

SALAM



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

www.associationsalam.org

Photo © François Legéat

MARCH 2024 NEWSLETTER

PHOTO OF THE MONTH



Denise Cassignat

No one, truly no one, should be forced to survive in misery camping in France during the 21st century... No one, and especially not young children, like this little boy with the spoon...

Claire Millot.

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Every European election
Could be a CHANCE!
Every European election
Is a lost opportunity!
This could be an opportunity to
establish a CONSENSUAL PROJECT.
Its basis could be respect for HUMANITY!
Remember that access to water should be a UNIVERSAL RIGHT!
Access to hygiene, the minimum for human dignity.
Obviously: food, shelter.....
Indeed, the list goes on.
Yet the famous "jungle" against which so many are currently speaking out,
could have served as a source of change.

It was certainly very imperfect, but the State had recognized the need for it:

- Distribute meals
 - To create a temporary shelter
 - Arrange daily meetings with social workers
 - To make available:
 - o Showers
 - o Toilets
 - o laundry rooms
 - o mobile phone top-up options
 - To try to relocate "OFPRA" to Calais in order to grant asylum. "OFPRA" is the public administrative government office created by law in 1952. In charge of the application of the Geneva Convention of 28th July 1951 relating to the status of refugees, it rules independently on asylum and statelessness requests submitted to it.
 - And above all, A PLACE TO LIVE and EXCHANGE
- In fact, acknowledging to our "FRIENDS" that they are simply HUMANS like us.

Why not remind our rulers that this was possible.....
LET US ALL be ambassadors of this reminder!

Jean-Claude Lenoir.

EVENTS OF THE MONTH

THE LATEST DEATHS: To the horror is added the horror: a little girl and a drowned man whose bodies have not been recovered...

March is spring.

However, this year (gloomy weather, deforestation, indeed both?) not even a few flowers on the photos received at the beginning of the month...

Really none?

Of course not... Little Roula's grave was covered with them.

It was this little girl who drowned during the night of 3rd/4th March in the Aa canal near Watten (about thirty kilometres from the sea...). We announced it at the "last minute" at the beginning of last month's newsletter.

On 7th March, many of us gathered and put flowers on her grave in the new cemetery of Grande-Synthe. Salam had brought 50 tulips that mingled with the others in a beautiful movement of solidarity.



It was a sober but dignified ceremony; At the end, the Dad wanted to thank everyone present. He said he didn't feel like he was in a foreign land...

At the suggestion of the parish priest of Grande-Synthe, the parishioners the following Sunday raised a sum of money to help pay for the funeral. It is still possible to participate in this fundraising which helps to pay the funeral expenses of the exiles or the repatriation of the bodies at the requests of their family:

<https://www.helloasso.com/associations/le-reveil-voyageur/collectes/help-us-honor-those-killed-on-the-french-british-border>

On the same night, in much the same place, Jumaa, a 27-year-old Syrian who had tried to swim to a boat and leave for the United Kingdom, disappeared.

His body was not found until Tuesday 19th. The search, despite the quick report by the other exiles present, had not lasted more than an hour...

In addition to this death, there is the scandal of this tragic negligence...

Salam had signed the inter-associative press release calling for the resumption of the search and announcing that on 12th March the public prosecutor of Dunkirk had been seized by the supporters to reopen an investigation.

In addition to the usual farewell ceremony, "so that we never get used to it and so that it stops", the next day, Wednesday 20th March, at 6.30 p.m. in the Parc Richelieu, a second commemoration was added on Thursday 21st, Place de la Gare in Dunkirk.



From now on, there will always be a commemoration at Dunkirk station, the day after Calais station.

PASSAGES IN THE UNITED KINGDOM.

These deaths should put an end to the authorities' zeal to prevent crossings, but this is not the case... Otherwise, who would have the idea of setting off on a boat several dozen kilometres from the sea, either to cross the Channel in this way, or to pass once they arrived on a more suitable boat... And under what conditions do we move from one to the other?

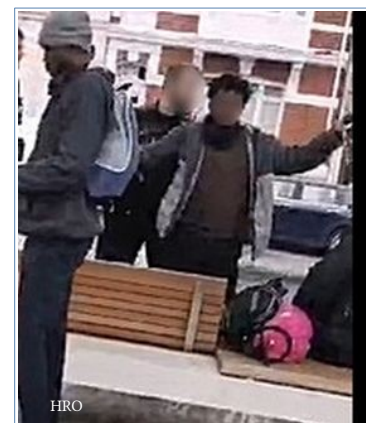
On the contrary, these deaths justify for the authorities the multiplication of obstacles. However, they encourage longer and more risky journeys. We read in the press that drones will now monitor the rivers...

