

SALAM



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

Photo © François Legault

www.associationsalam.org

OCTOBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

URGENT

This month (October 2023), an average of 1,222 breakfasts were distributed in Calais every morning, and 575 hot meals in Dunkirk, four lunches a week.

(We relay here a message from the president, sent urgently to all volunteers, on 5th November).

Dear Volunteers and Supporters,

Allow me this short word as an INTRODUCTION to our traditional newsletter!

I would like to invite you to try to find shops that can provide us with dry food: bread, jam, chocolate, etc.

indeed, the number of our "FRIENDS" has increased dramatically and at the same time organizations stop distributing food.

so we are forced to spend more to meet the needs of our "FRIENDS" who are really hungrier than ever.

We will not give up, we will find solutions: a improved world is possible!

I am, of course, aware of your commitments.

Please do not hesitate to relay this message.

Stronger Solidarity

Jean-Claude Lenoir

THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

"The passport is the noblest part of man. Besides, a passport is not as easy to make as a man. A man can be made anywhere, most carelessly and without reasonable purposes, a passport, never. Thus, the value of a good passport is recognized, while the value of a man, however great, is not necessarily recognized. "

B. Brecht, in *"Dialogues of Exiles"*, written in the 1940's (when he himself was in exile from Finland to the United States) and was published in Berlin posthumously in 1961.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Autumn is here and winter will inevitably follow!
Drought
The cold
(Destined for oblivion, according to meteorological masterminds)
Are already going backwards.
With regard to the dismantlings
We had no doubts about their sustainability!
And our rulers will continue to remain impassive.
In the face of the suffering of our Friends.
Nothing will help.
Newborns, children, women, elderly
The street as the only horizon.
It doesn't matter if young people are forever unstructured.
Never mind that this does not promise well for a possible future reconstruction of their country.
Our rulers will continue without embarrassment or shame,
to teach the neighbouring countries a lesson.
"Do as I say,
Do not do as I do."
This has become the national motto!
In the run-up to the European elections,
There is an urgent need to promote a project of living together.
It is urgent to work for PEACE!
Let everyone on every occasion,
Denounce this infamy,
Let everyone on every occasion,
Remember that the sun must shine for EVERYONE!

Jean-Claude Lenoir.

EVENTS OF THE MONTH

ONE MORE DROWNED, ONE TOO MANY.

On the morning of 8th October, the body of a 17 or 18 year-old Eritrean boy was found on the beach in front of the Berck blockhouse.

A boat with about sixty people had capsized. All of them fell into the water.

The farewell ceremony took place, as is tradition, the next day at 6:30 p.m. at Richelieu Park in Calais.

THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND IS VERY COMPLICATED.

It is easy for the authorities to say, under these conditions, that they are doing everything they can to prevent crossings *in order to* save people's lives.

And they really do everything they can to make sure they don't get through. The Sub-Prefect of Dunkirk, at the first meeting we had with him on 10th October, stated that he is still fighting, every day, against increasingly violent groups who are trying to embark from Leffrinckoucke and other beaches. "It's coming from everywhere, it's a real guerrilla war... These departures are not negligible in the Northern Region. Those of us who walk along the seashore, however, no longer see, as they did not so long ago, abandoned, punctured dinghies, or traces of camps.

Departures are indeed moving westwards. We are impressed by the amount of people who regularly wait for the bus in front of Auchan Grande-Synthe in the direction of Calais. From Calais too, they move to the Boulonnais. Soon they will leave Roscoff...

We have known for a long time that preventing people from leaving only pushes them into much more difficult and dangerous situations. If the sea route is much longer, the risks are much greater...

Of course, it is not possible to know to what extent it is the police interventions or the weather that prevent passage the most. But after a very nice end of summer, the cold and humidity are back and add to the difficulties of those who want to go to sea.

In any case, an obvious reality is the increasing number of those stranded on our coastline. In Calais, on 5th September, the Salam team gave 582 breakfasts, 1216 on 5th October. In Loon-Plage, just over 200 hot meals were given on 5th September at noon and 545 on 5th October. Attendance records were broken on 27th October in Calais with 1,725 breakfasts and on 30th October in Loon-Plage with 780 lunches.

The situation is becoming worrisome for us. There is a shortage of foodstuffs: the Calais team stopped on 9th October to buy milk on the way (to make up for the lack of tea, which was distributed in full), and regularly sends someone to buy bread (on 13th and 18th October for example). On October 25th, the Salam team gave breakfast to more than 200 people, quai de la Moselle in the city centre, the next lot will not have a hot drink, there was no more... On the 29th they gave up distributing: there were only bananas left (no tea, no coffee, no bread...).

The Grande-Synthe team is inspired, on the advice of our president Jean-Claude Lenoir, by solutions tested at the time when Salam-Calais made the hot evening meal every day of the week for 800 or 1,000 people: draw a line on the ground to facilitate the setting up of the queue and have a hundred bags in reserve for latecomers (with a sandwich, a yoghurt, a piece of fruit...), so that the last ones don't leave empty-handed and to avoid tension.

We often wonder how long we can function, with our teams, our provisions and the large number of guests. But we're holding on, valiantly. They're holding up well, our friends, in the cold and the rain...

The atmosphere is tense and provokes fights between the communities: The increase in numbers, the fear of not having food for those who arrive late, increase the pressure, especially between Sudanese and Eritreans (old tensions between ethnic groups enhanced by the conflict in Palestine, which makes religious differences painfully felt?) and between Sudanese and Afghans.

On 13th October, the Sudanese prevented the "whites" from accessing the distribution of Salam at the Quai de la Moselle, and on 18th October.

On 29th September, it was the authorities who almost provoked a fight of extreme gravity: the sub-prefecture had decided to move the distribution point of the Vie Active (the land used until then, had been sold...) from Monday 2nd October and had warned the exiles: Eritreans and Sudanese would be served at the same time in the morning, in the same place: BMX.

The worst was to be expected.

On the morning of Monday, 2nd October, Eritreans armed with sticks were waiting for the Sudanese who also arrived... armed with sticks.

