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DECEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

"I am not a planetary man I am the man of a specific corner of the earth."
Julien.

"Julien's Barn " is a "scene" museum made up of lights, music, animated objects and special effects.

It tells the story of Julien, who went to live in the city for several years, who chose to restore a barn in the Puy-de-Dôme and to return to live there, in his home village: "Murat-le-Quaire."

But how many of our friends, lost in our country in a jungle, are also, profoundly, "men of a corner of the earth" and will never have the opportunity to return there?...

EDITORIAL

I WISH YOU...

I wish you endless dreams and a keen desire to make some of them come true.
I wish you to love what you should love and to forget what you should forget.
I wish you passions,
I wish you silences. I wish you birdsong when you wake up and children's laughter.
I wish you to respect the differences of others, because the merit and worth of each one are often to be discovered.
I wish you to resist the deadlock, the indifference and the negative virtues of our time.
Finally,
I wish you never to give up on search, adventure, life, love, because life is a magnificent adventure, and no reasonable person should give it up without fighting a hard battle.
Above all, I wish you to be yourself, proud of it and happy, because happiness is our true destiny.

Jacques BREL, 1 January 1968.

WHISHES FOR 2025

BONNE ANNÉE 2025



Jean-Claude Lenoir, président de Salam, décédé le 11 juillet 2024



Banderole présente à chaque commémoration : elle porte les noms des disparus (quand ils sont connus).

The president, Yolaine Bernard, and the Board of Directors wish you all the best for the new year.

THIS MONTH'S EVENTS

THE DEATHS, becoming more and more tragic:

On 14th December, it was a Frenchman who, in an incomprehensible act of murderous madness, shot dead five people with a gun: namely: his former boss, two security guards from the industrial zone of Loon-plage, and two exiles on the edge of the Dunkirk camp. He presented himself, immediately afterwards, to the Police Station at Ghywelde.

We lived this evening in anguish: the WhatsApp repeated over and over again, the little we could know: "gunshots have been heard, the police are cordoning off the camp, no one can enter or leave (neither exiles nor associations)", we were talking about two deaths... Maybe just a rumour, but maybe much more if it was a fight between communities or a settling of scores involving smugglers...

A gesture of madness, certainly, but it is difficult to believe that there was not a background of racism in this last gesture against exiles who had nothing to reproach themselves for other than having been there at the time of this man's passage...

In addition, two bodies were returned by the sea, in advanced states of decomposition,

*on 9th December in the water, near the beach at Escalles.

* on the morning of 21st December, on the beach of Wimereux.

If the repetition of this tragic news is unbearable, we hope that some families, still looking for their loved ones, will finally have an answer.

Also on 21st December, a person was found dead in his tent at a place of life in Loon-plage.

At around 11:15 a.m., another exile came to a Roots volunteer to tell him that there was a dead man in the tent next to his.

A rescue worker from Roots rushed in but the man had apparently been dead for several hours. There was no doctor to certify the death; An ambulance, accompanied by the police, came to collect the body.

On 29th December, at least three more people drowned in a shipwreck, in front of Sangatte...
In the hours that followed, we learned from the press of a fourth death in the same shipwreck.

We have now reached 85 deaths in 2024 (including missing and identified persons).

As always, farewell ceremonies take place at 6:30 p.m., the day after and the day after the announcement of the death, at the Parc Richelieu in Calais and on the Malo in Dunkirk.

*December 9th and 10th,



*December 15th and 16th,



*on December 22nd and 23rd,



*December 30th and 31st.

The appeal, relayed by Utopia 56, always ends with these lines:

"This meeting is a self-organized space, everyone is free to express their anger and sadness as they wish, whether through speeches, messages, or any other initiative and demonstration in respect of the wishes of the victims' relatives."

Never forgive, never forget

A WINTER WEATHER.

The beginning of winter was rainy and windy.

Somewhat

in Calais, on December 8th, the Salam team made a distribution in the pouring rain, on the 9th the wind was very violent. Several times, our tables (planks placed on trestles) flew away during our breakfast and we came close to a tragedy...

in Dunkirk, on Wednesday 18th, the wind knocked over the shower cubicles of Roots, a joint failed, the water flowed freely...

LAST MINUTE

The frost only really arrived at the beginning of January, and finally sheltering for the night was decided.

On the evening of Friday 3rd to Monday morning 6th January, the "Extreme Cold Plan" was activated in Calais.

The associations in Dunkirk (including Salam) had called for an identical decision. On the afternoon of Friday 3rd, too, we finally learned that, in the evening, a gymnasium would be open in Petite-Synthe for several nights. Nothing on the other hand was proposed for the day...

THE PASSAGES IN ENGLAND.

It's winter, the passages by sea are complicated and dangerous.

According to the Home Office, there were crossings in December on the 1st (122 on 2 canoes), the 4th (289 on 6 canoes), from the 12th to the 14th (1067 on 17 canoes) and from the 25th to the 29th (1776 on 38 canoes), none in the last days of the month.

This makes 3254 passages on 63 canoes for the month: an average of 51 to 52 people per canoe...

This average is a little lower than that of the last few months, but it is still enormous, and it is an average: on 12th December, there were 609 people on 9 canoes; That's between 67 and 68 per boat...

In December 2023, the figures given by the Home Office were only 977 passages on 23 dinghies (an average of 42 to 43 people per dinghy). The police pressure on the candidates to leave was not as strong...

But the need to leave our camps in misery (in the mud, without toilets, often even without a tent to spend the night) is so much stronger than the fear of water!