Train Stations are monitored to discourage arrivals.

On 17th March, in Calais-Ville, two cars of the National Police, two vans of the PAF and seventeen members of the Forces of Order were waiting for the candidates to leave.

One hundred people first broke through the roadblock by getting off the train.

Then at the station square, at the departure of the buses, the Human Rights Observers witnessed the search and arrest of three people, taken to Coquelle for checking of the residence permits that authorize them to be in France. As if they could be expected to have some!



Interventions by the police at sea to prevent the departure of small boats or to bring them back to shore raise questions. For several months, there have been incidents of attempts to leave on the coast.

The press is beginning to relay these scandalous (murderous and illegal) interventions of the forces of law and order on the water:

See "Le Monde" and "La Voix du Nord" dated 26th March. The articles are on Salam's website www.associationsalam.org in the "News" section.

During our distributions, we see the new arrivals and the groups that are forming to reach the points of departure.

On 2nd March, in Grande-Synthe, we met several groups on the road who were getting ready to leave for the beaches.

On the same day in Calais, behind the PASS, we witnessed a gathering of exiles who were preparing to cross: among them, babies, a woman with an 8 or 9-month-old baby in a buggy, a dozen children a little older. (Since then, we've seen more large gatherings for the start, at the same location.)

On 2nd March, there are also many of them at the bus shelter next to the train station.

When it's not raining, we give a very young boy a rain cape (a rare commodity reserved for rainy days). It's to try his luck: "Game" he says...

The weather is better and, despite all the difficulties encountered, there are more crossings.

The Home Office's figures bear witness to this (they do not represent the number of arrivals but only the number of those they welcome):

3,181 in March: 1,152 between March 3rd and 10th on 24 boats, 900 between March 17th and 21st on 19th 338 on the 26th on 7 canoes and 791 on March 30th and 31 on 16th (about 48 per canoe).

This is the highest figure since the end of the summer.

But many miss the passage.

On 3rd March in Calais we came across a lot of returns after a failure: a boat with 64 people overturned, for example.

A family with three little ones, has once again missed the passage...

The number of breakfasts given by Salam is very difficult to predict:

On 6th March, many new people arrived to get through: we had to go and buy bread and jam. (883 breakfasts, one hundred more than the day before).

But on 8th March, only 653 people showed up: the others had left to try to cross (230 fewer than the day before).

DISMANTLING :

EXPLANATIONS ON THE LEGAL BASIS, BY RESPONSIBLE POLICE OFFICERS: Faithful transcription of the remarks recorded by the HRO in Calais:

1st February:

"We are in the midst of a judicial investigation.

Every 48 hours we make reports, we find (on the basis of complaints that landlords file with us) that there are indeed migrants.

There is a complaint that is filed. This complaint results in us making findings to corroborate or not, what is said by the complainant. Observations are being made. Then, on the basis of these observations, we come every 48 hours to the field to observe and therefore ask people to leave the premises, or even to call them out if they refuse to leave*.

Is there a complaint filed every 48 hours?

Systematically yes, for the last four and a half years, it's been an incredible thing. »

On 9th February, another police officer in charge:

"I don't see why that would change.

As soon as they start filing complaints, I don't see why they wouldn't file a complaint.

The day we don't have a complaint, we won't come. Let me reassure you. »

And on 20th March, with a third:

"The legal basis? Every day the same questions, every time the same answers.

(...)

There is only one legal basis (*we understand "flagrante delicto"*).

Apart from deportation orders, but that's with assistance... (*here a time of silence*) there are always shelters (*we understand that there are evacuation buses when there is an eviction order.*) »

On the 26th, however, the explanations are more fanciful:

"It's a counting operation," a policeman told Marck,

And another, a little later behind the PASS: "There have been stabbings, an assault in town, they think it comes from people from the camp, they just want to check some profiles that maybe match with (inaudible)...

- It's not an expulsion?...

"No!"

No? However, the HRO has just counted 62 displaced people and 10 tents seized...

* "to see them arrested if they refuse to leave" is logical: in the event of an intervention for "illegal occupation of other people's land", the police are there to kick the occupant out... Except that for years, we have seen exiles resettle even before the forces of law and order have left. But it is rare to have a video taken by the HRO as eloquent as the one taken on 28th March behind the PASS: the exiles in charge of their tents pass the policemen who quietly watch them pass. We're not far from the guard of honour...