The atmosphere is tense, the police bring out their combat equipment, batons and tear gas...

It was Salam's team that managed to get the Sudanese back to the site of La Turquerie, by speaking in this "language" typical of the camps, which mixes a little French, a little English and a little of the languages of the exiles.

La Vie Active returned to its base without having distributed anything.

The objective conditions of the camps are as appalling as ever. What is bearable, if we wait a few days for a passage becomes unbearable if weeks are added to weeks, and for some months to months.

In Loon-Plage still no toilets, no water point (just a fire pump). Access to showers (provided by associations that can do so in gymnasium changing rooms) has just been stopped because of the number. It is currently reserved for women and children.

There will be no water point. The Sub-Prefect is firm on this: "The water point," he says, "is the beginning of trafficking in a camp. Look at the Linière, nowhere has there been more trafficking of all kinds (drugs, sex...) than on this camp. I don't know what the two things have to do with it, but he's convinced.

As for a dumpster, it is not its responsibility, it depends on the owner (the Port) or the Urban Community. We have asked for it so many times on both sides that we are losing hope.

In Calais, the situation is a little more comfortable – or rather less uncomfortable – thanks to the water distribution and toilets acquired from the Administrative Court in 2017. This is a reality, even if it remains very inadequate: a single water point, accessible 24 hours a day on rue des Huttes, and two places where there are site toilets (four on rue des Huttes and nine on the site known as "de l'Hôpital", where no one is allowed to camp anymore and which is two kilometres from the nearest campsite).

Currently, the water tank of the Quai de la Moselle (filled daily by CFC) has been seized, the exiles who are there no longer have access to drinking water. As for the distribution of meals, decided in January 2018 by Mr Macron, it also remains insufficient but above all its sustainability depends on the goodwill of the President of the Republic...

Everyone is asking us for a more dignified welcome, for the necessary infrastructure, which should be self-evident in the France of the 21st century. We multiply the requests, and we are told: "Let them go to CAES, there they will have a bed, toilets, showers... »

In these lines, we are in the habit of criticising the CAES which, contrary to what is often said, offer a reception period limited to one month after which (if they have not left before) they must apply for asylum. At the moment, however, there is a shortage of places and the disappointed ones are piling up.

In Calais, AUDASSE comes in the morning (on working days only) between 9 and 9:30 a.m.

On 4th October, there was only one minibus, some stayed on the sidewalk.

On 20th October, we saw some who slept on the spot, without tents, to be sure of leaving. In the early morning they were soaked and frozen. On the 27th more than a hundred men who had arrived early in the morning, and sometimes even the night before, to be in a good place in the queue, were refused: only the women and children were taken away. And these are just examples that the Salam volunteers witnessed because it was happening in front of them, during their morning distribution.

On the Loon-Plage side, it is the AFEJI that comes to pick up the volunteers for the CAES, in the morning (also on working days) with a bus.

On 18th October, the AFEJI did not pass, we learned that there were no places in CAES. About fifty people were waiting for them, Utopia 56 tells us. But during the evacuation on 19th October, the next day, there were at least four "sheltering" buses, and we wondered about the lack of seats the day before... At the end of the treatment, a dozen men were refused. On 26th October, AFEJI again announced to the Red Cross that there was no place, that they would not come. They are there the next day (without dismantling)...

Regular dismantling adds to the precariousness.

They take place in all weathers: on 13th October, you can see on the photos of the HRO the laundry drying in the rain at the BMX...



... and the state of the field



in Loon-Plage on 19th October and in Calais on 29th October.

They are always incomprehensible: the legal basis given to the HRO each time is flagrante delicto (occupation for less than 48 hours). This explains the astonishing response of a CRS officer on 26th October, at the small camp at exit 44 on the A16: A member of the HRO remarked to him: "These people have been living here for several months." To which the CRS replies: "Oh no, it was two days ago". In any case, the first police evacuation to this place took place on 4 September, more than a month and a half before the one on 24th October!

The occupation is still much older than the claimed 48 hours. Each time, people move around with their belongings and their tents:



They then relocate, often even before the departure of the police.



The CRS sometimes try to give meaning to their mission: at BMX, on 31st October, the HRO points out the absurdity of having people and tents moved and then resettled. The police officer who was arrested said that they too find it difficult to understand, that these people live in inhumane conditions, but that they also have a duty to check that there are no weapons.

In Calais, it is always every other day, twice after three days between 23rd October and the 26th and then between the 26th and the 29th. In the first case, the presence of MEPs in Calais, so the concern not to give too negative an image of the welcome in the city, could be the explanation...

Fifteen days of dismantling in October, sometimes in the morning, sometimes in the afternoon.

On 10th and 11th October, two days of evacuation followed: the work had not been finished on the first day... In addition, in the early afternoon of the 11th, the dismantling took place on the other sites, but there were not the usual 48 hours, after that of the previous day.

It was the definitive dismantling of the Turquerie site in Marck, the largest in the agglomeration. (The 10th was International Homelessness Day ...)

The evacuation began around 6:30 a.m., well before sunrise.



The forces of law and order were numerous: 15 gendarmerie vans, 17 CRS vans and 4 PAF vans



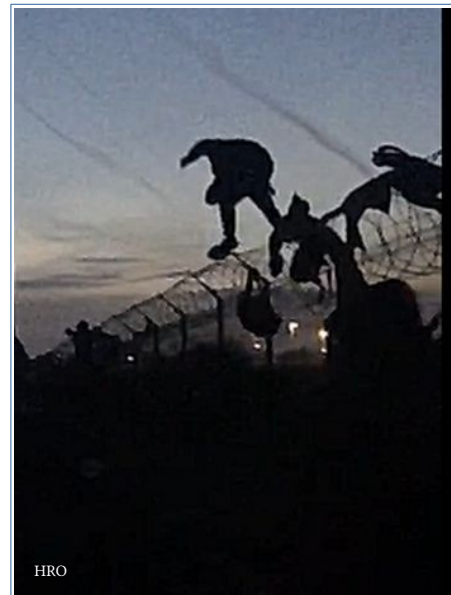
537 people were taken by bus (there were 350 gendarmes and police) according to the prefecture, in 12 buses. An armoured vehicle or a motorcyclist precedes the buses.