On these days of passage, when the weather is calmer, we are divided between:

*the relief of knowing that some are finally safe and have managed to make their dream come true,

*the expectation of the storm that would force them to stay ashore... at least safe from shipwrecks...

Fortunately we have no decision-making power, we only do what we can to make their lives less difficult.

On 4th December, our team in Calais gave breakfast to 125 people on the Quai de la Moselle. All of a sudden, they see a swarm of 70 people arrive, many strangers... The team, which was getting ready to leave, stayed to feed them.

These people had waited fifteen hours for their smuggler, but it was the police who arrived with the tear gas canisters...

Most of them were dry, but there were some that had been able to enter the water without managing to leave... Someone from the Salam team went back to the room to get "shipwreck kits" for those who were wet (enough to dress a man from head to toe).

On 29th December, on rue du Pont de Trouille, our team from Calais met about twenty Ethiopians, soaked and covered in sand. They have missed the passage and are frozen and hungry.

Then at the BMX, 89 breakfast cups were distributed: Ethiopians and Eritreans (including at least 40 women), soaked, had been prevented from getting into the dinghies by the police. They had come from Belgium to cross and were leaving...

THE EVACUATIONS.

There has not been one in Dunkirk since 20th November, although on Tuesday, 17th December an exile told Utopia that the police had come in the morning around 10 a.m. and destroyed tents and other belongings, but without being able to clearly specify where...

The HRO (Human Rights Observers) present, had seen nothing... This remains a rumour for the moment...

The pressure on Calais is also less strong: the dismantling initially continued to take place on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, but (something unimaginable before) on Wednesday 11th and Friday 13th December, the evacuations did not take place...

Were the police required for the demonstrations of the farmers and the CGT? On Wednesday 11th, the A16 was blocked.

Even at the height of the “yellow vest movement”, in 2018-2019, the evacuations carried out every 48 hours were never suspended...

In addition, the Christmas period was also spared! Unprecedented: nothing between 24th December and 27 inclusive. Then the 28th (a Saturday) was a day of dismantling, then Tuesday the 31st, three days later...

The schedule of the dismantling days is always the same:

Between four and six sites are visited by the police, accompanied by a so-called "cleaning team" that does not clean anything at all but is responsible for seizing equipment.

A photo by the HRO (Human Rights Observers), from December 20, shows the state of a camp on the Quai de la Gironde just after a police intervention: the police had five tents emptied and then moved and seized two.

A "security" perimeter is established to prevent associations, in particular the HRO **Human Rights Observers** whose job it is, to observe the actions of the police.

The exiles must leave the premises with everything they can (starting with their tent) because what remains is considered abandoned and can be picked up (it is rare that everything is taken but no one can be sure to find their belongings).

On 6th December at the Stade du Courgain East, there was hardly anyone: according to an exile, all the people on the right side of the living space had left to try to pass, and those on the left side were at a distribution.

We no longer hear about the possibility of recovering equipment at the Ressourcerie, and in fact, the tents must only very rarely be salvageable: we see them dragged on the ground unceremoniously, for example on 9th December at the Courgain stadium east:



The hoops remain hung if they can (photo by the HRO, 20th December rue de Judée)..

A video by the HRO from 9th December shows a cleaning agent on Quai de la Gironde shooting at a tent stuck in the rocks; the canvas gives way suddenly with a crack.





There is little brutality: the presence of shields, for example on 18th December, Danube Quay, the presence of LBD rifles (two were reported on 9th December on rue de Judée by the HRO) and tear gas canisters were used more for intimidation; The real violence is in this obligation, three times a week, to move all his possessions... and in the seizure of the equipment of absentees.

A few words of dialogue between a police officer and the HRO on 20th December testify to this:

- I've been doing it for years... I haven't seen any police violence yet.
- (...) They remove the tents and that's it, basta.
- Removing the tents, don't you find it violent, a little? (...)



On 4th December, on the Quai de la Gironde, the police seemed to want all the tents to be set up above the platform. The exiles had to empty their tents and leave their personal belongings in the living space. They have a lot of trouble moving the tents between the rocks and then up the slope. On 16th December, a guy wanted to retrieve his belongings under the Faidherbe bridge, but the police prevented him, baton in hand. That's also real violence.

Often, the tents seized are emptied of their equipment. If it is a question of safeguarding the belongings of those who have left so that they can find them on their return, we can only salute the intention. But the HRO's photos show the contempt for the equipment, in these cases, for example on 28th December, Quai de la Gironde:

HRO, Human Rights Observers comments often refer to "full tents," which means "full of equipment." Photos are rarely as clear as the one from 18th December, Quai de la Gironde:

The security perimeters, which prevent the HRO from approaching, then take on their full meaning: the HRO sees a certain number of tents put in the vans, but not the tents, tarpaulins and blankets that may have been put inside!



The dialogue of 20th December, cited above, continued between the police officer and the person of the HRO:

- As a result, the tents you take are abandoned tents, the tents of people who are not there...
- Yes
- You think it's a coincidence that the food distributions of "La Vie Active" are at the same time as the evictions.
- the times when you distribute, all that...
- (...)
- I was talking about them, because they are mandated by the State, like you. They have to choose between keeping their tent and going to eat, in fact...



Other acts of violence, without assault or injury, include:
There are regular body searches, followed by arrests (the photo was taken on 20th December, Quai de la Meuse).

On 6th December, on the Quai de la Gironde, the exiles had to put out their fire...

