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JANUARY 2025 NEWSLETTER

EDITORIAL

So current...

"This constant lie is not intended to make the people believe a lie, but to ensure that no one believes anything anymore. A people who can no longer distinguish truth from falsehood cannot distinguish between good and evil. And such a people, deprived of the power to think and judge, are, without knowing it and without wanting to, completely subject to the rule of lies. With such a people, you can do whatever you want. "

Hannah Arendt

German historian and philosopher, (14 October 1906 – 4 December 1975)

EVENTS OF THE MONTH

DEATHS.

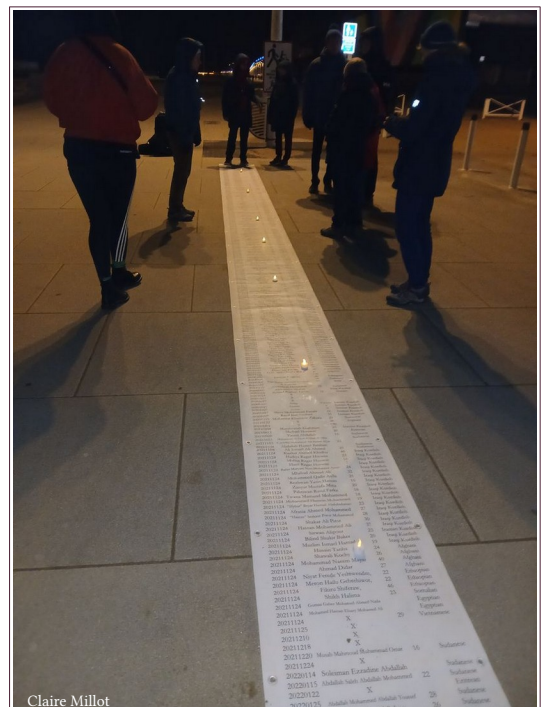
In the first week of 2025, the list of deaths for the month was... a blank page. It felt so good...

Unfortunately, three deaths followed...

The first, was a man found on the side of the A16 road on 8th January, near Grande-Synthe. Is it a person who was hit by a vehicle, a hit-and-run accident? At first, we thought so... But it can also be someone who died in a camp, who was dropped there to be found. It has already happened, unfortunately. We will probably never know.

The usual commemoration took place at 6:30pm the next day, 9th January in Calais, Richelieu Park, and the day after on the Malo-les-Bains in Dunkirk.

It was so cold that we slipped gently from the evocation of the deceased to that of the living: the air was icy but absolutely windless: a weather that would put a dinghy on the water... We were certain that some were on their way and that the one who fell into the water was dead... It was with them in mind, that we parted...



Claire Millot

On the morning of 11th January, another death, that of a young Syrian, was announced to us on the beach of Sangatte. Once again there is uncertainty about the cause of death: someone who has had a cardiac arrest in the water because of the cold? This is what was first announced. Then we heard that the man had been crushed by others in the boat... We'll never validate either report, the second version is so much more horrible, that we would rather not believe it...

As usual, the commemoration took place at 6:30 pm the next day, 12th January in Calais, Richelieu Park, and the day after on the Malo-les-Bains in Dunkirk.

On the morning of 22nd January, the body of a young Yemeni was found on the beach of Sangatte, probably drowned a short time ago...

The commemorations took place on 23rd January (in Calais) and 24th (in Dunkirk) ...

A WINTER WEATHER.

January brought cold and frost.

On 12th January, in Calais, the water supply point on Rue des Huttes froze... It is the only water point in the city accessible to exiles 24 hours a day...

Quite quickly, shelters for the night were decided by the local authority.

On the evening of Friday 3rd January until Monday morning 6th January, then until Tuesday 14th, the Great Cold Plan was activated in Calais. After two nights without shelter, it was reactivated, in several stages, from Thursday 16th to Wednesday 23rd in the morning.

Access is by shuttle bus from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

The associations in Dunkirk (including Salam) had called for an identical decision. On the afternoon of Friday 3rd we finally learn that, in the evening, a gymnasium would be open in Petite-Synthe for several nights, it will also be extended, in several times, until Wednesday morning 23rd January.

The night shelter, supervised by the Red Cross, is reserved for those who have registered with the AFEJI to leave at 5 p.m. with a shuttle. (Afeji Hauts-de-France association acts for the inclusion of all and supports all vulnerable people, from early childhood to old age)

The night ends at 8am in Dunkirk, officially at 9am in Calais...

In Dunkirk, this shelter is accompanied by an evening meal, breakfast and access to a hot shower. In Calais, nothing is offered more than what is offered daily in terms of shuttles to the showers and food distributions by "La Vie Active". "La Vie Active", is a secular non-profit association, that aims to promote the dignity of disabled or vulnerable people.

That's good, of course, but nothing was offered for the day, neither in Calais nor in Dunkirk...

In that weather, however, you wouldn't even leave a dog outside!

We asked with an inter-associative email that at least people be able to arrive all night, especially those who are outside after a rescue at sea or a shipwreck...

The cold weather did not slow down the pace of dismantling (see below). This photo from the HRO (Human Rights Observers) on the morning of 14th January gives an idea of the negative temperature that prevailed:



Arnaud Leclercq



HRO

THE PASSAGES TO ENGLAND .

The cold does not prevent departures.

One of us on 17th January, saw on the road that runs along the sea from Gravelines a group of men who were carrying a huge zodiac dinghy. Apparently, it was very heavy, they had trouble moving forward... On the same day, the Calais distribution team saw a group gathering with backpacks and life jackets, and even families with strollers..