The exiles had no choice, or rather, as is often the case in such cases, they were left with the choice of getting on a bus or in the Border Police van. The site was surrounded, all exits blocked, and only those who were able to escape avoided the bus.



The first photo shows the tightly packed police cordon surrounding the exiles and in the foreground a man fleeing. The other two speak for themselves.
Gas used to help bring them together.



Contrary to usual, they were not able to take tents or tarpaulins, only a few personal belongings. The APC agents were picking up everything that was left, tents, tarpaulins, and personal belongings...

Then police officers were present throughout the night to prevent a relocation. The next day, everything was cleared.



The guys could then take their belongings, their tents but not the pallets. "It's going in the trash," was the instruction I received.

A riot police officer explained: "I don't know how long they have to get their belongings back. What is certain is that it must be cleaned up this morning."

These dismantling sometimes take place at the same time as our food distributions, which is a shame: on October 29th, the guys were running away with a piece of bread in their hands so that their tent would not be considered abandoned and therefore removed. But we have no way of predicting where and when the dismantling will take place.

We even found ourselves at the edge of the security perimeter (at the BMX on October 31st)!

But sometimes it is at the same time as the distribution of Active Life, mandated by the State.

We recognize the bags donated by the association...

And here there is a problem: the sub-prefecture knows perfectly in advance the schedule of food distributions and that of dismantling... She knows as well as we do that anyone who is not next to her tent can no longer find it: she is considered abandoned...



This is what a CRS calls "waste disposal" (HRO video from 8:36 a.m. on October 31st in the city center)!



The APC vehicles, which do the pick-up, are well known to all:

This rule is not always respected, in addition to the evacuation of October 10th when everything was removed in the early morning, we saw on October 31st, under a bridge in the city center, the men woken up by the police who took them out of their tents and carried them away.



Evacuations are often brutal (weapons – tear gas). But the officers responsible for these evacuations are not always hostile. On October 2nd, on Judea Street, people retrieve their equipment, which has simply been moved. The HRO overhears an APC agent say, "Oh they can get their stuff back, I don't care."

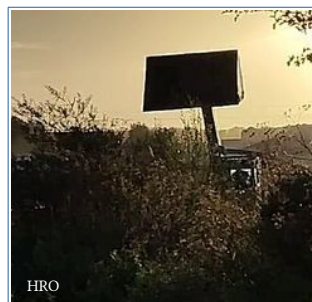
In Loon-Plage, since the end of January, there has been about one evacuation per month. The last one took place on September 26th and the one before that on August 8th...

But in October we find a much harder rhythm with three dismantlings: the 12th, the 19th and the 31st.



The police are still numerous (twenty CRS vans on the 12th, thirteen on the 19th (and eight from the PAF) and ten on the 31st. On the 19th, at least one LBD rifle was noticed.

On the 12th, the area of the shops was evacuated, as well as the camps on the other side of the D 601. On the 19th, shelters were destroyed...



...An excavator is in action...



... and the material is taken away in a very large truck.

On the 31st, the police said that they would only evacuate the entrance to the motocross, and that the associations had access to the official distribution place.

Five buses left for shelter on the 12th, at least four on the 19th (and in the end a dozen men were refused) and three on the 31st.



Roots' water tanks were spared: on the 12th they were able to move them, on the 19th one of them was picked up by a crane, concern mounted, but the tank was only moved.



On the 19th, the van of a volunteer from Salam was seized, in the presence of the Sub-Prefect.

He had entered the site prior to the establishment of the security perimeter. He was sheltering exiles' belongings in the vehicle, including tents and equipment belonging to the camp's small businesses. He refuses to empty them because he is told that everything will be put in the trash.

He is escorted out of the camp and has his vehicle removed on a plateau.

He protested and expected to be taken into custody. In the end, it was only deposited (it had to be carried!) in the middle of the Port of Dunkirk, in a place where there were no witnesses. He then filed a complaint against the bailiff who had not given him a "seizure report" in accordance with the law. No one bothered to explain to him that this document is only given to the owner of the vehicle, but this van is lent to him by a friend who lives in the Tarn!



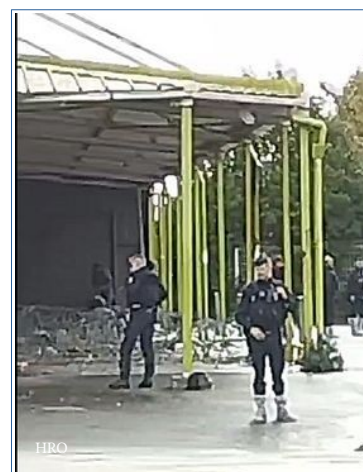
On the evening of 24th October, the HRO was not present, but groups of exiles complained that the police had passed between the highway and the railway that day, destroyed equipment and seized tents. The testimonies are too numerous to be suspected of fabrication. On the same day, machines cleared the area (cutting and clearing work). Was it necessary to clear the way for the work?...

A road was built on which tents were quickly set up... dry!

On the 31st, during the evacuation, 300 people returned from failed departures in dinghies.

Obstacles to the settlement of exiles and to the work of associations are not uncommon.

Barbed wire is installed at the Magestic site in Calais to prevent people from settling in this place where they can take shelter from the weather. In Loon-Plage, it was to tell us that our vehicles would be seized if we continued to set up near the companies that the Sub-Prefect had invited us to the meeting on October 10th: they complained of being put in difficulty by the cumbersome presence of the exiles. The police, in the days before, encouraged us to set up either on the plain recently ploughed with a bucket on September 13th (it's a photo taken in last month's newsletter) that we had abandoned for this reason...





.. or at the entrance of the camp in the middle of the stalls (which sell cigarettes, water and skewers). However, it is a place where the associations that distribute food are very badly regarded, because they compete with the stalls with their free meals...