The police say that the prefecture is offering rehousing solutions. This is not wrong, every morning of working days on rue des Huttes, shuttles offer places in CAES, but these are not sustainable solutions (one month at most) and there is only one departure in the morning.

On 4th December, the Salam team saw five people who had arrived too late for the shuttle: three Syrians frozen on the sidewalk and then a woman, who had arrived with her son.

The dialogues between the HRO Human Rights Observers and the police are sometimes tasty:
On 4th December, on rue de Judée, a police officer asked the young HRO if she was from Calais,

- And you, are you from here?

- Yes, he answers, a citizen of the world, a supporter of a world without borders...

Incredible! But the dialogue resumes right after:

- Are you a supporter of a world without borders?

- I do what I'm told...

Another time (we will not give the date or the place so as not to risk getting into trouble for a more humane policeman) we hear a policeman in a video by the HRO who says:

"We are asked to do something, we do it, that's not why... There you go..... We have eyes, we also observe. »

Sometimes, we understand why their superiors prefer them to be silent:

Either they are in total confusion:

Someone from the HRO asks if they don't offer shelters.

- No, that's the work of the marauders, replies a police officer.

- Where are they?

- It's the translators... They are mandated by the prefecture...

Either their legal training is simply very insufficient, or even non-existent; someone from the HRO explains:

There is a procedure to follow, it is not only the right to property that exists.

People have rights: there is the right to private and family life, the European Convention on Human Rights.

This is the principle of justice: to balance rights.

Oh yes, replies the policeman, apparently a little overwhelmed...

OBSTACLES TO THE MOVEMENT of exiles as well as associations:

In Calais, on 15th December, for example, at the BMX, trenches and fences were installed to prevent access by associations,
on the 18th of Salam there is the authorization to distribute but without the tables.

In Dunkirk, on 10th December, the fences along the railway line were repaired,
From 12th to 17th December, barbed wire multiplied along the track



CONCLUSION :

How can we hope for an improvement in the conditions of reception of our friends on our coast, when we see the words of the Minister of the Interior, who resigned following the censorship of the Barnier government, and is a candidate for his own succession. In the humanitarian crisis that is shaking Mayotte after the passage of Cyclone Chido, it does not set as a priority access to water, electricity and medical care, but the fight against illegal immigration...

We read in "Libération" of 17th December, from the pen of Rachid Laïreche:

"The right-footed Retailleau could have waited a little before plunging back into his obsession. Bodies are trapped under the rubble. Lives can still be saved. Kids are waiting for care and warmth. The Minister of the Interior knows this. He says it himself: "The island is totally devastated." But he is already thinking about the "migration issue". The "national priority," he says, too eager to resume his role as the intransigent first cop who is waging war on "legal and above all illegal" immigration. There is a time for everything, but Bruno Retailleau respects nothing. What could we call it? Shame. "

Claire Millot.

TESTIMONY: SESAME HOUSE:

What if we told you about this last week?

On December 25th, the Household is emptied of 3/4 of its inhabitants.

After a deep and serious goodbye The families separated Dull atmosphere The un.es are amer.es to see their ami.es
The others are anxious about this last stage, a dream of the future for their family

Christmas? A bit like in the whole country in fait Certain.es meet and celebrate, in their own way, this little boy who has not found an inn to be born so long ago Others are sent back to their solitude, even more cruel on this "family" day

Celebrations Days follow Quiet for the habitant.es of the house Terrible for the others

Back in this hostile and frightening "jungle" It is extremely cold (we have been given tea that was freezing in the cups) The accumulated heat of the Sesame House is diluted every moment We must go back to England to hope for freedom Quickly, the travelling children must go back to school

Three days in a row, three nights in a row They will walk, Walking Hope, running, watching, seeing the sea, the boats Respecting the waiting line to have a meal Trying at all costs to sleep a little to keep some strength And finally, on the 4th day, having the chance to get on a boat

And then
Everyone clings to their loved ones
Everyone screams and jostles each other
One of the Mothers falls into the water
Two refugees fish her out
Everything goes too fast

The families have to go down: too many people
All are choqué.es
It won't be for this time
They're transi.es, trempé.es
A single glimmer warms them in this darkness
They're coming back to "the house"

Volunteers from Help For Dunkirk, volunteers from a "canteen in struggle", a volunteer family from Sésamie, another Iranian family regularized from Dunkirk, are présent.es tonight
The meal is prepared by two refugee mothers There are about thirty of us
The meal is delicious
Suddenly, a draught of air and violent feelings fills the room
THEY COME BACK! They are 6 adults and 5 children All in tears, too much fear, too much violence
It looks like Santa Claus is accompanying them
But no, it's a refugee friend wrapped in his survival blanket
A very recent friend. The one who saved the life of the Mother

We are witnessing these serious moments
To this relief to see them all return home
To these bonds that unite them, companions and companions

However, others were not so "lucky"
This morning, we learn that 3 people died at sea last night

**The 25th, On 26th, 27th and 28th December 2024,
1,485 people crossed into England in 32 "small" boats
77% of them will obtain refugee status in the UK
But to do this, they have to face the violence/danger of the crossing.**

In recent days, we have received dozens of calls to bring people and children to safety.