There are many missed passages.

On 5th January, our team in Calais came across a group of about fifty women, one of whom had fallen into the water and had to be hospitalized.

On the 11th, at the Quai de la Moselle, a group of about fifty people showed up for breakfast, they just came out of the water, soaked and covered in sand.

The next day in the same place, there were 80 of them in life jackets: they had missed the crossing.

On the 18th on the road, the distribution team stopped to give breakfast to about fifteen Iranians who had also just missed a crossing..

See also below the article "Testimonies".

And these are just examples of what is happening day in, and day out.

But we are surprised by the number of successes:

The Home Office announced 1,098 crossings on 20 dinghies between 4th and 22nd January inclusive (nothing at the end of the month).

This makes almost 55 people on average per boat, but 129 on 2 boats on the 21st, that is to say, 64 or 65 per boat.... That's enormous..

The minimum is 39 or 40 per dinghy on the 22nd (79 out of 2), a figure closer to those of two years ago...

A year ago (January 2024), there had been still, according to the Home Office, 1,057 crossings on 23 dinghies (46 people per boat).

The proof is in the pudding: police pressure does not reduce the number of crossings; it just makes them more deadly.....

These figures do not take into account those who are not greeted by the Border Force on arrival, nor those who entered by truck.

On 14th January, Olivier wrote on an inter-associative WhatsApp group:

"Yesterday at the showers, many people told me they were trying to get through by boat or truck."

Indeed, as we said above, the water is so cold that the chance of survival in the event of a fall into the water is almost zero.

We are therefore not surprised that lorry crossings are again being attempted more often, and the number of entries in the United Kingdom is necessarily higher than the figure announced by the Home Office.



The Human Rights Observer was able to capture a photo of police officers on the beach on 4th January. They have prevented the departure of a dinghy and take pictures of it as a hunting trophy...

THE EVACUATIONS.

In Calais:

The rhythm to which we had been accustomed since this summer (three times a week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays) resumed from the second week of the year. The first week was still a festive period, the dismantling was lightened as in December, there were only two: Tuesday 31st December and Thursday 3rd January.



This policy, which is less rigorous, has been applied regularly since 7th August; This is worth pointing out, even if it is still overly brutal for those who suffer from it on the ground. But the cold and the icy wind of this period do not slow down the pace... The photo shows a tent just seized (6th January, Danube Quay) blown by the wind. On 20th January, on rue de Judée, a security perimeter was set up without the police getting out of their cars, it was so cold...

The police are generally extremely numerous... But why?? The photo was taken in Marck on 22nd January.



The security perimeters are always extremely large, they often make the Human Rights Observers observation work almost impossible. Yet this is their role as "Human Rights Observers." We see fewer and fewer "human" perimeters, i.e. a line of police officers who block the road. We see at least one on 15th January.

On 31st January, at the Stade du Courgain East, the HRO (Human Rights Observers) asked a riot police officer why they could not observe the operations.

The answer was: "There is a reason but I can't give it to you"...

A little later, on rue de Judée, another CRS (Republican Security Corps) justifies, this time, the security perimeter and their presence:

"We are here to protect you". He doesn't say from what...

And he adds that they are counting because "we are not going to let them die of hunger and cold". Indeed, he says, the services of the prefecture provide food and care.

Someone from the HRO then asks why we take their tents if we want to protect them from the cold.

The police officer assures that there is no eviction, just a report every 48 hours that the land is occupied.

"Come before and after an intervention, you will see that there are the same number of tents."

However, there were at least three tents seized that day (from what the HRO was able to see) Quai de la Gironde...



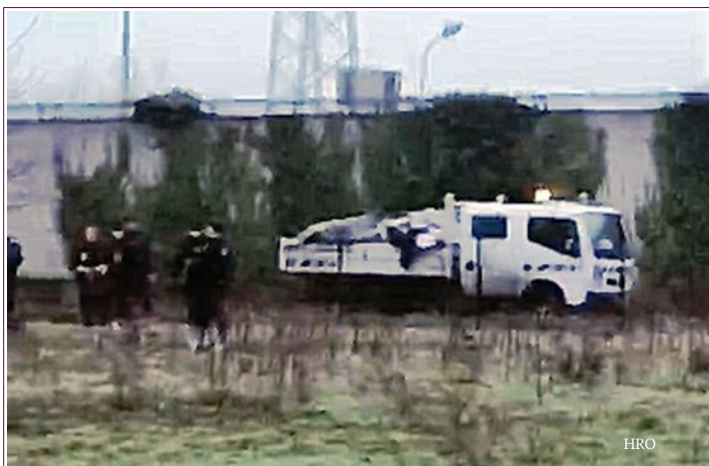
On 3rd January, on rue de Judée, the National Police asked the CRS, in front of them, not to let the HRO pass.

On 20th January at the Stade du Courgain East, a security perimeter was established, with a police car. The HRO is not even allowed to walk along the fence.

On 15th January, the police were armed, the photo was taken by the HRO at the Courgain stadium, east..

On the 24th, batons were reported by the HRO, on the 29th an LBD..

On 6th January, at Pont Mollien, the cleaning team emptied tents to take them away. The Salam team that distributes Quai de la Moselle sees the municipal staff seize all the tents on the quays. And on the 24th, the HRO concluded its report on the dismantling in the city centre with: "All the tents on the quays have been taken". We always notice the difference between the way the exiles evacuate their tents so that they are not picked up and that of the cleaning teams: the exiles carefully lift them so that they do not get damaged (in the photo, it looks like they have legs), while the cleaning agents drag them on the ground without any concern for their condition.



