

In France, the brutal deaths linked to the crossings of the Channel are very important. On 12th August 2023, six migrants died and two disappeared at sea after the shipwreck between Sangatte and the Hemmes de Marck. The deadliest shipwreck recorded during an attempt to cross the sea to England dates back to 24th November, 2021 when 27 migrants, mostly Iraqi Kurds, died near [Calais](#). A judicial investigation was opened against the French emergency services called for help who had not intervened.. Since the lockdown of the port of Calais and the Channel Tunnel in 2018 to prevent road crossings, there have been an average of ten drowned per year between 2021 and 2023 in addition to the shipwreck of 24th November on "smallboats" to cross the Strait of Pas-de-Calais, not to mention the deaths still linked to attempts to cross by road....In the Balkans in 2015, Syrian families fleeing the war were violently turned back to Serbia and Croatia. No European country wanted to welcome them except Germany, which had courageously opened its doors with the unconditional support of its Chancellor Angela Merkel. We remember his generous invitation to his fellow citizens "Wir schaffen das!" ("We'll get there!").

In Europe, the spirit is increasingly inhospitable. The various countries of the European Union have sent entire delegations to Denmark, whose immigration policy is not a model of openness or solidarity. It is characterized "by the drastic reduction in migratory flows, a demanding integration programme, access to nationality made difficult and, henceforth, the desire to use a non-European third country for the processing of visa applications." The justification for such a policy would be to ensure the sustainability of the welfare state. We know the impasse that is the British migration policy which decided to "outsource" the issue to Rwanda.

Let us hope that the European Meetings in Marseille will pave the way for a new approach to the migration issue in Europe – that the Mediterranean, *mare nostrum*, cradle of cultural and religious diversity, where European civilization was born, will once again become "a bridge and no longer a border" like all the seas around Europe.

A RAINY AND SCANDALOUS END OF THE SUMMER

1st September, the holidays end in torrential rain, a visit to Calais takes me to Transmarck for the sole purpose of dropping off some anoraks that I had recovered recently.

The rain kept falling all night and this morning, again and again. It's hard to get out of the house and yet they, our friends, are outside. It felt like the sky was going to fall. This sky that did not stop crying resembled our friends who, exhausted, realize that the simple dream of a country "England", which can be welcomed with a little benevolence, was only an unfinished obstacle course at the cost of their lives.

Absent for 4 months for personal reasons, what a frightening surprise, I see that the camp is in the same place but not in the same format, it had changed sides. Unfortunately, this new place does not have a hint of greenery, only mud, not even a tree to protect from the wind, nothing to shelter from the rain, what degradation in such a short time. The conditions of the sea are indeed dangerous but those of the land are not much better.

The Salam truck arrives in the pouring rain, the men too, in T-shirts, sandals, without socks, nothing on their backs, nothing on their heads. The camp had been dismantled at 8:30am, no mercy for those who do not have the same skin colour. I failed to ask if the CRS each had an umbrella and if so, they could have at least offered it to those whose humble refuge they had just removed "a simple tent, a tarpaulin". I, with the umbrella on my arm, was ashamed, I also placed it on Yolaine's table at the bread distribution.

A few boys dressed in blue ponchos approach. Not enough ponchos for everyone, the others were dripping with rain, soaked to the bone, trembling with cold but always with a smile. A queue quickly formed and there was my great surprise to find that this queue did not end. Not enough volunteers for everyone, so without hesitation, I made my contribution with the embarrassment of being all clean dressed. Our friends were very hungry, would we have the courage to wait more than an hour for a piece of bread? This little piece of bread as a "bandage" that clogs a stomach for 24 hours. Our leader Yolaine, alone at a table, shares a surplus from the day before, a few bread sticks.

It is indisputable, there is a crucial lack of volunteers, mission impossible. But yes, it's possible... When 600 people wait patiently for their turn under undignified conditions, this is called **HUMAN ABUSE**. This situation stripped of all humanity is terrible, it saddens me and still shocks me as much, we cannot get used to it, see that nothing changes after so many years, it is even worse, the harassment on a daily basis. **DIGNITY** where are you? Appears no longer to exist in France.