Last night,
we thought of you.
We owe you this **THANK YOU**

Incredible feeling of anger in the face of so much in justice
Repaired at least by this possibility of offering
A shower, a bed, a soup and... serenity

And then
And then
Little Nina
From the top of her age, 8 years
In front of this firework of feelings
Shows us her Daddy
And tells us in English
My daddy is a hero

The dad then looks at us smiling sadly
" I haven't slept these 4 days
I watched my children every moment
It's terrible what we are going through
We have to rest
Try to digest these difficult moments

Too much violence in my head
It was a great comfort to know that you were all and all there
And that "our House of France" was waiting for us.
THANK YOU"

To conclude,
We share with you this little and beautiful "face" of a child traveller
Her name is Maryam
She is now in England
And when her big brother asks her to pose for the photo Her look, her shy smile and her little fingers
send you hearts

***THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU DO FOR CHILD TRAVELERS
HELP REFUGEES
KISSES AND LOVE***

SESAME HOUSE, December 29, 2024

"If your friends are our friends, these friends are our friends"



Sylvie Desjonquères

SHIPWRECKS IN ART



Jacky Bricout

"The Mayotte archipelago, hit by a devastating cyclone, cannot be rebuilt without addressing the migration issue" Bruno Retailleau, 17th December 2024.



Arnaud

"2024: Image generated in a few seconds by Artificial Intelligence".

"The underside of our front page on the drama of migrants".

Sarah Binet, journalist and illustrator at the "Voix du Nord" opens up about this drawing. "First of all, for me, it was important to leave a lot of room for the sea, which has become a cemetery for migrants. Writing their names is a way of engraving them. We talk about migrants, exiles, but not about people or trajectories. It was a way of giving them back their own identity. »

For the list of first names, it started from that of Maël Galisson:

"I wanted it to be handwritten. Just writing these names made my throat feel tense. »

In: behind the scenes of "La Voix", 26th November, 2024.



Sarah Binet : illustration de la "UNE" de la "Voix du Nord" du 24 novembre 2024

EXTERNALISATION OF ASYLUM AND MIGRATION A CHRONICLE OF A FAILURE FORETOLD

A court in Rome inflicted a first snub on Giorgia Meloni's government on Friday, 18th October 2024 (1). Italian judges ordered the return of the first twelve migrants detained in Italian law centres that had just opened in Albania with maximum media coverage in Europe. The ten European leaders who met the day before in Brussels (Italian, Dutch, Danish, Greek, Austrian and Polish...) to talk about "innovative solutions" around the President of the European Commission (2) must not have appreciated this major political setback of their new "champion". The British Conservative government of Rishi Sunak suffered the same setback when it proposed outsourcing to Rwanda.

"Innovative solutions" consist of outsourcing or "outsourcing the processing of asylum seekers" by creating return centres outside European territory. The Italian court's decision is motivated by the fact that migrants, of Bengali and Egyptian nationality, have the right to claim asylum in Italy. Their countries of origin are not considered "safe" countries, without the necessary democratic guarantees. One condition for the system to work is that the countries of origin agree to receive their nationals, this is not automatic. Detention may not exceed 4 weeks.

The countries of the European Union have two years to implement the Pact on Asylum and Migration, adopted in May 2024. Many have called for an accelerated entry into force. They called for new partnerships with African countries on the model of those concluded with Tunisia, Egypt or Mauritania, or with Libya, even though they are very controversial (2). They want to put pressure on the countries of origin of nationals by suggesting that the issuance of visas, the conclusion of trade agreements or the payment of development aid should be conditional on the commitment of the countries of origin to take back their nationals who have been rejected for asylum or who do not meet the criteria for legal migration.

These outsourcing policies have been denounced by many associations since their implementation in the early 2000's, including the GISTI in France (3), which sees them as a "logic of disempowerment". The term outsourcing is used "to designate a process that consists, for the European Union, in carrying out or subcontracting part of the control of its borders outside its territory". The EU delegates to the authorities of "third countries" the task of managing the situation of migrants. It thus exposes them "to ill-treatment" and exposes itself "to the denial of these principles". The GISTI recalls that the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has indicated that the populations that attempt to make the journey to Europe at all costs are made up of "mixed flows", i.e. both migrants and asylum seekers whose files should have been examined on European soil (4).

In 2015/6, the Defender of Rights in France considered that "respect for the rights of foreigners is an essential marker of the degree of protection and effectiveness of rights and freedoms in a country". He insists on the "strong tension" between "the proclamation and realization" of a "principle of equality" that leads to the elimination of "illegitimate differences in treatment" and "a realistic principle of state sovereignty" that leads to the "creation and development of different legal regimes and access to rights based on nationality." It admits that "in matters of entry, residence and removal, positive law authorises differences in treatment based on the legal category 'foreigner'. In these areas, "the discretionary power of the State is important". He adds that it is "not unlimited and cannot be discriminatory in any way". It is subject to "respect for fundamental rights".

One paragraph is of particular interest to the European Union in 2024 - "Far from being natural and immutable, the rules of law dedicated to foreigners (...) are all choices made by the legislator and the regulatory power that are sometimes based on subjective, fluctuating considerations, imbued with protectionism, or even xenophobia". The French Defender of Rights fears that "preconceived ideas, myths, often fuelled by fear when talking about foreigners, will develop". In 2016 (after the migration crisis and the massive arrival of Syrian refugees in Europe), some spoke of a threat to our "national identities". In 2024, some would brandish the theory of the "great replacement". The Defender of French Law notes that "no period in the history of immigration has changed the basis of common republican values". Europe can still welcome many foreign nationals. .

In 2000, at the same time as outsourcing strategies were being discussed, the European Union equipped itself with a powerful arsenal to combat discrimination and promote diversity, to defend fundamental rights in Europe.