A major dismantling took place at Dunkirk on 15th March. There hadn't been one for three and a half months (30th November to be precise).

It's a big convoy: 15 CRS vans, at least 5 PAF vans, 6 cleaning trucks, two buses.

The operation mainly concerns the Loon-Plage side.

What is really remarkable is the extremely wide security perimeter: it goes all the way to the D 601, which makes the HRO's observations particularly difficult.

The seizure of tents is almost invisible in HRO (Human Rights Observer) photos, as is boarding buses.





And the photo taken through a fence is indicative of the conditions of observation...

The police announced 300 bus seats and two interpreters.

The HRO has at least ten people escorted from the old motocross bike to the buses in front of the Clauser company, then thirteen people getting on the bus, then it sees two buses leaving and the guys say 80 people have been taken away.

Tents and shelters were destroyed with chainsaws.

The police prevent exiles from retrieving their tents (everything is collected).

Body searches and arrests are no exceptions.

The police (20 CRS and 23 police officers of the National Police, 3 LBD) and the cleaning team intervened at the old motocross and destroyed the shops and the mosque.

During the destruction of the mosque, a man wanted to retrieve a Koran from inside and the exiles told the volunteers of Salam that a policeman shot in it, as if it were a balloon...

Last year, mosques were spared until the end of Ramadan.

The second mosque on the other side of the D601 was also destroyed that morning.

An inter-associative protest letter was sent to the sub-prefecture on Friday, 22nd March (signed by Salam, among others).

On the Calais side, evacuations continue with a slight relaxation in the rhythm: 4 times 72 hours of respite instead of the usual 48 between two interventions.

Nothing on the 3rd and 4th of March, nor on the 18th and 19th, nor on the 21st and 22nd, nor on the 24th and 25th; no observation by the HRO on 14th, 15th and 16 March: three days spared is a lot... But on the 15th all eyes were on Dunkirk, did evacuations in Calais take place and did they go unnoticed?

A few nice gestures deserve to be saluted:

On 13th March, the HRO (Human Rights Observer) couldn't believe his eyes: on rue de Judée, the "clean-up" team was picking up the waste!

On 17th March at La Fermette, a cleaning agent returns a tent to an exile...



And on the same day, behind the PASS, a family with a baby is not obliged to dismantle their shelter and is allowed to stay inside.

On the whole, however, evacuations are proceeding as they have been for several years.

Law enforcement does not have humanity as its primary goal:

- On 17th March, at BMX, the evacuation took place during an Active Living distribution. This means that an exile must choose between eating and staying in his tent so that it is not considered abandoned and therefore picked up.
- On 2nd March at BMX, the Human Rights Observer spotted a cleaner carrying a saw.
- On the same day, behind the PASS, the police extinguished a fire.
- On 9th March, at La Fermette, the clean-up crew prevented one person from retrieving a tent.



Shelters are destroyed (pictured on 20th March , at La Fermette)

And even, on a regular basis, the exiles are forced to dismantle them themselves:

*At the Hospital, on 2nd March, they were forced to destroy shelters, on the 23rd also at the BMX.

*On 5th and 17th March, at La Fermette, people were forced to dismantle their tents and belongings themselves.

On 9th March, behind the PASS, the HRO (Human Rights Observers) saw tents put in garbage bags.



These tents must have ended up in the garbage dump... Unfortunately, this is probably the case for most of the tents collected, even though they should be available for pick-up at the Ressourcerie the next day.

At the inter-associative meeting on 19th March, the representative of Secours Catholique said that she had spoken to the Ressourcerie on the phone. They said they are giving back very little material right now because very few things are happening to them. Utopia says they continue to send people there but without much success: the Ressourcerie doesn't open if there's nothing to distribute.

We are not surprised when we see the difference in the treatment of tents if it is the exiles themselves who move them (by lifting them carefully) or if it is the cleaning agents who drag them on the ground without mercy and without avoiding puddles...

The two photos were taken on 23rd March behind the PASS:





The seizures relate to
The tents, pictured on 20th March
under a bridge in the city center:

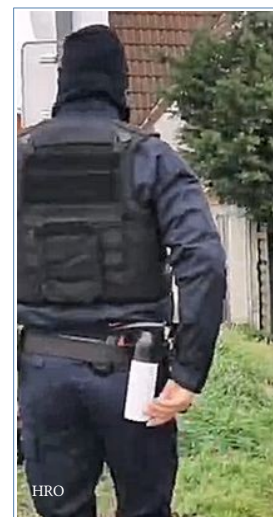
Pallets (firewood, cooking wood
and pedestals to keep tents from
sinking into the mud)
There are at least 15 of them in the
truck photographed on 23rd
March at the BMX Station.