Annick Coubel.

VOLUNTEERS THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS:

In chronological order of arrival in our emails.

DEMANDING MOOD:

We must tell the local Political Leader that we thank him for no longer sending us the police, the CRS and the company that destroys the camps.

Tell him that he leaves us with the heavy task of supporting, feeding, protecting the people of the camps. But this is extremely difficult and often impossible.

During the distribution of food, about 600 "meals"... We often had to say no to those who wanted an extra banana, no to children whose parents sent them to have a little more.

All this hurts us little by little.

We are fighting to help the exiles but also so that the France does not lose what little dignity it has left.

Arthur L., August 5, 2023

PLAYFUL MOOD: THE GAME.

ALLEÏ I will tell you so that I am not alone in smiling about it.

I was spooning on Tuesday and from the beginning a migrant comes to me saying: "I speak English and other languages; I can help you".

"OK my friend and welcome," I replied in Polish-Breton Provençal.

He was Afghanistan and spoke English very well... since I understood it.

After 3 or 4 minutes he said to me in Polish: "I'm hungry, give me a spoon; I eat and come back."

"Ok guy, no problem".

.....I never saw him again.....But he passed everyone without queuing...

I would have liked to see the guy again to tell him with pleasure that he had given me cleverly if not intelligently.

He didn't bother anyone (especially me).

In the line (behind my back I could not manage) I got out saying to the one who understood me: tell him "Join the queue".

Apart from one or two it worked.

I still think of that astute Afghan.

A+

Henri Kupczyk, August 10, 2023.

MELANCHOLIC MOOD:

I'm told... that I laugh less... that I have less humour... that I look less happy...
Does it surprise you?
I see human beings living in inhumane conditions.
I must accept that they have no water or real meals.
I lie down with fear in my stomach for another shipwreck...
I must be there with dignity and anger to say goodbye to the dead at sea...
Does it surprise you that I have less humour and am less happy?
This world is filthy!

Ferri Matheeuwesen, August 25, 2023.

THANK YOU

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS WHO ENSURED THE CONTINUITY OF THE WORK THROUGHOUT THE SUMMER.

**Thank you to those who are always here,
To prepare the food for distribution** (in photos in the truck in Calais and Salle Guérin in Grande-Synthe with the Compacons)



With a special thank you to Ghislaine (in Grande-Synthe) who every week takes home to cook vegetables that will go wrong (such as very ripe tomatoes) or that we have trouble using (such as raw red beetroots). The following week, she brought back cooked coulis, ratatouilles, or beetroots that all she had to do was cut into pieces.

And a thank you to Elisabeth and Jean who brought back from Bulgaria a huge wooden spoon.

Last year, they brought one back from Romania. This is a nice tradition to maintain...





Anne Mainy

To distribute



Denise Cassignat

Loon-Plage on August 15

For better or for worse:



Simpn Thierry

Calais on August 5

**For the Emmaus collections, in Calais and Dunkirk
(in return photo of the Salam van on 12 August)**



Anne Mainy



Pascaline Delahy

**To clean the local of Grande-Synthe after the heavy rains (and
there were some this summer!)**

To repair the hardware

Thanks to Jean-Pierre who restored a broken table and an "unlocked" broom. Thanks to Henri who refurbished one of the plastic bins to store pasta and prevented them from being invaded by slugs (which force us to throw away all the contents of the bin.)

For cloakroom distributions:

Pascaline and Pierre in the evening at Loon-Plage, and the Calais team every Wednesday:



A special thank you to the very young:

We used to count Mathilda (daughter of Fanny and David) among us. His little sister Anouck has just joined the ranks. The role of "food taster" seems to please her.

To the alumni back the time of a helping hand like Soline on August 12th.

To Scouts invested in funds for one week:

The Compacons:

In distribution (behind the table and spoons):





Then the Compastagas:
Pictured in front of their tent

Sorting shoes after a big donation from Audotri:



and before England, without which we would not be reunited.
If, if... Only a lynx eye will guess, but it is there, on the left of the photo, look carefully...
They, at least, and the photographer, saw it well!