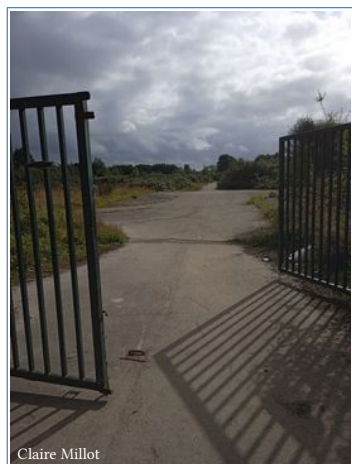


On 4th October, an inter-associative demonstration was organised in Grande-Synthe to demand a distribution site that offers dignity and safety.



More than fifteen volunteers from Salam were present.

In fact, the Sub-Prefect had already negotiated with the Port (owner of the land) access for organizations to a plot of land that is not suitable for everyone but which is very good for us: a large and tarmacked space, so that we will not get bogged down, on which it is possible to make a long queue, straight upright.



Admittedly, it's a dead end, but the elders among us count on the fingers of one hand the distribution places we have known that were not dead ends!

We can only hope that the winter won't be too harsh, that many of our friends will find sheltering solutions worthy of the name to wait for spring, in short, that Santa Claus will come by for them!

Claire Millot.

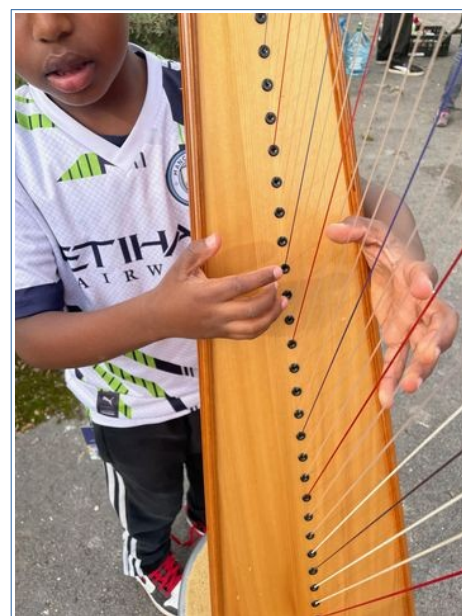
JUMP/SAVE WHO CAN...!

As soon as the little harp gets out of the car, it's Kipur who comes to the reception. Big smile bursting under a beautiful summer sun on 9th October. He is just 8 years old. With its parents and two brothers, they left Ethiopia when he was 6. After an interminable journey the family ended up in Denmark.

This country, like all others, has driven them out. Today, they hope and dream of the UK...

A few details aside, this same story has been repeated for years without anything changing.

to put an end to the ordeal of all these uprooted families... STOP! When will our authorities finally change their tune and be at the forefront of all these flayed human beings Vivid, no matter where they come from or what colour their skin is?



An irresistible little harp that attracts young and old alike... Baschir approaches with his very young son Rodge perched on his shoulders. He clutches in his little hand a fluorescent yellow toy that can easily slip into his pocket when they try to cross the Channel again. Ratch, 5 years old, on his heels reaches for the ropes. The next moment, his little brother dares to join him by tumbling down his dad's shoulders.



Houier recounts their journey in broken but understandable English. Very similar to that of Baschir a few minutes before... Little Armina, 4 years old, is also playing with a lot of concentration and all to discover the sound of the harp.

As I share the joy of these little children, I can't help but think about how to get there. When will pass that moment when their parents will literally have to throw them aboard the dinghy, walk to be able to jump in there... My heart sinks... Since the "Tyre-taxis" no longer dock, they pass through the water, with the engine running and, jumping, Save who can to take refuge there! Except for one letter, it's life or drowning.

A few days ago, a young girl was trampled on. This morning, another young man drowned. On average, one death per week since the refugee smugglers set up. This new practice was used to spare their dinghies from being "stabbed" by the CRS. How many children separated from their parents? My eyes are on Rodge, Ratch and Armina. Too many young people to propel themselves on the dinghy and in any case they won't have a foothold...

Already a lot of weight for parents to lift... All soaked... However, the conditions have become extremely dangerous. The lives of each of our friends are at stake.

the one with the longest legs...

Precisely, in the interminable queue where everyone waits to receive the only hot meal of the day cooked and served by Salam's volunteers, a huge boy, more than 2 meters tall, attracts my gaze: Adak. He bears a striking resemblance to JT, a 16-year-old inmate, met in the miners' district in Fleury Mérogis. For the past few months, the harp works in the largest prison in Europe with young girls and boys.

Many passed through Calais/Grande-Synthe. JT asked me, "When you go to If you meet a South Sudanese, tell him I'm fine, alive... in prison... ». Adak doesn't know him, but he's heard about the burning dinghy where one of them died in August. JT was charged with manslaughter and incarcerated. 'Contracts' between smugglers, potential candidates, promises, payments, debts... create strained relationships and and it is common practice to blame a minor whov'takes' less than an adult... JT proclaims his innocence even on the drawings he offers me at the end of the harp tours. Despite his thirst for freedom, he fears the exit and reprisals of those who sent him to detention...

Suddenly, a buzzing sound. We all roll our eyes. A drone flies over the waiting line.

All our friends quickly bow their heads in order to preserve their anonymity.

Particularly intrusive, the aircraft passes us just above at very low altitude. In a

At first, we think of the police, then we see the cameraman and the

Belgian TV journalist who put the machine in their vehicle... Of course, Claire is not happy with this lack of respect when they had promised not to photographing/filming faces... Meanwhile, Baschir has just slipped the harp under his arm and urges me to follow him. He takes me to his family, who are eating, gathered right on the in a nice, improvised picnic, almost pleasant in the sun. They take advantage of of this 'enchanted' meal with joy and their smiles accompanied by their applause.

Enthusiasts are contagious and lighten hearts.

The small harp sails from small groups to large families and lands with a dozen or so women busy after their meal, filling the boxes of food in order to get some food

Take a single filled to the brim for those who couldn't walk to this point,

even farther away from the tents than before. The long queue is always long

steps. The Salam truck is empty. Little Armina is in tears. Too late... Her little legs

were not able to carry it as quickly as those of the more than 700 people who arrived before it.