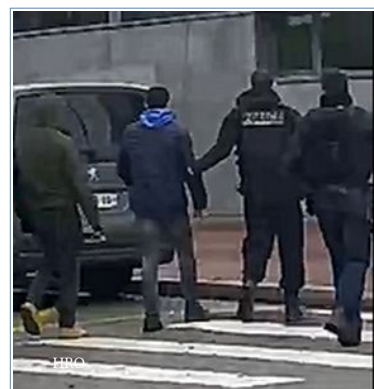
The HRO even saw personal
belongings picked up and thrown into
the dump truck (the one that has to
take away the things that are to be
thrown away), on 23rd March at the
BMX.



Weapons are very often present: in the
photo, on 17th March, a semi-automatic
weapon in Marck and a gas canister in
La Fermette. Even if the goal is
intimidation, it accentuates the violence
of the operations.



The arrests are not exceptional: in
the photo, two arrests at BMX on
13th March and one on 17th March
after the evacuation of a bridge in
the city center.



THE DISTRIBUTION CONDITIONS ARE PARTICULARLY CHALLENGING:

The obstacles to the work of the associations add to the difficulties specific to the exiles.

- On 5th March in Marck, the HRO had snuck into the evacuation operation but was spotted and escorted out.
- On 7th March, the street was signalled as a one-way street at the HRO, but many other vehicles took the forbidden direction without being caught.
- Salam's van was fined on Thursday 21st for parking prohibited to BMX, during the distribution of breakfast. There is a "bus only" sign, but it is intended for days when there is a competition at the nearby stadium...

On the Dunkirk side, the grids that were built in January and February (reported in our latest newsletters) are there.

The photos taken by Robin on 2nd March are frightening and give the impression that the exiles are locked up and fed like animals. In reality, the grids are made to prevent them from settling on the land where they are.



But they open discreet passages for themselves and come to look for food as close as possible...



We are increasingly lacking everything to make the lives of the exiles less difficult:

On 21st March, Denise announced a new purchase of provisions for Grande-Synthe:

"Before the delivery of the order to Auchan for pasta and canned goods, which should arrive on Wednesday, I did some shopping yesterday for canned goods to ensure until next Monday.

You will find ratatouille, peeled tomatoes, couscous vegetables.

I didn't take any lentils because there are still quite a few. »

In Calais, emergency purchases are multiplying:

On 2nd March, the team had to buy more bread on the way back: there was none for the next day.

On 9th March, they say they have to buy bread every day.

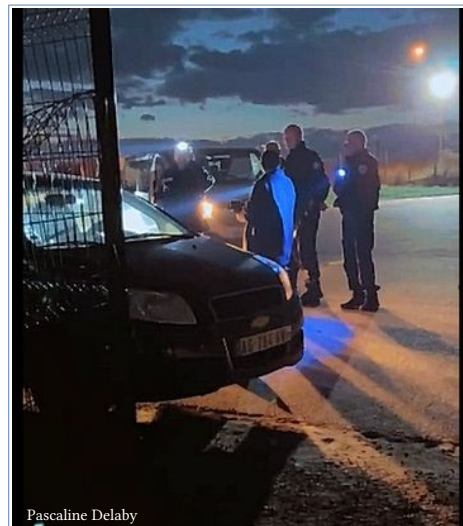
The next day, it's 50 loaves of bread and 70 jars of jam.

With Ramadan, things get even more complicated:

In Dunkirk, on the side of Total, the Salam team saw the police prevent someone from giving food in the evening after sunset.

Couldn't we imagine a minimum of tolerance for people who go whole days without eating?

In Calais, where Ramadan is much more respected, the exiles all ask to take everything for the evening: a jar of jam per person (not bread with jam on it) and a bag of tea per person (it doesn't seem like much, but we use 70 bags a day for thermoses: 10 times less than it would take to satisfy them!)



We give everyone a small bag with three pieces of bread, a banana, biscuits when there are any. Other associations, which do not distribute food, brought us tea, compotes and a little cocoa butter and mayonnaise, to complete and try to get through the whole month...

Everyone is jostling to be served, it becomes impossible to count the number of breakfasts given...

The weather is getting in on the action, in addition to the lack of material means:

On 1st March, only 530 people came to the Calais breakfast (935 the day before). Many preferred to stay on an empty stomach rather than leave in soaked clothes that then don't dry...