A special thank you to Mathieu who animated a cast with his guitar, creating a moment of communion on 24th August, worthy of Belinda's visits.

A warm word of goodbye reached us a few days after their departure.

Here is just a little word from us to transmit to the whole team to thank the association that allowed us to live this experience

Incredible,

New for us,

Opening our eyes, Unique, Overwhelming, Luminous

Inspiring

Alarming but giving hope

Banger,

Legendary,

Edifying

as well as all those who have participated in making this week extraordinary in every way. In particular, thank you very much to Henri for the journey through the history of Salam and migration in the region, to Claire for the great conversation we had sitting in the grass, to Geneviève for welcoming us on the first day, to Dominique for his discreet and yet so funny humour, to Pierre for his in-depth knowledge of the camp and his vision of the world that he shared with us, and to Hussein for his good humour, to name a few. We are not about to forget you, nor to forget what we have seen and experienced. And who knows? Maybe one day we will come back to relive these moments.

The Compastagas.



And congratulations to all those who have always kept smiling (in photo the distribution team of Calais, August 5 in the rain)

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

In foodstuffs:

An Iranian newlywed couple who handed us the (important) leftovers from the wedding dinner on the last weekend of July.

In textiles :

Two persons on 3rd August (Ms. M. and a young man) with clothes.

Soline, Carole and Anne who brought clothes, shoes, towels and blankets on 12th August.

Father J. B. of Kassel, 17th August, with a large quantity of clothing.

Patrick, who came to help with a meal distribution, with a batch of blankets.

Ramine, 19th August, with mattresses, blankets and clothes. He, too, gladly helped distribute the meal.

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

Thank you to our old friends from "Flanders Terre Solidaire" who this month financed the entire order of cups and spoons essential to our food distributions.

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

This month was no exception.



Thanks always to Caroline who makes the connection, who does the shopping, and who also provides the photos!



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

For the delivery on 1st and 3rd August: here is the email sent on the evening of 3rd August.

"On 25th July I told you that your gifts were particularly welcome, given the number of breakfasts distributed that day: 805.

But on 1st August, you brought us again bread and cupcakes rolled in quantity, and we had distributed that morning 1,160 breakfasts...

You can imagine how well you have fallen, as well as your nectarines of 3rd August which allow to vary a little the foodstuffs: many are those who have only our breakfast as the only meal of the day ... On their part and that of our Calais team who are going to great lengths: THANK YOU! »

For the one of 27th August (with our email of thanks):

"And 1, and 2, and 3...

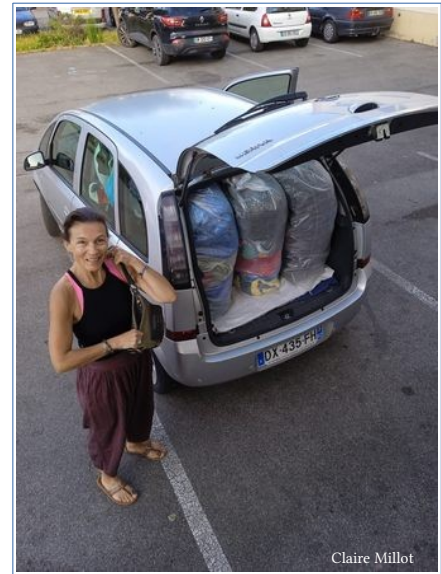
No, these are not round balls that the team of Copains du Monde/Secours Populaire launched the day before yesterday in the Salam premises in Calais, but pallets of pastries (pains au chocolate and croissants): yes, pallets, not crates!

Several days of improved breakfast for our friends... Thank you all, thank you to Christian and Caroline. »

Thanks to Audotri for his regular support.

This month in shoes (see above the photo of the sorting provided by the Compacons) and clothing and blankets.

Thanks to Arthur and Nathalie who ensured the delivery.