Claire hands him the last piece of bread and the last banana. But the little one's mouth was moist

at the sight of the trays of rice in the hands of the adults we meet along the way... Following the

Armina and her mother will be offered a bottom of a tray of rice by the mother of Rodge and Ratch who didn't eat it all.

Luckily between families,

Generosity, solidarity and humanity are the tripod of their survival. Laughter and carefree joy with the children back, it's time to go home and unload the large vehicle, filled to the brim by donations from friends of Music for Life and for a Better World as well as tarpaulins of Bunker Damocles. Thank you, Pierrot! Leaving the camp, there was still no water, just a half-plastic container full of water marinating in the sun... Crouching in front of a large flat stone, Magda washes some children's clothes. She points to the sun and waves goodbye.

Everything will dry faster today... At the fire near Auchan, a young man, with a blank stare, exhausted, barefoot, hair and clothes dripping, shoes dangling from the wrist, waiting to be able to cross... Three more in the same state a little further on... The weather is fine, the sea is good and the 'dinghies/taxis' take advantage of this to increase the number of crossing at the risk of the lives of the 'passengers'... I hope that Pascaline and Pierre will be able to help them Sleep drier tonight.

On the highway, a little wink, a mini rainbow out of nowhere that gives hope...



Yesterday afternoon, back in Fleury Mérogis, JT stands out from the group of young people by his size, boys who are looking forward to the visit of the harp. The story of these journeys in the Nord is particularly captivating to them. All of a sudden, JT bursts out laughing and joyful! "Yes! Grandma Boss in Calais! She gives me good hot tea and dry clothes early in the morning... I love her! ..." (Yes! Grandma Boss in Calais! She gives hot tea and clothes dry early in the morning... I love it! ... One of her 'babies' survived the worst and continues to smile at Life from prison... just thinking of her and her great generosity of heart that inspire his drawings of the day...

Thank you, Claire and thank you to all the joyful team of Salam, these moments of sharing in all humanity in your company are so precious. The little harp will of course come back!

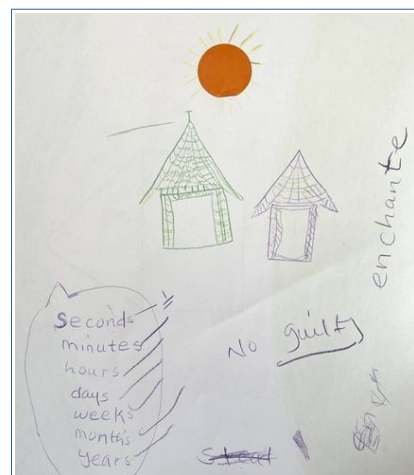
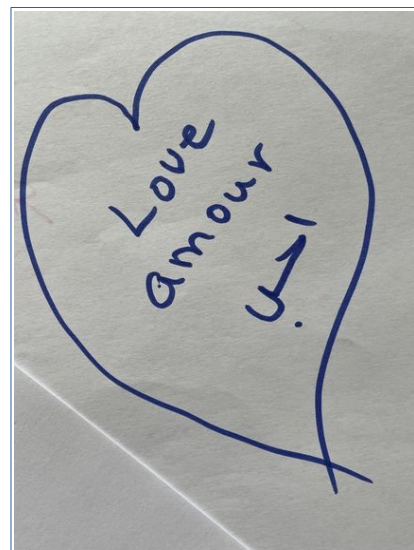
PS via Whats App, October 14:

JT in prison is very endearing. He often draws the two huts of his family in Sudan and for his list of the time count next to the 'no guilty' he explained to me "If you miss 1 second, you waste 1 minute and if you miss 1 minute, you waste 1 hour... 1 day... 1 week... 1 month... 1 year... 1 life ... " related to the fact that he missed the canoe in flight ...

He could be in hatred and revenge, but in his great wisdom, despite his young age, he remains in love. Normal for a Yolaine baby, right? Thank you for being there for them!

Text and photos Bélanda M. Welton

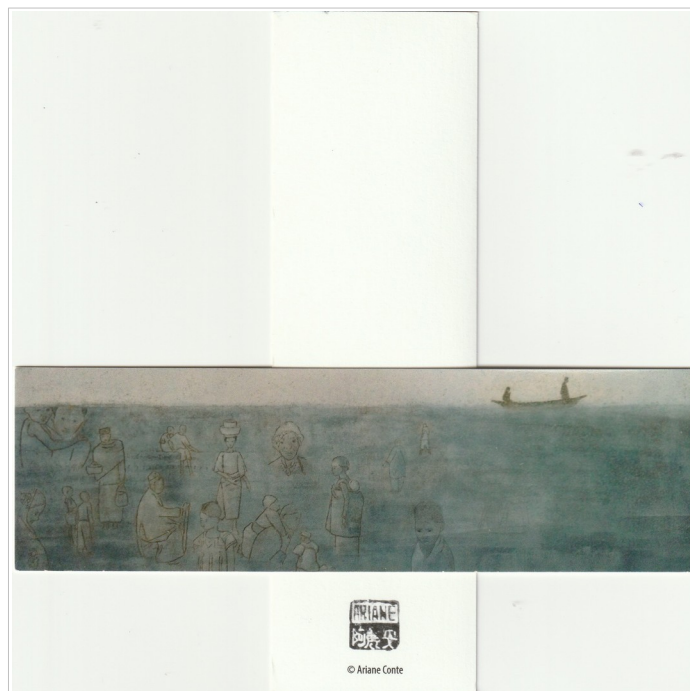
The drawings are by JT, from the prison of Fleury Mérogis.





DALI

Our Lady drops her children into the sea
*Painting signed "Gala Salvador Dali, 1943",
private collection EUA.*



ARIANE CONTE

This picture is edited as a bookmark.

AT THE SAME TIME AND ELSEWHERE... LIVING TOGETHER?

While we are fighting here to feed more and more hundreds of people, to get tents at the best price, to win a simple dumpster...
What's happening elsewhere?

On 5th October, some of the 10,000 migrants who disembarked in Lampedusa between 11th and 13th September arrived in Paris. Here too, as Yann Manzi, founder of Utopia 56, told BFMTV, it's "welcome from the sidewalk".