The amount of material seized, even if it's a few at a time, is ultimately impressive (the photo was taken on 22nd January on a BMX.)



The Fontinettes camp was completely razed to the ground on the morning of 29th January, very early.

On 29th January, the police intervened on the Quai de la Moselle during the breakfast given by Salam. They prevented those who had come to eat from coming back to pick up their belongings. Too bad for them, they were picked up... The guys are worried, they know that there have been arrests in the previous days. One of them complained that the day before, he had been woken up in his tent by blows from a policeman. We feel that they are trying to stay with us... but we are expected at the other distribution points...



Arrests, in fact, are not exceptional (in the photo, in Marck, on 24th January).

On the 26th, the HRO noted 7 arrests in the city in the past week. A heavy police presence at the station was reported between 11th and 16th January (this is the period when sea crossings were the most numerous)

On 8th January, a policeman said that it was a "sheltering" operation, the HRO pointed out that it was a strange sheltering operation where you take tents and where there is no bus offering transport to accommodation...

On the 13th, a CRS said that he took migrants to sleep in his home (*sic*), while "you let them die with their mouths open in tents... At home, they are not that unhappy..." This gentleman says that he spent ten years in Africa.

On the 15th in Marck, another CRS said that this perimeter was justified by the attacks, because one of their colleagues had died on the Champs Elysées.

On 24th January, the riot police opened a Salam van during distribution and carried out a proper inspection of the contents. They were looking for something they couldn't find... We still wonder what...

To Dunkirk,

The rhythm had been very slow since the beginning of August (6th and 23rd August – 11th, 25th and 27th September – 9th, 22nd and 30th October – 20th November), but in the freezing cold we saw the evacuation convoys arrive a week apart on 7th and 14th January, then on 27th January...

There is not, as in past years, a spectacular deployment of construction machinery, but destroyed sites::

* on the 7th, seventeen tents, near the canal on the Total site, and the entire Sudanese camp. The HRO's photo shows the state of this camp just after the operation.



*On the 27th, the dismantling, on the Total site and near the Matthews site, very close to the A16, did not tire of anything.





Even two kettles were not spared, one of the few objects that allow the exiles to warm up a little.

There were at least three arrests on the 7th and the exiles at the bus stop told the HRO that the police had used the gas..

On the 14th, the CRS were brutal: they had helmets and shields, they shouted their orders. They shoved the HRO and threatened to report them to the SNCF (Railway) so that they could be fined for "entering a railway zone, it's a crime."

A police officer says that the legal basis for their operation is "assistance to a bailiff". Indeed, there is one on the ground; he says that he does have a requisition from the Prosecutor but that it is in his pocket. Several buses were waiting at the Palais du Littoral, only two will come to the field, one after the other. That morning, the HRO underwent 3 successive identity checks, the third by the port police... Tents were seized..

LIVING CONDITIONS.

The winter living conditions do not make our authorities more compassionate for the exiles..

Indeed, **in Calais**, we learned on 8th January that, for two days, "La Vie Active" in Calais had not gone to BMX to offer its usual services (food distribution, shuttles to showers, etc.).

A phone call confirmed that they were no longer allowed to go there and that there was no alternative location planned.

It was therefore necessary to direct the people concerned to the distribution points on Rue des Huttes and Rue de Judée. But it is a long way off and they had not been informed of this change.

In Dunkirk too, even in the hours when the thermometer went above zero, during the day the winter conditions were undignified.

We distribute with our feet in the water to people who have their feet in the water...



The photos show the Dunkirk distribution site on 7th January:



and on the 9th:

On 24th January, however, after a text message from Salam to the Director General of the Urban Community of Dunkirk, a delivery of sand to dry and stabilise the land was announced. As Jean-Claude Lenoir told us on 25th June, just after a meeting of the representatives of associations with those of the CUD: "No law prohibits being more generous than the State!" Thank you CUD!

Good news :

The PASS in Grande-Synthe opened on Wednesday, 22nd January, for general consultations. People can go on Tuesdays from 1 pm to 4:30 pm, one afternoon a week to start...

PERMANENCE D'ACCÈS AUX SOINS DE SANTÉ



Permanence d'Accès aux Soins de Santé
dédiée au public de l'exil

VOUS AVEZ BESOIN DE SOINS



MARDI
13h - 16h30

La PASS vous propose :



Consultation médicale



Accueil infirmier



Consultation sociale



Examens :
prise de sang, radio



Délivrance de médicaments



Médiateur culturel :
Traducteur



✓ Hommes



✓ Femmes



✗ Enfants



✗ Nourrissons



✗ Femmes enceintes

ACCÈS



Polyclinique de Grande-Synthe
Parking des urgences
1 Avenue de la Polyclinique
59760 Grande-Synthe



Lignes de bus :

- Arrêt "Polyclinique" - Lignes C1 - C2
- Arrêt "Jardin public" - Lignes C1 - C2 - C4 - 17 - 19



COORDONNÉES



PASS : 06.80.77.88.01



A protest demonstration against the conditions of life – and death – in our camps, was organised on 11th January in Calais.



En 2024, 89 hommes, femmes et enfants ont perdu la vie à la frontière franco-britannique, victimes de traversées dangereuses ou de conditions de vie inhumaines imposées sur place.

Depuis plus de 30 ans, les accords entre la France et le Royaume-Uni militarisent le littoral pour bloquer les exilés. En 2003, la France est devenue le "bras policier" de la Grande-Bretagne, avec une frontière déplacée sur son sol. La militarisation de la frontière accroît la dangerosité des traversées.