The Loon-Plage distribution site is completely soggy: we are all wading through the mud.

"We wouldn't take our dogs for walks here," says Patrick, an FTS volunteer who often helps us out.

On Tuesday 12th in Calais, we distributed a few yellow garbage bags to make rain capes. We didn't have anything else.



However, spring is here but we had to wait until 23rd March to find, on one of the photos received, the first branch in bloom. It's BMX.

This is the time when the plants are sprouting, starting again if the winter has dealt them a hard blow...



Here's a view of the trees behind the old motocross bike, taken by Roots on Tuesday, 26th March. It has been one of the main places occupied by exiles in Loon-Plage for the past two years..

Claire Millot

WORDS WRITTEN BY YOUNG PEOPLE FROM THE DARIUS MILHAUD SECONDARY SCHOOL IN SARTROUVILLE: DRAWINGS, POEMS AND LETTERS.

2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024...

It has become a tradition.

Every year, at the same time, young people from the Darius Milhaud secondary school in Sartrouville located in the north-western suburbs of Paris, first discover the reality of the migrant camps on our coast and then they start writing, under the benevolent gaze and encouragement of their French teacher, Anne-Catherine Mourgue.

Two special issues of this newsletter appeared in March 2020 and April 2021, letters to little Amal were published in October 2021, others to the exiles in December 2021.

In February 2022, 18 poems were written by the students of the 3e 2 class.

In February 2023, to the sound of our friend Bélinda's harp, 3rd grade students wrote poems about exile, about those who arrive on the northern coast of France and who wait, in a desperate situation, for a passage to England.

In February 2024, 22 texts and drawings were created by the students of the 3rd and 2nd grade classes, with again the stimulating presence of our friend Bélinda on the harp...

As in the past two years, we are publishing these texts over three months, starting with this March issue.

Collections have also become a tradition (*see the thank you section of our November 2023 newsletter*).

The crossing

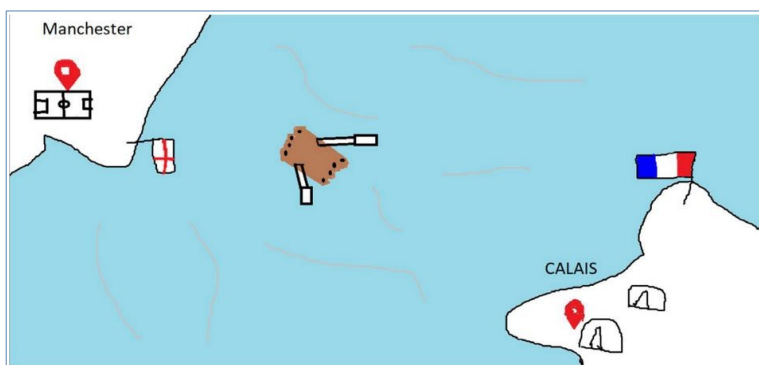
Crossing is a difficult time.
The ocean is big, where terror reigns

Graveyard of migration, gone for a better world
Gone to England to meet your friends on this land.

Little boat floating on the water, will you make it to your destination?
Small boat that looks more like a piece of wood
You're going through with fear in your stomach.

N.SG

M.D



Antoine de la Fouchardière

Patricio

The tears of a reality.

No one leaves their country with a happy heart.
Dragged across the Mediterranean,
They shouldn't be worried.
So why? Just why, are they crying?

A valid question, a clear answer.
They survive, or at least they try,
They only stayed one night, with three tents.
Their harsh lives, some say they are sour.

It is the product of a truth.
She is sad about it in spite of them.
These razed camps leave hollows,
In lives, hearts and dreams because:

No one leaves their country with a happy heart.

Maya

A dream turned into a nightmare.

Giving up everything, abandoning your country
To start a new life
Abandoning everything to dream of a country.
A country without war, without famine to live
better.

Walking, running, sleeping, crying, sailing.
Navigating in the middle of a storm during a
crossing
Walking and running in arid deserts.
Mourning the deceased to achieve one's ends.

Running, crying, sleeping in a tent
Building a dream to destroy it.
A dream shaved and non-existent.
A dream turned into a nightmare.

Julian

I am writing this letter for the authorities and the government who need to help these people who are struggling to find food and more suitable places to sleep and to stop trying to chase them off their land, they want to join their families on the other side of the Channel because they cannot see them every day and it will do them a lot of good to see their families and pay their respects if a member of their family dies during the journey. We have a duty to help them get food, to find them a place to stay instead of taking everything away from them on the pretext that they do not want to remake the "Calais Jungle" and to send them back to Rwanda with people who can send them to take up arms to cause genocide in eastern Congo like what is happening now.