Two major directives were adopted in 2000 (against sexism and then against all forms of racism). These fundamental principles have been inherent in European integration since the Treaty of Rome in 1957. European years have reminded us of them - 1997 Fight against racism and xenophobia, 2007 Equal opportunities, 2008 Intercultural dialogue... The Erasmus + programme has as a cross-cutting priority the defence of Diversity and the fight against Exclusion.

The "hub" strategies to externalize the migration issue presented as "innovative solutions" are in fact very old and have never worked. They have come up against fundamental rights, the European spirit of openness, inclusion and equal opportunities, which do not obey a short-term political agenda, but a long European history, turbulent, turbulent, which has held up until now. Outsourcing is a transactional approach, brandished on the other side of the Atlantic by a leader who is not very concerned about diversity. The fight is the same on both shores, that of fundamental rights and freedoms, and therefore of democracy. A perpetual and existential struggle.

Dr Bénédicte Halba, President of IRIV (www.iriv.net), December 2024

Bénédicte Halba runs a research institute (iriv) that has been working on the theme of migration since 2003, she has led a club at the Cité des Métiers for a migrant public (2012-2022) and published a weblog dedicated to migration (2024)- <https://actions-migration.blogspot.com/>.

- 1) Allan Kaval Le Monde, Sunday 20th & Monday 21st October 2024
- 2) Virginie Malingre and Philippe Jacque, "EU: towards a tougher stance on immigration", Le Monde, Saturday 19th October 2024
- 3) Claire Rodier "Externalisation of the control of migratory flows: how and with whom Europe pushes back its borders", Migrations Société, Vol 20, n°116 - March-April 2008
- 4) UNHCR , News Release issued on 9th October 2007
- 5) Defender of Rights "The fundamental rights of foreigners in France", Paris, May 2016

ANOTHER LITTLE GIRL TURNED EIGHT

Hi
Last month
It was my birthday
8 years!

But it was so sad
Because, with my family,
We were
In prison
It was in Greece
There were bars everywhere at the windows
And many unhappy people
I was very scared

After 15 days,
We were released and
Last night, I arrived at
The Sesame House

So, we celebrated
We marked My birthday
It was a real anniversary
With balloons, joy, candles,
Sésami e is too
We danced

It's so beautiful to be happy
I will remember my 2 times 8 years old

I love the sesame house
It is a house of peace

THANK YOU

Kisses
Mina

--

SESAME HOUSE (December 1, 2024)

"If your friends are our friends, these friends are our friends"



Sylvie Desjonquères

***SALAM DRESSES UP THE NATIVITY SCENE OF THE CHURCH OF SAINT JACQUES,
AND THE HOLIDAYS ARE TAKING PLACE IN A GREAT INTERCULTURAL SOLIDARITY
MOVEMENT. SECULARISM IS THERE.***

Some time ago, the parish priest said to me: "I thought that we are in Grande-Synthe and that we could dress the characters who visit the manger (the shepherds) as migrants... If you feel like it, could you take care of it?"

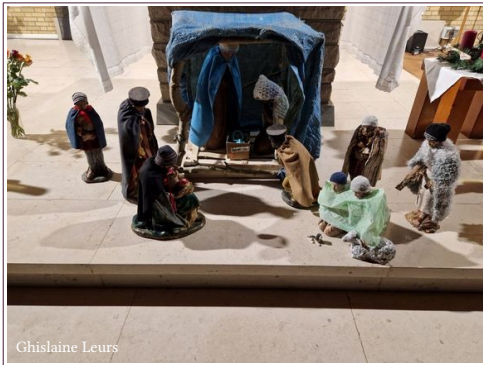
Immediately, one thing became obvious to me: the real migrants are not the shepherds, but Joseph and Mary, who are on their way... They have no place in the Inn, and must sleep in the stable!

"Go ahead," he said.

One Thursday, I make an appointment with the priest, one Thursday, to have Ghislaine who I know has gold in her hands with thread and a needle.

There you go... It is at the church of Saint-Jacques... There is no way to put jackets and jeans on terracotta characters who have their arms glued to their bodies and their legs welded together... They will have capes (including "rain ponchos" made from garbage bags) and "migrant" hats...

How to hide the crowns of the Three Kings? They make horns under the cap... It's not complicated: they are put on Pashtun berets, like that of Commander Massoud...



Their shelter is made like many on our camps: a tarpaulin fixed on branches.

The baby Jesus sleeps in a tiny banana box, as Ghislaine had seen a few days before, with a heavy heart, at our distribution site: the parents had nothing else...



On 22nd December, the green Santa Claus of the Secours Populaire accompanied the distribution of Salam in Calais.

In addition to fresh fruit (including mangoes), chocolates, sharp tasting sweets, Santa Claus distributed socks, gloves, boxer shorts and small towels...

At the squat, there were more than 700 people. They all came!

Many associations had suspended their action during the holiday season. For food, the associations concerned have stayed the course, Salam has not missed a meal and unexpected help has been multiple.

"Schmruts" (with an unpronounceable name!) arrived on 21st December and gave her last meal on Friday, 3rd January. In Calais as in Dunkirk, they have endeavoured to supplement the needs, with remarkable goodwill and great efficiency.



On 26th December, it was Fatiha's family, Mohammed and their two daughters who brought the meal: 400 trays of hot food prepared by a butcher at their home in Courcelles-les-Lens!
 At the beginning, they wanted to provide a meal in a slot not filled by an association. But it seemed irresponsible to us, in all the distribution associations, to let people who had no experience of the camps start out on their own...