Cette politique d'hostilité maintient des milliers de personnes dans une précarité extrême : sans abri, harcelées, privées d'eau, de nourriture et d'asile.

Malgré les condamnations des institutions des droits humains, ces politiques inefficaces et dangereuses continuent. En 2024, plus de 35 000 personnes ont traversé la Manche. Les projets récents, comme le délit de séjour irrégulier à Calais, ne feront qu'empirer la situation.

Nous, citoyens solidaires, personnes concernées, associations et élus, refusons cette politique mortifère. Rejoignez la marche le 11 janvier 2025 à Calais pour exiger une politique migratoire humaine et des conditions d'accueil dignes. Face aux drames de la Manche, marchons pour la justice et la dignité.

Salam volunteers were widely represented. (Even though our logo doesn't appear, we signed the appeal!)



One of our volunteers, blocked by health problems, tells me on the phone that when she can't join a demonstration or a rally, to feel closer to us, she lights a small electric candle at home that I left her at a previous meeting... It is a very beautiful, very moving participation that she offers us...

"It is essential that the associative movement, the only guarantor of citizen engagement, remains present, democracy needs you, Our friends need you. »
wrote Jean-Claude Lenoir, in the president's note of the month of January 2016 of this newsletter.

Claire Millot

TESTIMONIALS



ON THE WAY BACK FROM A FAILED PASSAGE:

On 18th January, at the Dunkirk distribution site, "a small group arrived when we had reloaded the truck to leave. They were coming back, equipped with life jackets and survival blankets. There were some who managed to smile, and to make a cross (of blessing) over their plate. What a strength!" Ursula said in a text message.

Text and photos Ursula Timmermans.

A TERRIBLE MORNING: THE MARAUDING OF 21st JANUARY IN CALAIS:

That morning, it was -3° throughout the distribution.
The canal was frozen: birds were walking on it...

***Rue des Mouettes: a crowd.....**

35 Eritreans, new ones, we didn't know them...

They are shipwrecked, all wet... One of them is lying on the ground, he has fallen face down on the ground, he is shaking. We call the fire brigade... A van from "La Vie Active" is there... Phone call to the managers.

- "Yes, we will take them."

A bus arrives, they will have a hot shower.

Seven Kurds arrive just as soaked... Also taken for a hot shower!

When "Active Life" knows how to be human...

***In BMX, of course late, after all that...**

Twelve people.

One of them is a dark-haired guy who never puts anything on him: never cold!

That morning, her hair is all white... frost on her head...

Yolaine Bernard.

ABOUT THE WELCOME AT THE SESAME HOUSE:

Never forgetting how much this smile can bring to them, to their families in Kurdistan, to the Sesames, and to me, whom I can see smiling on the faces of my nations that have been under the pressure of cruelty for more than a century, this is the reason for my love for the Sesame.

Dana, pillar of the Sesame House, 10th January

OUR PUBLIC OUTINGS DURING THE MONTH.

There were many ceremonies at the end of the month, and we responded to the invitations:

- The wishes of M. The Mayor of Grande-Synthe, 19th January.

We came to half a dozen Salam Volunteers, in a packed room at the Palais du Littoral, to salute the repeated support given to us by the municipality..

- On 23rd January, Elise (a very motivated young volunteer, who arrived by the AFEV two years ago) presented her associative project to her class:

Four young people, trained by Elise, had chosen to bring material help to Salam, by collecting surpluses over a long period of time and by a financial donation (proceeds from a pancake sale on the day of the IRTS open house).

Claire had made the trip to support them..



- The galette des rois (King's cake) , at the Maison de la Citoyenneté in Grande-Synthe, on 24th January.

The associations were invited (two people for each). Claire and Pascaline went to represent Salam and salute the availability and kindness of the staff.

- On 26th January, we were in Templeuve, Elisabeth, Jean and Claire, invited by Brigitte and Jean-Noël.

For a long time, they have regularly brought us donations from collections, and agricultural tarpaulins to protect the tents from the rain.

After a large collection in the parishes near their homes, they had collected so much that their car was no longer big enough to bring everything..

We decided to make a round trip to Templeuve in a van (one trip was not enough!) and to group the trip with a meeting that they were organizing, in Cysoing, between the public and representatives of associations who, like us, are doing their best to help the exiles. It was a success: there were a lot of people.....



And we were able to have very interesting exchanges with small groups.

Claire Millot.

Last December in Rome, Pope Francis launched the Holy Jubilee Year. The tradition of the Jubilee was proclaimed by Pope Boniface VIII in the fourteenth century (1300). It takes place every 25 years, a quarter of a century. Throughout France, parishes and shrines are mobilizing to accompany the faithful in their pilgrimage and conversion process. Thirty-five specific events take place between the opening of the Holy Door in December 2024 and its closure in January 2026. A Catholic "world tour in 80 days" (1).

In the first months of his pontificate in 2013, Pope Francis visited Lampedusa, a Sicilian island symbolic of the reception of exiles who risk their lives to cross the Mediterranean, placing his magisterium (Catholic church's authority or office to give authentic interpretation of the word of God) under the sign of the defence of the rights of migrants. Many NGOs that provide rescue at sea have been warning for years about this deadly migratory route. The Catholic Church in France has created a "Pastoral Care of Migrants" merged in 2020 with the "National Mission and Migration Service (SNMM)", placed under the responsibility of the [Episcopal Commission for the Universal Mission of the Church \(CEMUE\)](#). At the Vatican, the Migrants and Refugees Section is personally directed by Pope Francis (2).