In Paris... Yes...

But hospitality in Greece has been a tradition, a sacred law, since ancient times...

However, it is also the "welcome by the sidewalk". The two photos below were taken by one of our supporters from the Ardèche, in Athens on 6th October:



A teacher is stabbed to death in a high school in Arras on 13th October.

Two Swedes were shot dead on 16th October in Brussels.

In both cases, the killers did not know the victims at all, but they are presented as fanatics, radicalized, as part of their religion.

It is a religion that advocates respect for human life:

"Whoever has killed a human being not guilty of murder or sedition on Earth is considered to have killed all mankind; and whoever has saved the life of a single human being is considered to have saved the life of all mankind" (Qur'an 5/32).

And a little further?

At least 200 people die in a Gaza hospital on 17th October. Whether it's an Israeli attack or a Palestinian Islamic Jihad miss, it feels like there's a contest of horrors going on between the two sides...

What happened to Yasser Arafat's dream in 1974 of a democratic and secular state over all of Palestine, bringing together Palestinians and Israelis?

Let us continue our fight for "living together" by helping with one voice and one hand the Eritreans who are Christian and the Sudanese who are Muslims, the Syrians who are white and the Ethiopians who are black.

Claire Millot.

YOU COAL-TONGUED CROWS, FOR PITY'S SAKE, SHUT UP!

This text by Cédric Herrou defends above all "living together". That's what we're fighting for... As such, it has its rightful place in our pages.

For a break, I forgot to turn on the radio, forgot about social media, forgot to read, forgot about the world running, falling, tearing itself apart.

Like an old tox who plunges back into vice, I plunge back into a world that is being torn apart for a while.

I hear, I read these hastily written communiqués from the right and the left, reacting to these tragedies without respect for the victims, their loved ones and their families, they croak, indecently, like crows at the sight of a pack of wolves moving away from a disembowelled herd.

I hear, I read those politicians who, instead of soothing the pain of this world that is being torn apart, that is falling through the madness of men - yes, always those male men - blow with their deadly breaths on the embers of a fire of hatred, this fire that spreads through their mouths like a virus is transmitted. I would have liked the silence of decency, for this wind to stop, for these politicians to close this orifice serving as their mouth, I would like to see their tongues crystallize like a lump of black, dirty coal. In the face of their speeches, my thoughts cry out silently: Be silent!

Silence is not forgetting. Stop talking to think about yourself, about the other, grieving, digesting, trying to understand.

My relatives, my friends, are Jews, Muslims, Catholics, atheists, poor or rich, bourgeois or precarious, all crying. They are the "whole" that makes plurality, the "we", the we, all with this value that makes us want to live together, in respect despite our differences. Utopian, you might say, but not believing in pacifism only serves war.

I often hear these Men with poisonous mouths describe us as idealists; these same men blow on the fire under the pretext of wanting to extinguish it when they are its fuel. Shut up. No, I will not support one or the other, but the victims of both. I will never be on the side of the executioner. To think that the Jews of the world are unanimously right-wing colonizers, to think that all Muslims are extremists without conscience, to think that all foreigners are harmful to our society, to think that all poor people are profiteers of the social system, to think that authoritarianism will alienate violence: stupidity, aberration, lies. This fascistic thinking will lead us to an authoritarian society, depriving us of our individual and collective freedoms, in the service of the thinking of the most powerful who wish to silence those who think differently. The ideal world will never be achieved, violence will always be present, let us not fall into this authoritarian lie that makes us believe that peace will be the fruit of discrimination or violence. I wish you all, even you coal-tongued crows, the most peaceful life ever, but for pity's sake keep quiet.

Cédric Herrou .

This text is taken from his Facebook page.

Thierry, a volunteer from Salam, contacted him to ask for permission to publish it in our Newsletter.

The answer was, "Yes, of course, that's what it's made for..." »

VOLUNTEER FEELINGS.

MOMENTS OF ANGER:

Calais today (28th October)

Horrible rain and nothing but mud everywhere.





Hundreds of men without shoes, without coats.

No one is talking about opening the cold plan as if it's normal to have to live in the mud. They're hungry... very hungry. The only association mandated by the State is there too little... too short. And all this happens in near silence. Yet we should howl in the face of so much injustice and inhumanity.



Calais this morning... (29th October)
Cold... Wind... Rain
Even a small tent in the mud is apparently too much for our refugee friends.

There's nothing to stop the police from coming to chase them away... harass... and take away their few possessions.

It is shameful and far, far from the freedom, fraternity and humanity that the refugees thought they would find in France.

We leave them in the rain with hunger in their stomachs.

Because even feeding them properly is not a priority in this state of disenfranchisement.

Text and photos: Ferri Matheeuwsen

MOMENT OF GRACE:

Too many food distributions went wrong this month, or took place in an atmosphere of great tension. Clashes between ethnic groups, fears of not having food, waiting too long...

So let's talk about a successful distribution, the kind we'd like to see every day.

It was 5th October. We were behind the Clauser company, on a dead-end road, blocked at the entrance by cement studs, so ideal for a distribution line: a ribbon of tarmac, quite wide, very long, closed at both ends, and the back of the truck opened between two studs.

The queue begins, slowly, gradually and gently, getting longer and longer. So it was easy to put the few free-riders in their place, especially since the guys in line helped by roaring loudly when a newcomer tried to slip into the line.

Suddenly, I see a man step out of the line and unceremoniously push the others to the side.

I don't understand, I'm about to intervene... but... Of course! The road is separated into two lanes by a broken white line. He set up the line so that it was perfectly straight and there could not be two people abreast. And everyone played the game, the next ones were added, in a row, on the line...



Then, ADRA (who had provided breakfast) had forgotten a hydro-alcoholic liquid spray. Another takes the bottle and goes from guy to guy, obediently stretches out his hands and disinfects them, all the way to the end of the line.

The atmosphere was joyful, it was easy to have a little conversation with them, in the language specific to the camps: Provençal Polish-Breton, as our friend Henri would say. A lot of Afghans, Sudanese, not so many Kurds...