They should be treated like normal people and not like bacteria to be sent back as soon as possible, there are even some who decide to end their lives because of the conditions in which they must live. They are human beings like us, they have the same body as us, the same blood as us and even if we don't have the same skin colour, we are all the same.

Joyce

I think the state doesn't help migrants enough. There are not enough centres to help them; There are some but not many, I think they are put aside too much, they have trouble crossing borders and that's not normal. I feel sadness for them; they are so nice, so cute and the state wants to send them home.

Nohan

To all migrants.

I can't imagine how you feel, but it must be very hard, the living conditions are horrible, and you are strong!

You have my full support and gratitude. Even if you live in bad conditions, I wish you all my courage.

Ines

Migrant is my name.

That's what I'm called.

I look at this sea.

My family calls me.

I miss my land.

But my future is calling.

Will I succeed?

This land is so quiet and empty.

Yet it rejects me.

Am I not like you?

Migrant is my name.

That's what I'm called.

I miss my land.

Is my future worth it?



Evelina

FILMS THAT ARE ABOUT US



Since the end of February, the Salam team has had the opportunity to see three films and to be part of the team that presented them and moderated the debate after the screening. None of the three are available in cinemas anymore, but the trailers are very telling. Go look if you haven't had a chance to see them. (See the youtube.com links below)

"My Life on Paper" (by Vida Dena, 2022) was screened at Studio 43 in Dunkirk on 20th February.

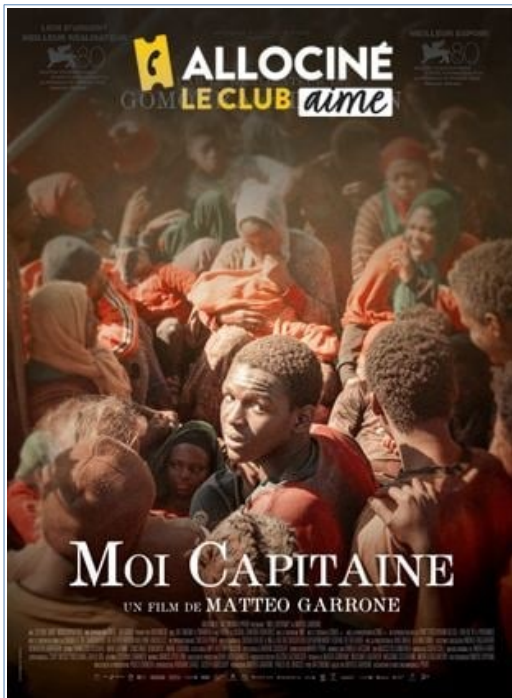
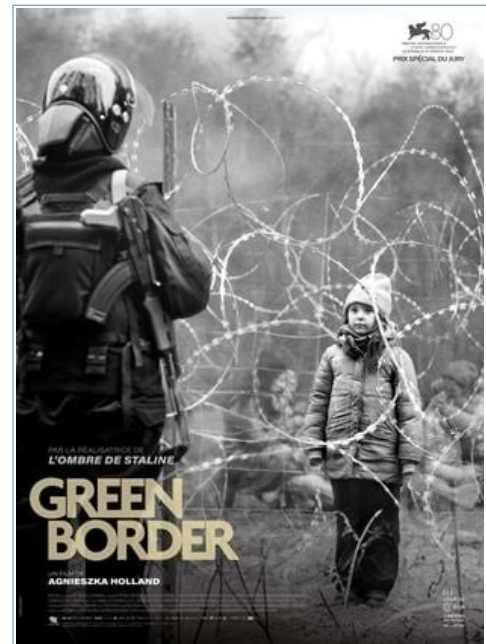
The director was present.

She has met a Syrian family many times. The language barrier led them to draw their exile. That's the origin of this film.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wv_hr_QEbM4

"Green Border" (by Agnieszka Holland, 2023) was also shown at Studio 43 in Dunkirk on 12th March. It's the story of a Syrian family, on the run, stranded at the all-too-famous border between Belarus and Poland...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fZxu0ArLTXk>



We saw "Moi Capitaine" (by Matteo Garrone, 2024) at the Sportica cinema in Gravelines, on 18th March. Humanitarian associations were invited by Christian Hogard of Secours Populaire. This film tells the story of two young Senegalese who have chosen to go to Europe and come up against terrible obstacles on their way that they had not imagined.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=peOwMyk0FRk>

Claire Millot

THANK YOU

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS.