In France, the reception of migrants is provided by the services of the State, with the support of numerous associations, which carry out a mission of general interest, in a secular and ecumenical framework. " Catholic Aid " rubs shoulders with general Aid, associations committed since their origins alongside the most vulnerable with Cimade, Gisti, or Utopia 56... wherever the rights of exiles are flouted. A guarantee of secularism has been required to benefit from public subsidies, since the law of 24th August 2021, the aim of which is to strengthen the principles of the Republic by fighting against all forms of separatism (3).

Constitutionally, France is an indivisible, secular, democratic and social Republic that ensures the equality before the law, throughout its territory, of all citizens (4). It respects all beliefs. It organizes the separation of religions and the State, which is neutral with regard to religious or spiritual convictions. There is no state religion. Secularism guarantees freedom of conscience for all. Everyone is free to believe or not to believe. It allows the free expression of one's convictions, with respect for those of others and within the limits of public order. Secularism allows the exercise of citizenship, by reconciling the freedom of each person with the equality and fraternity of all in the concern for the general interest. Based on the 1905 secularism law, it allowed France to put an end to the religious quarrels that have punctuated its history, tragically with the Wars of Religion that bloodied Europe for centuries, and more insidiously during the nineteenth century when the parties of order, viscerally anti-republican, wanted to re-establish institutions that had allowed them to establish a conservative-Church ("royal" Catholic religion) power, Army...

After having been experienced as a "persecution" and after a conflict that lasted 16 years, the Catholic Church and the faithful finally understood and admitted in 1921, the year of reconciliation with the French Republic, that the law of 1905 was both a protection and a bulwark (4). Curiously, during his visit to Ajaccio on December 15, 2024, Pope Francis spread a message of distrust of the French secular model. Pleading in favour of a "healthy secularism," which is "neither static nor fixed, but evolving and dynamic," the Supreme Pontiff repeated a criticism already expressed about French secularism that would suffer from a "colouring inherited from the Enlightenment that is much too strong" demeaning religions, "subcultures."

For Federico Lombardi (6), a specialist in Vatican communication, Pope Francis wants to tackle the "most burning problems of today" with a "uncentered point of view", that of the poor and the peripheries, which would allow him "to broaden the gaze or to welcome with particular intensity critical issues (migrations, prisons, slavery...), to push reflection and the search for concrete solutions to the problems of humanity". His magisterium would be "between continuity and innovation". His criticisms of French secularism are surprising in a country like France, which is home to the largest Jewish and Muslim communities in Europe. Cohabitation between religions is harmonious in the country of Voltaire and Victor Hugo; it is expressed through intense interreligious dialogue and real solidarity, especially when the faithful of a community are attacked or discriminated against (7).

Pope Francis did not want to come to the inauguration of Notre Dame on 7th December, 2024, in Paris, preferring to go to Corsica, "an island where 90% of the inhabitants say they are Catholic and where religious practice is fervent and intertwined with political life" (8) to testify to his preference for the "peripheries". Yet Notre-Dame de Paris is "the parish of the Nation", this French singularity expressed by Maryvonne de Saint Pulgent (9) which "may seem disconcerting in a secular republic" because the French, like the Europeans, whether they are believers or not, of Catholic culture or not, "need a place that is part of the long term, a place marked by the sacred, where the nation finds itself"..

All men and women of good will are needed to defend an essential cause that goes beyond religious, political or social affiliations, that of exiles. For the defence of migrants' rights, it is a shame to oppose a "centre" to "peripheries". Pope Francis has often denounced the "instrumentalization of religion," still in Corsica. At a time when religious fundamentalisms instrumentalize religion and migration, all over the world, opposing a "supposedly dominating centre" to "oppressed peripheries," the better to attack Western values, is Pope Francis not playing with fire?

Will the 80 days announced to celebrate the Jubilee of 2025 be enough to build bridges and dispel misunderstandings? To illustrate an "enlightened universalism", biting and mocking but full of humanity, we suggest reflecting on the humanist message of the "Chanson pour l'Auvergnat", written by a French composer, rebellious spirit, resolutely secular and republican, George Brassens. He expresses with sad irony that the most decisive and humane help does not always come from "all well-intentioned people" (10)..

The road to hell is paved with good intentions...

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

Bénédicte Halba has been the director of 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 web log dedicated to migration (2024)- <https://actions-migration.blogspot.com/>.

(1) Bishops' Conference of France, 2nd January 2025

(2) Church and Migrations – Friday, 3rd January, 2025 <https://migrations.catholique.fr/qui-sommes-nous/le-saint-siege/>

(3) Law of 24th August 2021 - <https://www.vie-publique.fr/loi/277621-loi-separatisme-respect-des-principes-de-la-republique-24-aout-2021>

(4) Article 1 of the Constitution of 4th October 1958 - <https://www.conseil-constitutionnel.fr/le-bloc-de-constitutionnalite/t-exte-integral-de-la-constitution-du-4-octobre-1958-en-vigueur>

(5) Terms used by Father Bernard Ardura, President of the Pontifical Committee for Historical Sciences, quoted by Manuella Affejee "100 Years Ago, the Reconciliation between the Holy See and the France", interview with Father Bernard Ardura - Vatican City, <https://www.vaticannews.va/fr/vatican/news/2021-02/centenaire-retablissement-relations-saint-sieg-e-france-ardura.html>

(6) Lombardi, F., Translated from the Italian by Armogathe, J. (2018). The magisterium of Pope Francis, between continuity and innovation. *Communio*, Nos. 255(1), 95-104. <https://doi.org/10.3917/commun.255.0095>. . . ; since 2016, President of the Joseph Ratzinger-Benedict XVI Vatican Foundation, responsible for communication at the Vatican, in all the positions of the main vectors of Vatican communication (Civiltà Cattolica magazine, Vatican Radio, Vatican Television Center, Holy See Press Office),

(7) the Christian faiths, Jewish and Muslim, united in prayer after the terrorist attacks of January 2015 against the supermarket "Hypercacher " after attacking the editorial staff of "Charlie Hebdo". The pretext of "blasphemy to Islam" for the satirical newspaper, which had violently criticized Pope John Paul II throughout his pontificate, does not hold up with the supermarket. It was a question of attacking republican and secular France, as confirmed by the November 2015 attacks on the Bataclan where French people of all faiths were killed.