In these conditions, we come back every day, without the slightest worry...

Texte et photos: Claire Millot.

THANK YOU

FIRST, AS ALWAYS, THANK YOU TO THE VOLUNTEERS.

Thanks especially to the youngest, this month: Charlie, granddaughter of Guy and Régine Dequeker, was there on 23rd October.

Very active in distribution, she started with the bread, then prepared the trays for the hot dish.

She had already been here in October 2020 and May 2021. She was 6 years old the first time, she must be now nine years old.

Thank you to those who do the day-to-day work,

In particular :

- the new ones, including the two sons of Clothilde, a Monday volunteer. Good blood would not know how to lie.
 - the returning alumni (Patrick and Jean-Paul from FTS on 24th October, with a promise to return),
 - the current ones who work extra days to help (Geneviève, Ghislaine...)
- the occasional ones, like Joao who, as a good neighbour, contributed to the fight against rats in the basement of the Guérin room (the rat poison used had been very effective in the Calais room) and alerts us to each flood.



preparation and distribution,
in Calais:

We would also like to welcome the
return of our photographer friend
Laurent Prun.



In Loon-Plage: in photo, the queue and the head of the line of 17th October.

But these have no merit, because on Tuesday, 10th October, some of them, thanking them, promised them paradise! Not too fast, they hope...

DIY,

First of all, to those who knew how to talk at the pump: Zarwali on 28th October, Geneviève who got out of the car one evening to “tickle” the float, and especially Jean-Pierre who cleaned it completely.

The same Jean-Pierre came during lunchtime (Thursday 26th) to fix the leaky toilet tap, and he had changed the security group the day before (for the hot water tank in the kitchen). Thanks to it, everything works normally.

collections (especially the young people who load and sort the Emmaus surpluses on Saturdays under Marie's maternal eye: in particular on 14th October, Houmani, Idriss, Aboubacar, Mamadou Camara and Soukouna, etc.)

material handling,

So many of us have carried crates, bags of clothes, blankets, made extra trips to donors that I don't want to mention them...

Congratulations to the Calais team who started making waterproof skirts, which are very useful for autumn distributions. The ladies have not yet said whether they will try to commercialize their invention.

THANK YOU TO THOSE, KNOWN OR UNKNOWN, WHO HAVE GIVEN US GIFTS FOR OUR EXILED FRIENDS, in food and non-food items, often by discreetly placing a box or a shopping bag. A batch of six pumpkins was more difficult to introduce discreetly.



They were offered to us by a lady from Wormhout, a former volunteer of the Secours Catholique at the time when we were going to distribute in Loon-Plage (in the camp evacuated in September 2010!)

Thanks also to Marie-Ange D. who goes through André D. (pillar of Salam) to donate hygiene products, deodorants, shower gels, shampoos, diapers and sanitary napkins once a week. She also gives away clothes she has washed.



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

As in the last few months, the most important donations were in the bakery for our team in Calais:

First thank you email:

The month of September ended with a week of two days of sumptuous deliveries of bread and pastries, gifts from our Friends of the World...

And the month of October opened with a week with three days of largesse this time (2nd, 3rd and 5th October,): another sumptuous bakery delivery by our same friends:

On Monday we saw a van of pastries and bread arrive at the Calais premises and on Tuesday more baguettes and pastries. And on Thursday, it was a lot of bread again.

On 2nd Monday, we broke the record for the number of visitors to our breakfasts, with 1,677 guests. You can measure how valuable your help is.

And the friends from Lampedusa haven't arrived yet...

Thank you Christian, thank you Caroline, thank you to the whole Copains du Monde/ Secours Populaire team.

For Salam's team and for the exiles it allows him to help.

WhatsApp message from Christian Hogard about the 11th October delivery:

A partnership worthy of the name between the CEFRAL of Dunkirk and the Secours Populaire... by the village of the Copains du Monde of Loon-Plage... Several times a week, the van of the Copains du Monde de Loon-Plage is parked in the courtyard of CEFRAL (the European Training Centre for Apprentices in the Food Trades, and more particularly in the bakery branch).

An agreement signed between the board of directors and Christian Hogard, representing the Secours Populaire, now makes it possible, several times a week, to collect several pallets of fresh bread and large quantities of pastries... who systematically take the direction of Calais, where the van of the Copains du Monde is now widely identified, to drop off all these goods at our Friends in Salam..



To this must be added large quantities of bread collected from our Friends of the Creative Association of Coudekerque branch and again in the direction of Calais where our Friends of Salam always see an arrival of the van of the friends of the world with its activists who bring for the most vulnerable people, if only for breakfast, an egg of friendly and fraternal warmth. Fraternal friendships and, above all, solidarity Christian Hogard Director of the International Villages of the World's Friends Children



Caroline Hogard



Caroline Hogard



Caroline Hogard

Thank you email from Salam...

Each week is punctuated by donations from Copains du Monde in bakery.

The second week of October saw two more important deliveries of bread and pastries:

from the courtyard of the CEFRAL in Dunkirk (where they fill up), to the pavement of the rue des Fontinettes in Calais (where they empty in front of Salam's premises), the happiness delivery machine has worked well! on the 11th and 12th this week...

Thank you Christian, thank you Caroline, thank you all the team of the Secours populaire / Copains du Monde, on behalf of our team and our friends who were particularly shaken up these days with the total evacuation, on the 10th, of the very large camp of La Turquerie in Marck in Calais.

... and its president, Jean-Claude Lenoir:

Thank you very much

Welcome this delivery, all the more so in this tense period relationally!!

See you soon

Jclaude

Email of thanks from Salam after the deliveries of October 17th and 19th:

And at the milkman's time... Tuesday 17th and Thursday 19th...

Well no, it's not the milkman who passed by rue des Fontinettes, it's the baker...

the baker Copain du Monde and friend of the exiles of Le Monde: about twenty cases of bread and pastries, each time, for the stomachs, always hungry, who are always waiting for Grandma Yolaine's breakfasts.

Many thanks to your entire team.

From empty bellies and full hearts.