To the mainstays that are active in the preparation and distribution.





To those who do the shopping to compensate for the decrease in donations of fresh products: Denise's team, supported by Henri and Marie's team, is also present on Saturday mornings.

On the evening of 29th March, Denise reassures us: "The stock of pasta is Ali baba's, the canned goods are on the shelves."



To those who led the battle, which is about to be won, against the rats of the Salle Guérin:



Denise showed us, in pictures, the cleaning on 27th March: "This morning's work in the clothing bins, where the rats had a field day shredding everything that had fallen under the pallets."

Thank you to the visiting volunteers,

For great help at the time, and who (if they do not have the opportunity to return soon) will be precious witnesses of the living and working conditions on our coasts...

- Amélie and Frédérique, on 2nd March, as well as Robin (who came several years in a row with high school students from Tours), Bénédicte and Caroline (from Osmose).
- Bernard, who didn't hesitate to jump in his car to arrive from the Meuse, when he knew that a Saturday would be difficult due to a lack of volunteers...
- Twice four young people from the association "Humaniteem" on Easter Saturday and Monday.
- By two or three, as already in February: Aboubacar, Ahmed, Amara Lamine, Broek, Fatouma, Fodé, Jacky, Kniaz, Lamine, Madona, Mirandadukhti, Mohamed, Mory, Moussa, Naili, Oland, Oumarou, Yaya...

To those who have joined us, coming from a friendly association:

- Our old friends from FTS who come to Grande-Synthe with their long-standing experience in Salam Calais where they have learned to "adapt to the incessant variations of situations throughout the year".
- Thank you to Hubert in particular, for his morning spent sorting onions on 21st March, and to Elisabeth and Michel who came to complete on Saturday the 23rd because they were told that there would be a shortage of volunteers.
- Accomplices from Emmaus communities throughout France, who wanted to see (or review) what we do, why and how:
 - *Marc and Anne-Hélène came from the east of Strasbourg for the third time, on 7th March.
 - *Olivier and Malou twice a month..

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

In food: the anonymous benefactors who dropped off crates of chicken,
*one a cash register, on Saturday 2nd,
*the other, on the 23rd, a box of ten kilos.

- Textile:

*On 2nd March, we saw the arrival of clothes, sleeping bags, blankets and shoes, brought back by Nathalie and Ursula.

*Mrs. R. dropped off clothes on Monday, 4th March.

- Wooden:

As usual, Pierre made effective efforts to gather firewood for the heating and cooking of those who live outside:



In containers:

Guy brought back from Lille a fine harvest.

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

Thank you once again to Onjali and his association "O's Refugee Aid Team", back for Ramadan on 23rd March.

Laurence wrote in her report of the day: "They brought a lot of canned goods, large 'community sizes' and 'normal' vegetables, lentils, tomatoes and also bags of granulated sugar... I'd say 5kg bags. There were at least 8 or 10 of them.

I don't know how much, but their car was full: the trunk and the back seats were full."

Thank you to the friendly association that came by on 18th March, with canned goods, packets of rice and pasta...

Thanks to Utopia who brought on 28th March six crates of cakes or small cakes, some canned goods and containers for distribution (such as cake pans).

Thank you to Emmaus des Deux-Sèvres for its new visit to Calais on Friday 22nd.

They toured the camps with Salam's breakfast team and their truck, leaving behind the smiling faces of people who had just been given clothes and blankets.

Thank you, to the parishes:

Every week, Marie-Christine goes to the church in Bergues and collects, when there is anything, the clothes, or blankets, left by the parishioners. She brings them to the local on Tuesdays for sorting.





On 9th March, Martine and Emma dropped off an important donation of clothes and blankets: Marie-Noëlle's fundraiser, from the "Mission de Nieppe" team.

Thanks to the "distribution company" that entrusted Hubert with six boxes of new clothes for Salam.

Thank you to FTS who, once again, did not come to help us empty-handed on 21st March.

They arrived with a trailer full of blankets, towels, clothes.

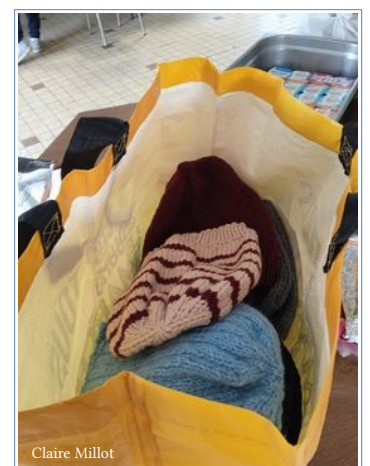
Thanks to Audotri, who always has business for our friends, 40 blankets, two bags of jackets and two bags of duvets on 6th March. Thanks to Pierre who so often provided transportation.