(8) Editorial in Le Monde, "The Pope's debatable lesson in secularism", 17th December 2024

(9) quoted by Cyprien Mycinski, "Notre Dame de Paris, from the Catholic building to the 'parish of the nation'", Le Monde, 7th December 2024; former director of heritage at the Ministry of Culture, author of "The Glory of Notre Dame. Faith and Power", Paris: Gallimard, 2023.

(10) George Brassens, "Chanson pour l'Auvergnat", Paris: Éditions Seghers, 1954

ANOTHER FRONTIER, THE SAME FIGHT..

Last April (2024) we published in this newsletter the testimony of Elisabeth and Jean, back from the "Solidarity Shelters" of Besançon.

And last September, an article in this newsletter was devoted to the same theme:

"HERE OR ELSEWHERE?"

At the PSM forum in Calais on 21st September, we noticed that each of us has the impression that what is happening in our area of the country is unique.

But no, the situations are often sadly similar from one region to another, from one country to another, from one continent to another... "

This month it's Anne and Jacky who send us their testimony from the Spanish border.

The same rejection of the other, but also the same solidarity at the Spanish border.

Ola Claire!

Some information about the border of the Eastern Pyrenees...

On the border between Spain and France, not so happy scenarios are also being played out...

Coming from the deep south, migrants, exiles without papers, want to cross the border attracted by the "the golden one" of the West... and rub shoulders with the rejection of our migration policies: here too the Police is on all fronts to "protect" our Retaillieu-style West... Racial profiling is common in bus and train stations, road checks are frequent, passes are monitored...

Some images take us back to the "Withdrawal" (exodus in 1939 of refugees from the Spanish Civil War)...

But here too solidarity is organized: on the Catalan Mediterranean border, an informal collective "Long live the coast" brings together different movements, associations, on both sides of the border: French, Catalan, Spanish... is organized into groups: observation, guide...

Action/reception, awareness-raising, permanence, support vehicle...

We had the opportunity to participate in one of their meetings and we were given the opportunity to present the situation on the Calais and Dunkirk coasts: the assembly was surprised by the magnitude of the situations, which shows that networking is important to mediatize our struggles outside the media of power... And we also presented Salam's actions: general congratulations for our commitments...

There you have it, this little word to say that we are not alone, that at all borders a network of solidarity exists and that it is only growing: "they shall not pass"!!

Attached are photos of the Caritas premises in Portbou where we were welcomed by Maria Jose: this premise is located near the train station at the foot of the church, it is open every day from 7pm to 8pm, it "offers" food and clothes to the "travellers".

Best Wishes to the whole team.



Text and photos Anne and Jacky Bricout
(Thursday, 16th January, 2025).

THANK YOU

THANK YOU TO THE STRANGER WHO GAVE US SUCH A NICE CHRISTMAS PRESENT.

On Thursday, 23rd January, the truck carried a superb banner in honour of Salam... Joseph found it in a steel cupboard, the first in the room where the vegetables were stored. He doesn't know where it comes from, he brought two adhesive hooks and installed it (removable of course). It's a wonderful gift, but who gave it to us, and when? We would like to thank the generous donor.....



THANK YOU TO CLAIRE D. FOR HER HOME-MADE GREETING CARD, with a dove of peace that flies away (almost) when you open the map, and a moving and multi coloured text.

Despite the winter, believe in spring
Despite xenophobia, believe in fraternity
Despite hate, believing in love
Despite death, believing in life
Despite violence, believe in peace
Despite indifference, believe in compassion
Believing in humanity... still!
In the darkest night there is always the hope
of a magnificent dawn
For this new year, believe in this new dawn to come...
Claire Dutilloy



THANKS TO THOSE WHO ARE MOVING AWAY:

Philippe who for several years was alone in the preparation of Tuesday meals in the basement. He celebrated his departure in the privacy of the Tuesday team.

Quentin who is leaving for a month at the Refuge Solidaire in Briançon. (But he'll come back! He promised it)
The Saturday team made him a song with a photo (but not of him).

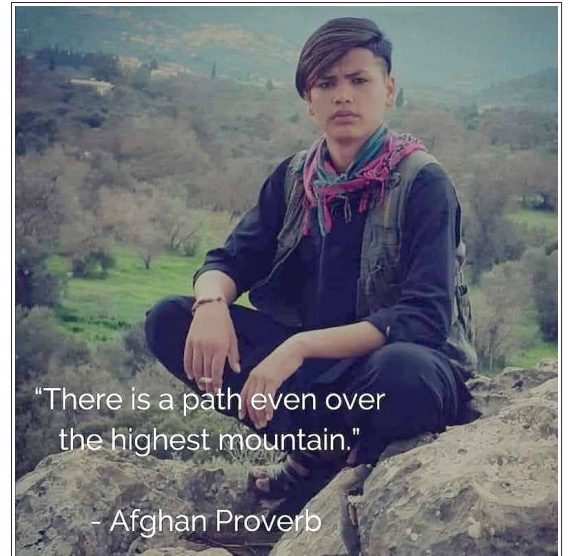
25/01/2025 to the tune of "RESISTE" by France Gall.