Finally, they made their distribution with the Salam team of Thursday 26th which was not very numerous. It was already a very beautiful moment of sharing.



December 31st, for the third year, is really a day of celebration: the day of fries. It has become a tradition.

The association "Bonjour désordre" (the smallest chip shop in the world) joins the Salam team to make New Year's Eve a truly festive day for our exiled friends.



Of course, we are not rich enough to offer a chicken thigh per person... And this year we planned 400 people to feed!
 Never mind, for 2024 the parish will deliver! One thigh and counter-thigh per person!
 For several years, it has been the Protestant Mutual Aid that has been offering the chicken that fills our bowls every Tuesday... This time, in a beautiful ecumenical way, it is the last collections of 2024 at the Church of Saint James that will provide the money. And if there is not enough? Part of the profit from Marie-Agnès' small Christmas market, intended for an orphanage in Egypt, will complete the fund.

The team of "Bonjour désordre" was:

- 300 kg of potatoes peeled the day before, cut into pieces and pre-cooked so that the waiting time on the camp does not exceed 20 minutes for the first, a masterful distribution and just as giant crockery.
- 400 chicken thighs roasted for a whole day on the giant barbecue of the "Maison Sésame" in Herzele, 400 chicken thighs (the same) reheated the same morning in Salam's kitchen in Grande-Synthe.

This distribution was a real party that brought together, at the Salam team, 17 people from "Bonjour Désordre", Julia and Pierre from "Calais la Sociale", Antoine Chao (passing through among us) Anne and Tham from the "Red Cross", and as always representatives of FTS...



There was music, bonfires, an association that recharged mobile phones...



©Ruben Laflere



Bonjour désordre



César Roynette

Some took the opportunity to leave us a lot of donations:

*two vans from "Bonjour désordre": a collection prepared for more than a month (photo of 28th November) and which they sorted themselves by dropping everything off in the Guérin room...

*a large batch of blankets taken from a Belgian van: Ruben and his friend regularly come with friends and did not want to leave with their load. They dropped them off in the Guérin room for distribution according to needs..

The parish has also launched a winter collection, for our friends who are cold in the camps: warm clothes and blankets, tents if necessary.



Où pouvons-nous apporter nos trésors ??

Dans les salles « Guérin », rue Daudet à Grande Synthe :
Le lundi de 9h00 à 11h00
Le Mardi de 9h00 à 11h00

A l'église St Jacques
Le Jeudi de 9h30 à 11h00

Los de la permanence paroissiale de Fort Mardyck
Le Vendredi de 10h00 à 11h30

Au prebytère de Grande Synthe (69 av de l'ancien village)
Le Samedi de 9h30 à 11h00



Je suis sûr qu'il y a des trésors dans nos armoires

**Au service de nos frères réfugiés ...
Partons à la course aux trésors ...**



L'association Salam compte sur votre générosité

COLLECTE SOLIDAIRE

de couvertures, chaussures et vêtements
Hiver Hommes
Propre et bon état

Dépôt du lundi au vendredi de 8h30 à 17h30
à la Maison de la citoyenneté
Accès parking
rue Anatole France
59760 Grande-Synthe



Claire Millot

The town hall, at the same time, had also launched an appeal for donations (in the photo an office of the Common House already "a little" cluttered!) Claire has collected at the "Maison de la Citoyenne", with the help of Marie Françoise, a number of duvets, blankets, jackets, sweet-shirts and other clothes that are very necessary during this period. But there is no question of favouring one precarious population to the detriment of another: "Can we share what is happening with the 'Salvation Army' whose premises burned down?" Of course," Salam replied. There is no question of opposing precariousness!

Other volunteers are launching appeals to other parishes: Brigitte and Jean-Noël de Templeuve are collecting around them.



Claire Millot



Claire Millot

SOLIDARITÉ NOËL 2024

Collecte Solidaire

L'association Salam de Grande-Synthe lance un appel à l'aide : les 600 personnes réfugiées actuellement dans le camp vivent dans la boue et dans le froid.

BESOIN URGENT DE

- vêtements chauds pour hommes
- anoraks
- bonnets, gants, écharpes
- baskets/chaussures de marche/ bottes fourrées (pointuré 40 à 45)
- couvertures
- conserves de légumes.

Dépôt des dons

ÉGLISE DE TEMPLEUVE entre 9h et 17h	TEMPLEUVE chez Jean-Noël et Brigitte Petit 7 rue du Paradis 06.77.80.80.54 / 03.20.59.37.63 mail : jeanobri@yahoo.fr
ÉGLISE DE CAPELLE EN PÉVÈLE entre 9h et 17h	

MERCI

They were so successful in their operation that they filled a room in their house! We will go in January to collect the whole thing with the van. In the meantime, they came with their full car.

A chain of solidarity has also been formed in Warhem:

"Initially, it was an association that has been organising yoga classes in Warhem for several years. One of the members who has been practicing yoga for a few years is a Salam member. He mentions within the association the idea of recovering plastic containers, (hello Claudine) for a final use during food distributions.



Thierry Leblanc

Bingo, the yogists are mobilizing and bags have been regularly deposited in Guérin for several months, in particular by Mrs. B. de Warhem.

And then on 21st November, during the general assembly of the association, this member Salam thanked those who had recovered the containers but he went further and told the daily life of these refugees, the hazardous crossings, the shipwrecks, the drowned dead, men, women, children. He relays calls for donations of clothes, blankets...