Thanks to the institution in Maldegem, Belgium, to whom Pierre and Dominique returned at least twice to get blankets.

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

These elderly ladies are delighted with this occupation and its destination. It is the nursing home that buys the wool.



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 banknote, sent a cheque, 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 who supply clothing brought to Calais each month by André de Merlimont, to the COMORIAN LADIES, to the bakeries in Calais and to those opposite the Noordover, to "La mie du pain" and "Aux pains du Nord" in Coudekerque. Week after week, they are there to help us. Thanks to HRO and Roots for allowing 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 two years 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 a.m.) to the end of the dishes (between 2 and 4 p.m.). In between, we distribute the meal.

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

Calais:

Salam continues to distribute improved breakfasts every morning with tea and coffee.

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

Meet at 7:45 a.m. at the premises, 13 rue des Fontinettes.

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

CALL FOR DONATIONS

MONEY NEEDS.

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

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 covering them, in all weathers.

You can also buy tarpaulins, pieces of 3m by 3m (or 2.50m by 3m). They cost much less and allow an honest man to spend a night under cover.

Otherwise, the most pressing needs at both sites:

BLANKETS (DUVETS, SLEEPING BAGS).

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), flip/flops, sandals, caps.

backpacks,
lamps and batteries,
water packs,
Bags (small backpacks, garbage bags, freezer bags, shopping bags and plastic bags)

Foodstuffs for Calais:

JAM & MAYONNAISE,
Milk
tea and sugar, instant coffee,
biscuits (or pastries, or cake bars or pound cakes etc...)

To drop off your donations, go to 13 rue des Fontinettes, and call 06 83 16 31 61. From outside France 00 33 6 83.16.31.61

And for Grande-Synthe:

Mostly canned vegetables of all kinds (we have been getting a lot less fresh vegetables 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

The membership form for 2024 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 2023, help us to exceed the 300 thresholds.

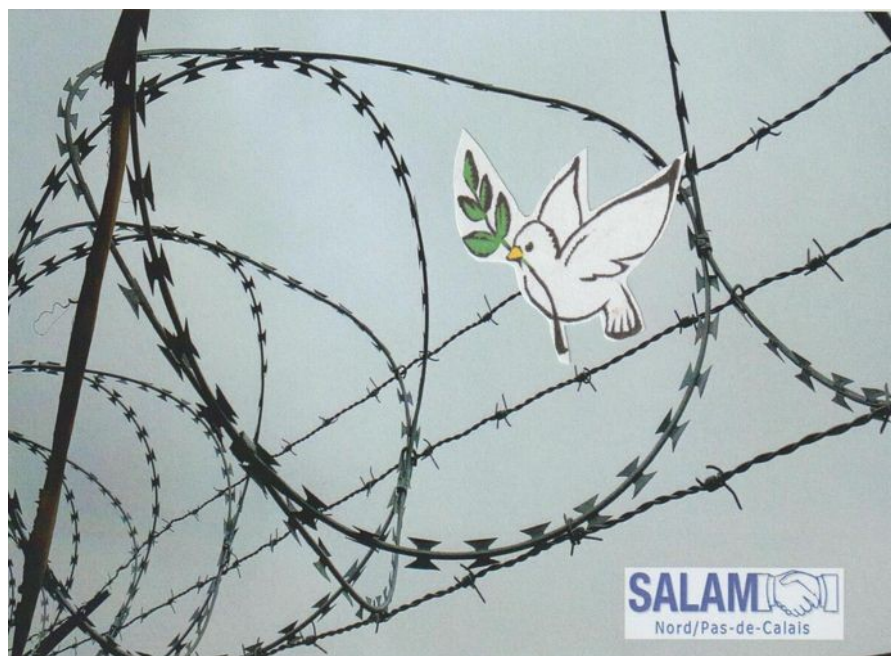
CONTACT US

Association SALAM
BP 47
62100 CALAIS

<https://www.associationsalam.org/>
salamnordpasdecalais@gmail.com
[Facebook page: SALAM Nord/Pas-de-Calais](#)
[And the LinkedIn page, which can be consulted at 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

Bulletin d'adhésion 2024



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 31/12/2024)

Date et signature :

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

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

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