It comes from afar / to fight for the right / and for the exiles
From Boulogne to Dunkirk / Passing through Calais / Always by
their side
Fraternity / You have it deep inside you
Everyone who crosses your path / will never forget that
Quentin !
Keep up the routine
Denounce what you see!

*Know, we're all with you
Fair winds!
The mountain that reaches you
You won't give up
It's a fight, one day, we'll win it!
Thank you!*

The young people you accompany / For their safety / know that
you're a safe guy
You've done a lot for them / With great seriousness / They'll miss
you for sure
It's not just / a story of papers /
They have perceived in you / all your Humanityé

Refrain :
Go, and come and tell us
Leave, keep helping
Parts, be careful of yourself
Peace be upon you
Quentin.....
Don't let go.....
Refrain



He was, however, for his last day, the
subject of the photos:
All alone, in the centre of the group,
and honoured by the choir of his
Saturday team.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO ENSURED THE WORK DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON:

To the very active youth who energized us with their laughter and teasing, Clara, Elise and Thomas, wrote Ghislaine in the report of 2nd January.

To those who managed the Emmaus collections: during these two weeks of holidays, most of the associations in the field and the solidarity grocery stores were on leave. It was Salam who, three times a week instead of once, took advantage of the surpluses of Emmaus.

On 2nd January, the volunteers present sorted the 24 boxes of fruit and vegetables that remained in the aisle downstairs..

To those who have cooked food, and it is so good that on 13th January in Dunkirk the volunteers scraped the bottom of the containers before going back in for the dishes.



- To those who distributed.

Special mention for Nathalie who managed to distribute with the dress for her daughter's wedding in the afternoon, without staining herself! We regret that the little finger that told us this, did not take a picture.

To those who have taken on additional tasks:

Henri and Thierry have managed the problem of the truck door that has come off more than once, with the help of our favourite mechanic in Rexpoede: he is always available and he is deeply committed to our cause..





Those who did everything they could to avoid wasting food: for example, Pascaline, picking up banana pieces in a milk shake on 18th January.

Thursday, 9th January,

*Dominique and Joseph made a small delivery of firewood crates to the camp in the middle of the morning.

*Others took care of the pouring of a can of oil into large bottles, with the know-how and tricks of Ali, who was very dynamic, willing and efficient.

*Annie had, as was often the case the day before, already peeled vegetables, which is very useful.

Thursday 16th,

*A lot of storage has been done by Thierry in the cupboards.

*Ghislaine took a large part of the pears (all stained) to make jam for Calais.

On Saturday 18th, Pascaline left in the afternoon with a bin full of part of the lunch, in excess, to distribute it at the end of the day (mission accomplished). She brought the container back on Monday evening.

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO TAKE TURNS TO REPLACE PHILIPPE IN THE KITCHEN ON TUESDAYS:

Teams (at least two people) are formed to prepare the meal: Patrick and Claire, then Ghislaine and Ali with Jean-Paul and Charline from FTS, then Hubert and Mamadi, then Juciara and Claire...

We are confident for the future! It's much less heavy than we feared, because Claudine is there very early in the morning to put the chicken to cook, and Denise is there to advise, to guide, with the patience of someone who has done it for years.

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

Food donations:

*Those who want to mark an important event by donating to people in great need:

Last month, it was a birth, on 4th January, it was a death: the big bowl, prepared by Abdelkader, was financed by them, and they also donated mineral water and fruit...

* a donation of waffles, by Mr. G. from Belgium, on 11th January.

* a lady from the Chapel of Armentières brought us pumpkins on the 16th.

Textile donations:

*a donation, again on 11th January, from Mr G. from Belgium of sleeping bags and clothes

*four new packages from Jean-Guillaume de Reims, by Mondial Relay: fleeces, warm jackets, shoes, and even sweets for the little ones.

José, a long-time volunteer, went to pick them up at the relay and I asked him:

- Who is the sender?

"Ah, I didn't pay attention, I thought you knew..." Someone from the East, I think...

- Jean-Guillaume, from Reims?

- Oh, it looks like his packages: full, tidy, varied... Jean-Guillaume is spotted!



- * the lady of the Chapel of Armentières (the same) also brought us clothes and shoes, on 15th January,
- * Pascale de Warhem's clothes and shoes on 15th January, then two cover cars on the 25th.
- * the hats knitted by Régine

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

The Audotri association, a tireless supplier of blankets, duvets, jackets and clothing,

The church of Saint Joseph de Capelle, for many clothes, brought by two gentlemen on 15th January,

Emmaus Saint-Omer for the 18 boxes of fruit and vegetables offered,

The company that sold us, on 27th January, not far from a pallet of boxes of vegetables whose external appearance made them unfit for sale..

The group of young people from Arras who had missed their visit on 24th December, but who have since collected for us for a delivery in February.

The Jardins de Cocagne , back on Thursday 23rd January, offered us an additional delivery of organic vegetables, as well as on 28th January..



Maison Sésame, for a donation of two boxes of fruit and vegetables, on 11th January, and a large quantity of blankets on the 23rd.



The grannies of the Val des Roses in Dunkirk, who regularly send us a tote bag full of hand-knitted woollen hats,

The parish of Bergues, for a large donation of clothes: a full car, on 9th January,

The parish of the EPU of Artois and the EPU of Thiérache brought the result of a beautiful collection in the middle of the month.