Several members are moved, two municipal councillors are present. They react and propose that this appeal for donations be published in the next municipal bulletin. A drop-off location is proposed and validated. The first bags arrived. Some have already been dropped off on a Saturday morning in Guérin, others have been recovered while waiting to be transmitted. Thank you to the members of the association "Chemin de yoga", thank you to the chain of solidarity that is manifested in Warhem relayed by the Municipality. In this world gone mad, there are actions, however modest, that bring a little balm to the heart. And it feels good! »

Thierry 03.12.2024

No partisan spirit around Salam during this Christmas period...
It is a sweet consolation in this particularly difficult moment...

Claire Millot

THANK YOU

THANK YOU FIRST OF COURSE, TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN MENTIONED IN THE PREVIOUS TEXT, actors of this beautiful movement of solidarity.

THANK YOU TO THE VOLUNTEERS:

To those who have sometimes come from far away.

*Dominique writes to us from Ardèche, 5th December:

"Following our stay in Calais and Dunkirk, some of us asked us 'isn't it too hard to go there?'

What should I answer? "Of course it's hard, but less so than for people who have to leave everything, family, house, cities or villages... and set out on the path of exile... And then this drop of water that we bring them is a bit like a smile, it's really nothing and it warms our hearts for a few minutes! »

*volunteers passing through the "Maison Sésame" who come, for a day or more, to give us a hand and see where those who are welcomed at Sésame come from (or rather in what conditions survive): Lucile and Louise in particular, students from ESSEC, have come several times.

To the new ones : Soanna, friend of Elise, Joël and Gauthier de Steenwerck, Ali sent by the AFEJI.

To the elders who celebrated Christmas together before going to distribute,





Denise Cassignat



Denise Cassignat

To those who do the shopping:
Denise and Henri, at Promocash on December 4th, have stocked up on pasta (300kg) and a little canned food (the shelves being very bare)...

**To those who made the distributions,
and especially to those who have done them with joy!**



Christine Brygo

To those who came in addition, because someone was missing:

*Thierry, always present, when he makes someone to go and get the bananas on Thursday afternoons (even once, with one of his sons).

* Fanny and David, with Sylviane and Marie-Françoise, ensured the Emmaus collection on Saturday 14th December. It was a Saturday when the Dutch association Stand by You was providing the meal and the usual team was resting.

*Françoise who put the "Quai Salam" in an envelope with her granddaughters.

*The young people, who accompany Mary for the Emmaus collections on Saturday, unloaded all the clothes and food that arrived that morning on Thursday 26th. They then came back to help sort the clothes.



Philippe Bernard

To those who cut up the tarpaulin,
in photo, Thierry de FTS, on 19th December.

To those who have made repairs:
Philippe on the thermocouple of the large gas stove.



Claire Millot



Christine Brygo

To those who have done cleaning,
For example, Gaby, at the dishes in the insulated boxes,

To those who watched over the Dunkirk truck, so that it did not fall apart...

The door of the truck had come off... The “do-it-yourselfers” managed to put it back in place. The tape (despite the mockery of the spectators) is not used to make it stay in place but to prevent the reflex gestures of the users!



Lesli Maximum



Pascaline Delaby

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

Food donations:

*those who wanted to mark an important event by donating to people in great need:
a family that on 21st December celebrated the arrival of a baby by donating a whole sheep,,

*nuts given by Claudine and Jérôme, on 21st December,

* a donation of rice (10-15kg) and a large tin can, on 26th December,

* 18 kg of chicken brought by Carole on behalf of her friend Manon, Thursday 26th for the meal the following Saturday.

*on 28th December, Anne brought back food products and Geneviève Christmas chocolates.



Carole Sename

Textile donations:

*a cover filed on 2nd December by Colin and Valérie.

*Brigitte and Jean-Noël from Templeuve came on 9th December with clothes and two rolls of tarpaulin (and also jars of compotes that were quickly left for breakfasts in Calais)..

*Jean-Guillaume, who never does things by halves, sent from Reims, by Mondial Relay, seven boxes stuffed mainly with clothes admirably folded and arranged. His packages arrived on 12th December,

*Nelly (Elisabeth's friend from Vesoul) gave away on 10th December bought socks and neck warmers that she knitted with Simone, her 93-year-old mother,

*Danièle brought us some clothes on 19th December,

* a beautiful load of Bénédicte de Normandie (clothes, blankets...) brought on 21st December,

*blankets, shoes, sweaters, shirts, boxer shorts, hats and scarves left by Céline on 28th December.

And then:

thank you to Fatima for a donation of dishes, brought on 28th December.



Elisabeth Zert

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

The students of the Darius Milhaud secondary school in Sartrouville and the members of "Music for Life and for a Better World" gathered their collections to fill B elinda's car, which dropped everything off in Calais at the beginning of the month.



The gardens of Cocagne , on Thursday 5th December, offered us a superb delivery of organic vegetables
The Secours Populaire de Loon-Plage/Copains du monde.
Our message of thanks for the donation on 10th December

*Thank you for this Tuesday bread delivery.
700 people at breakfast that morning.*

This is a time when crossings are impossible with the sea state and bad weather and any help to feed our friends is welcome! For our distribution teams and for our hungry friends. Thank you!

And on the same day, they offered us bags of delicious, pre-cooked peppers!



Our friends from FTS arrived on 7th December with clothes, blankets and utensils.

The parish of Notre Dame de la Paix de La Capelle, also on 7th December, sent us blankets.