WhatsApp message from Christian Hogard about the 19th October delivery:

This Thursday lunchtime, not only a few boxes of bread were dropped off at our Friends of Salam in Calais, but more than 40 boxes... and in addition 30 boxes of biscuits... enough to help our Friends of Salam. It was Christian who went to meet Yolaine. Together, they discussed the upcoming humanitarian emergency events... This partnership work is extremely important for the cohesion of the activities between the Secours Populaire, Salam and of course the friends from around Loon-Plage who manage the smooth running of the actions and ensure not only the collection of bread from the various partners but also all the deliveries in Calais...

thank the dedication of Yolaine and her teams, who are working in difficult and dangerous conditions to ensure the smooth running of humanitarian actions for vulnerable populations...

Hats off to the ARTISTS.

Fraternal friendships and, above all,
solidarity Christian Hogard

Immediate response from Salam:

So 40 boxes of heartfelt thanks to Secours Populaire from Salam and 30 boxes of big kisses to all the Friends of the World!



On the Grande-Synthe side, 19th October,

We received a delivery of crates of zucchini, and above all a collection of bags of onions, just about enough to get through the winter!



Thank you once again to Onjali and his association "O's Refugee Aid Team" who have been offering us a large food fund every month since November.*

On 18th October, Henri unloaded ten large 20 kg bags of rice, brought by Caroline, Onjali's faithful messenger.

On the 24th, Caroline was back with the boxes of vegetables:

- Raz El Hanout and Curcumin (1 large sachet of each),
- 3 large cans of couscous vegetables,
- 6 large cans of peeled tomatoes
- 3 large tins of peas,
- 2 large cans of double tomato paste,
- 3 large cans of ratatouille vegetables.

Thanks to the CFA du Doulac, who helps us through Ursula:

On 7th October, Ursula collected a nice quantity of vegetables: zucchini, tomatoes, cucumbers, beets, melons, chard, cauliflower...

On the 21st, Ursula brought us more vegetables from the same place.

Thank you to the Maison de Quartier de Rosendaël and to Marion who makes the link with them:

On 18th October, they baked a nice batch of chocolate and jam pancakes, brought the next day by José for distribution at the camp.



Thank you to the churches that called on parishioners for textile collections:

- The little chapel of Notre-Dame des Dunes in Dunkirk where we once again collected a lot of blankets, and thanks to José who went to get them.
- The church of Bergues that has been collecting for us since Lent: This month, four big bags of clothes and blankets (from someone who was emptying a house and thought of us.)

Thank you for the donation of a hundred tents, received on 31st October.



Thanks to Audotri,
Heavy supplier of covers, (the photos of 16th and 30th October are only examples):
as well as clothes from time to time (photo below from 30th October): jackets, socks, scarves, duvets, jogging pants, jogging tops, boxer shorts...

and also the intermediary of Denis C.



Thank you to our friend B  linda, from "Music for Life", back with us on 9th October (see her testimonial above: "Jump/Save who can... ") with his car full of textile donations.

Thanks to Jean-Paul and Patrick from FTS

who brought us blankets when they came with us to the distribution,

Thanks to the institution in Maldegem, Belgium,

At whose house we went back to pick up our blankets on 3rd and 11th October.



Thank you to the grannies of the Val des Roses in Dunkirk who gave another tote bag full of hats that they knitted.

Jos   goes to get one about once a month.

AND FINALLY, THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE DONATED MONEY TO US, 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 everyone (close friends and strangers) who slipped us a note, sent a check, made a transfer directly or by Helloasso.

THANK YOU TO BETHLEHEM, TO FLANDRES TERRE SOLIDAIRE, TO THE PROTESTANT MUTUAL AID, to the Auberge des Migrants who share with us the ton of bananas offered by CONHEXA once a week, to EMMAUS who give us surpluses every week, for Calais as well as for Grande-Synthe, to the Maison Sésame which shares with us two mornings a week the surplus fruit and vegetables from the ALDI store on rue du Kruysbellaert, to the Ressourcerie de Montreuil-sur-Mer ("Il était deux fois") and to the Secours Catholique de Berck which supply each month clothes brought to Calais by André de Merlimont, to the JARDINS DE COCAGNE, to the COMORIAN LAMES, to the RESTAURANT DU CAP in Escalles, to the bakeries in Calais and to those opposite the Noordover, "La mie du pain" and "Au bon pain d'autrefois " in Coudekerque. Week after week, they are there to help us. **Thank you to HRO and to Olivier Schitteck and Geoff Motyer, who allow 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 Guérin room available free of charge for about fifteen years.

THANK YOU to Michel who has been in charge of 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 also been managing the Facebook Page** since 2017, **and to Guillaume who introduced us to the LinkedIn network** a year and a half ago.

Claire Millot.

OUR VOLUNTEERS NEEDS

Dunkirk:

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

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 those with driver's licenses:

Meet at 8 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 keep the association's work going:

Maintenance of premises and vans, fuel, purchase of food that is in short supply...

Go to 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 made out 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 that you buy one: the life expectancy of a tent is a few days...

On the other hand, tarpaulins, pieces of 3m by 3m (or 2.50 m by 3 m), 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).

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

Gfrom 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, shopping bags and plastic bags)

Foodstuffs for Calais:

JAM,

Milk

tea and sugar, instant coffee,

biscuits (or pastries, or cake bars or cakes etc...)

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

And for Grande-Synthe:

Mostly canned vegetables of all kinds (we have been getting a lot less fresh produce lately), bags of pulses,

Drop off your donations in the Salle Guérin, 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

There's nothing stopping you from still taking your membership for 2023.

The membership form is attached to this mailing.

If you are not yet a member, please 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 2022, already more than 200 at the end of April 2023, help us to exceed the 300 thresholds.

CONTACT US

<http://www.associationsalam.org>
salamnordpasdecalais@gmail.com

Facebook page: [SALAM Nord/Pas-de-Calais](#)

And the new LinkedIn page, which can be consulted on the following link :

www.linkedin.com/in/association-salam-nord-pas-de-calais

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

Association SALAM
BP 47
62100 CALAIS



Bulletin d'adhésion 2023

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.