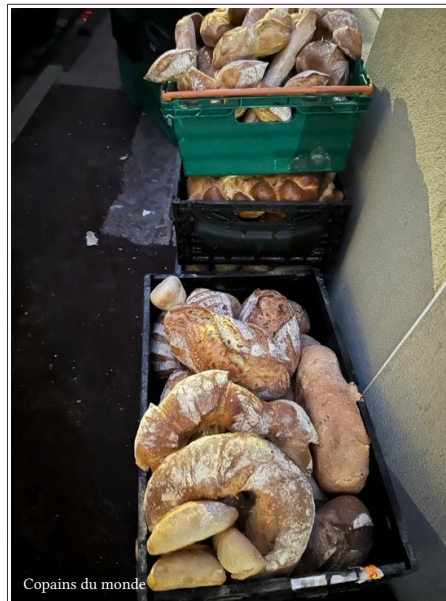
The parishes around Templeuve (see above the article "Our public outings"),

Father Hochart and the parishioners of the small Chapelle des Dunes in Dunkirk, for a new donation of blankets, on 11th January,

The Secours Populaire de Guérande, for a donation of clothes:

"I take advantage of being the editor of this CR to thank my mother and her volunteer companions for their "remote" help, by keeping for us the warm clothes that they are not going to sell," Julie writes to us in the report of the day of 11th January,

The Secours Populaire/Copains du Monde, behind Christian Hogard, Caroline and their team, in particular Bruno and Evelyne..



Here are our thank you messages:

The one on 8th January:

It was so cold on Monday!

The wind was so bad...

But now Zho-gard has arrived!

With bread and pastries... to warm the hearts of exiles. Thank you Christian and Caroline, thank you to all the Copains du Monde (Friends of the World) who are mobilizing to help them.

On behalf of the Salam team and those in need,

THANK YOU.

The one on 15th January:

Thank you Christian, thank you Caroline, thank you to all the Friends of the World, thank you for the bread, pastries and compotes, once again brought to Calais, at the end of last week, for our exiled friends who are holding on in the cold of winter.

What would we do without you?

Thank you!

The one on 17th January:

Thank you friends, friends from all over the world,

- thank you first of all for the brioches/rolls delivered the day before yesterday in Calais, it's a rare luxury and it gives a little happiness to exiles, they don't have that much!

-thank you also for the bread and pastries that arrived today in Calais. This morning, there were many of them with their bags on their backs and life jackets in their hands. It was a relief to be able to weigh them down with some fresh food for waiting in the dunes...

Thank you very much!

For our exiled friends and for our team, thank you.

The one on 23rd January:

Thank you friends "Copains du Monde", thank you Christian, thank you Caroline,

For an exceptional delivery of bread on Tuesday evening, special breads of all kinds and in quantity, and for the pastries that went with it...

It's a great gift for a period when frost alternates with rain and when it's not good to hang out outside with a stomach in your heels.

Thank you for the heels of our exiled friends...

In Salam, we embrace you all..

The one on 28th January:

Thank you once again for the bread and pastries you brought to Calais last night.

Thank you Les Copains du Monde, thank you Christian, thank you Caroline.

This morning, the start of the day was less hard for our friends who were freezing, thanks to you.

From them as well as from Salam's, THANK YOU.

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 everyone (close friends and strangers) who slipped us a note, sent a cheque, made a transfer directly or through Helloassos.

A special thank you

- to Renaud, a hospital doctor in Nantes, who (for several years) has been collecting unused Christmas vouchers from his colleagues. He spends them and gives us the money, an unexpected sum this year!

- To Gauthier Chastan who made us double his donation for the month of December through the "Benevity platform".

- To the OSE association which made us enjoy the benefit of a clothing market.

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 share with us two mornings a week the surplus fruit and vegetables from the ALDI store from the rue du Kruysbellaert, to the Ressourcerie de Montreuil sur mer ("Once upon a time ") and to the Secours Catholique de Berck which provide each month clothes brought to Calais by André de Merlimont, to the Calais bakeries and to those opposite the Noorderover, "La mie du pain" and "Aux pains du Nord" in Coudekerque. Week after week, they are there to help us..

Thanks to the Human Rights Observers, to "Geoff Motyer - Instagram@Small_cog", to Basma, to Les Copains du Monde, to Lesli Maximum and to Khatima 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 from the beginning of the preparation work (8am) to the end of the dishes (between 2pm and 4pm). 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 am at the premises, 13 rue des Fontinettes.

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

CALL FOR DONATIONS

MONEY NEEDS.

Without state subsidies and with a very significant reduction in subsidies from local and regional authorities, we still need money to make the association's work last:
Maintenance of premises and vans, fuel, purchase of missing foodstuffs...

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

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

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

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

A big thank you to all our generous donors!

TENTS AND TARPAULINS!

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

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

Otherwise, the most pressing needs at both sites:
BLANKETS (DUVETS, SLEEPING BAGS).

men's clothing from XS to XL: underpants, long johns underpants and thermal leggings and thermal sweaters, socks, jogging pants, jeans, shorts, t-shirts,
MEN'S SHOES: trainers or light hiking boots (sizes 40 to 46),
flip/flops, 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,
cookies (or pastries, or cake bars or pound cakes etc...)

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

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>

salamnordpasdecalais@gmail.com

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

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

and the brand new Instagram account : [salam_calais_grandesynthe](#)

Association SALAM
BP 47
62100 CALAIS

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

Bulletin d'adhésion 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 (important pour la convocation à l'AG) _____

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.