Thanks to La Motte aux Oies du Doulieu for a new important donation of courgettes on 28th August and thanks to Gaby who took care of the transport.

Thanks to Anne-Marie de Reims who arrived in Calais with clothes and blankets in a van and left behind two large cheques, one for Calais and one for Dunkirk (a donation for meat purchases).

Thanks to Adrien from Maison Sésame who came on 24th August with another young person to participate in a distribution in Loon-Plage with a fruit supplement, appreciable and appreciated.

Thank you to the market gardener of the Urban Farm of Grande-Synthe, where Dominique went to get tomatoes and zucchini on 31st August.

Thanks also to Dominique.

AND FINALLY THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO MADE US FINANCIAL DONATIONS, without which we would not be able to maintain the vans, put diesel in the tanks, pay for the water and electricity used in our premises, replace the gas cylinders...

Thank you to all those (close friends and strangers) who slipped us a bank note, sent us a cheque, made a transfer directly or by Helloasso.

THANK YOU TO BETHLEHEM, TO ABDELKADER AND TO THE ASSOCIATION RENAISSANCE, TO FLANDRES TERRE SOLIDAIRE, TO THE PROTESTANT MUTUAL AID, TO THE AUBERGE DES MIGRANTS who share with us the load of bananas offered by CONHEXA once a week, to EMMAUS who gives us surpluses every week, for Calais as for Grande-Synthe, to the Sesame House which shares with us two mornings a week the surplus of fruits and vegetables from the ALDI store from the rue du Kruysbellaert, to the Ressourcerie de Montreuil sur mer ("Il était deux fois") and to the Secours Catholique de Berck which provide each month clothes brought to Calais by André de Merlimont,

to the JARDINS DE COCAGNE, to the COMORIAN DAMES, to the RESTAURANT DU CAP in Escalles, to the Calais bakeries and to those in front of the Noorderover, "La mie du pain" and "Au bon pain d'ancienne" by Coudekerque. Week after week, they are there to help us. Thanks to HRO and Olivier Schitteck who allow us to publish their photos.

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

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

Claire Millot

OUR NEEDS FOR VOLUNTEERS

Dunkirk:

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

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

Calais:

Salam continues the distribution of enhanced breakfasts every morning with tea and coffee.

But we are sorely lacking volunteers, especially volunteers with driver's licenses:

Meeting at 8 am at the local, 13 rue des Fontinettes.

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

CALL FOR DONATIONS

MONEY NEEDS.

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

Maintenance of premises and vans, fuel, purchase of food that is missing...

Visit the association's website: www.associationsalam.org

Section: "Support us"

Go through HELLOASSO:

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

or simply send a cheque to:

Association Salam

PO Box 47

62100 CALAIS

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

A big thank you to all our generous donors!

TENTS AND TARPAULINS!

From dismantling to dismantling, the tents are removed at both sites and we are unable to replace them.

Many people sleep with nothing on them, in all weathers.

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

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

Otherwise, the most pressing needs on both sites:

BLANKETS (DUVETS, SLEEPING BAGS).

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

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

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

backpacks,

lamps and batteries,

water packs,

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

Food for Calais:

JAM,

Milk

tea and sugar, soluble coffee,

cans of sardines and cans of tuna,

cream cheese,

dried fruits,

Power banks/batteries.

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

And for Grande-Synthe:

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

bags of pulses, spices,

Drop off your donations in the Salle Guérin, rue Alphonse Daudet, behind St Jacques Church on Mondays,

Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

You can always take your membership for 2023.

The membership form 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 of

Union! We were more than 250 members in 2022, already more than 200 at the end of April 2023, help us to exceed the threshold of 300.

CONTACT US

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

Association SALAM
PO Box 47
62100 CALAIS FRANCE

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



Principaux objectifs de SALAM :

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

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

Association SALAM-Nord/Pas-de-Calais

BP 47
62100 CALAIS

Monsieur/Madame : _____ Prénom _____

Adresse _____

Code postal _____ Ville _____ Pays _____

Téléphone _____ E mail _____

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

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

Date et signature :

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

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

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