Emmaus de Saint-Omer offered us (brought by Ursula on the same day) boxes of fruit and vegetables on 7th December.

On 20th December, Emmaus Thouars came with a van full of blankets and fleece jackets.

Emmaus Grande-Synthe in the two weeks of the end-of-year celebrations, during the closure of the solidarity grocery store, reserved its surplus for us. It is at least one van full to the brim that we brought back on Tuesdays and Thursdays in addition to the usual Saturday. Magnificent harvests of fresh produce!

On 10th December, the Bourdon company made a large donation of waffles for the third year. This year it is thin waffles, most of which will go to breakfasts in Calais.
Ursula, who brought them, immediately gave us a message that ended with these touching words: "I wanted to share my joy".



A company told us, on 13th December, that it was giving away free pallet scraps for heating.
We immediately passed the information on to those who were already on the ground at the time.

Lut, who had already come from Belgium in November with products that were prevented from being sold due to their damaged packaging, offered us this time, on 20th December, 4 boxes each containing four times 2.5 kg of vegetable butter for baking and roasting and a batch of food wrapping paper (60 by 50cm).

Our old friends from Le Mans from the Tadmoon association, on 20th December, guided by Brigitte, brought us a large quantity of gifts: the proof, it took two vans from Salam and the car of Jannick, Anita's sister, to take everything to the camps.



A donation of wood by the Municipality of Grande-Synthe was also made to us on the 20th: pallets recovered by Geoff: we alerted him very quickly because we were afraid that they would be stolen before we could react..

Audotri gave Nathalie clothes and blankets for Salam on 21st December.

Father Hochart, from the "Petite Chapelle Notre-Dame des Dunes", once again entrusted Eric (from OGS Rugby) with blankets (enough to fill his car completely), also on 21st December.

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

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

A special thank you for a very large donation from Lautlos, the group of German journalists to which Manuela belongs. She spent the day with us on Thursday, 12th December, exchanged with the help of Stéphane (Claire's husband, a former German teacher) and was very impressed by our work.

THANK YOU TO BETHLEHEM, ABDELKADER AND THE RENAISSANCE ASSOCIATION, TO FLANDRES TERRE SOLIDAIRE, TO THE PROTESTANT MUTUAL AID, TO THE AUBERGE DES MIGRANTS who share with us the ton of bananas offered by CONHEXA once a week, to EMMAÛS who give us surpluses every week, for Calais as well as for Grande-Synthe, to the Maison Sésame who shares with us two mornings a week the surplus fruit and vegetables from the ALDI store at the rue du Kruysbellaert, to the Ressourcerie de Montreuil sur mer ("Il était deux fois") and to the Secours Catholique de Berck which provide each month clothes brought to Calais by André de Merlimont, to the COMORIAN LADY, to the Calais bakeries and to those opposite the Noordover, "La mie du pain" and "Aux pains du Nord" of Coudekerque. Week after week, they are there to help us.

Thank you to the Human Rights Observers, Dominique Bommel, "Bonjour Désordre", Louise Collewet, Fatiha from Courcelles-les-Lens, "Geoff Motyer - Instagram@Small_cog", Ruben Laflere and Sylvie Desjonquères, who allowed us to publish their photos.

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

THANK YOU to Michel who has been ensuring the layout of this newsletter, without fail, for years, **to Chris** who translates it into English, month after month, for our website, **to Antoine who has been managing the Facebook Page**, also without fail, since 2017, **to Guillaume who introduced us to the LinkedIn network** three years ago, **and Quentin who opened an Instagram account for Salam since May** (salam_calais_grandesynthe).

And I ask forgiveness from all those who helped us in one way or another and whom I forgot, or who were forgotten to report to me...

Claire Millot.

OUR NEEDS FOR VOLUNTEERS.

Dunkirk:

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

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

Calais:

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

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

CALL FOR DONATIONS

MONEY NEEDS.

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

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

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

Go through HELLOASSO:

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

or simply send a cheque to:

Association Salam

BP 47

62100 CALAIS FRANCE

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

A big thank you to all our generous donors!

TENTS AND TARPAULINS!

From dismantling to dismantling, the tents are being removed on both sites and we are unable to replace them. Many people sleep with nothing protecting 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 shelter.

Otherwise, the most pressing needs at both sites:

BLANKETS (DUVETS, SLEEPING BAGS).

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

MEN'S SHOES: trainers or light hiking boots (sizes 40 to 46),

flip/flops, sandals, caps

backpacks,

lamps and batteries,

water packs,

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

Food for Calais:

JAM and MAYONNAISE,

Milk

tea and sugar, instant coffee,

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.

And for Grande-Synthe:

Especially canned vegetables of all kinds (we receive much less fresh produce for some time),

bags of pulses, pasta, rice.

Drop off your donations in the Salle Guérin, 1 rue Alphonse Daudet, behind the church of St Jacques on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

The membership form for 2025 is attached to this mailing.

If you are not yet a member, do not hesitate to join us.

Whether you are an active volunteer or not, becoming a member gives the association the strength to the union! We were more than 250 members in 2024, help us to exceed the 300 threshold.

CONTACT US

<http://www.associationsalam.org>

salamnordpasdecalsais@gmail.com

Facebook page: SALAM Nord/Pas-de-Calais

The LinkedIn page, which can be consulted at the following link : www.linkedin.com/in/association-salam-nord-pas-de-calais

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

Association SALAM
BP 47
62100 CALAIS

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

Bulletin d'adhésion 2025



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 31/12/2025)

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.