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JULY 2024 NEWSLETTER

THE PRESIDENT'S WORDS

This month, there will be no "word from the president", just a reminder of the words he repeated, and which we take up following him:

« LIBERTÉ – ÉGALITÉ – FRATERNITÉ »
"Liberty, equality, fraternity" (the national motto of France)

And how can we prevent our friends from going out on the water at the risk of losing their lives? What is needed is that they no longer want to go to the United Kingdom, so we have to welcome them by offering them, very quickly, papers with permission to work for two or three years... Because it is the possibility of working at "the table" in the long term that pushes them all to cross the Channel... The rest is just a pretext...

Who could have, who could after the traditional words of the president, written month after month by Jean-Claude, for so many years, with the inimitable verve and authority to which he had accustomed us... Who could have, who would dare to take over so quickly?

Claire Millot

EVENTS OF THE MONTH



JULY 2024 WILL HAVE BEEN FOR MANY A MONTH OF MOURNING.....NINE DEATHS...

The series of losses began on the evening of Thursday, 11th July, with the one of our president Jean-Claude Lenoir...

During the night we passed on the information to all the volunteers of Salam:

*We are under the blow of the news and are devastated.
Jean-Claude crashed into the water in his van and drowned. No doubt a malaise.
Too early to say anything other than our sorrow.
Yolaine and Claire*

The same night, four exiles died in a shipwreck off the coast of Boulogne,

On the 17th, a new shipwrecked person (an Eritrean woman) died in front of Gravelines, on a dinghy carrying 72 people...

A sixth death was announced on the morning of the 19th, on a dinghy with 86 people on board.

Never had we heard of boats loaded to this extent... We had seen 77 on June 29th, it was already incredible, but 86 was staggering!!!

The commemorations, organized the day after the announcement in the press, at 6:30 p.m. in the Richelieu Park in Calais, were gathered together: one on Saturday 13th in tribute to Jean-Claude Lenoir and the four people who died the same night, one on Friday 19th for the last two.

Each of the two ceremonies was followed by another in Dunkirk.

The place chosen was, symbolically, the beach, Monday 15th for the first, Tuesday 23rd for the second.

On July 28th we learned from the press of an eighth death off the coast of Calais, not by drowning but as a result of a weakness or a crushing (75 people had crammed onto the boat...)

The rallies in his memory took place on 29th July in Calais and on 30th July in Dunkirk.

The maritime prefecture reminds us how dangerous this arm of the sea is. It is not said that this danger is multiplied by the fact that the police harass exiles on land, which pushes them to enter the sea to board the boats. It is not said that if there are so many of them, more and more numerous on the boats, it is not only the fault of the greed of the smugglers but also because the boats are becoming increasingly rare: the police stop them and confiscate them before they arrive at the seashore...

The ninth deaths on 29th July, included that of a baby boy who arrived ill at the Catholic Care Day centre in Calais. A commemoration took place at Parc Richelieu the next day, 30th July. Of course, he is not a dead man who had attempted to cross, but we can't help but think that, if he had had a normal life, this child could have been taken care of in time, in a continuous way, and could have been saved... We are terribly sad for his parents and his entire family.



Let's not forget another death, another drowning, but not in an attempt, to cross to the United Kingdom. It is a death that affects the former members of the Dunkirk team. Régis Pringarbe was part of the "green brigades" of the municipality of Grande-Synthe at the time of the Petit Prédembourg camp. This team, in charge of the protected natural area, was always benevolent towards the exiles, always ready to inform us, to be of service... He drowned on his "QuadSki" during a trip/... We have a special thought for his colleagues, his family... But really, too many deaths in the water this month...

FAREWELL TO JEAN-CLAUDE LENOIR.

The funeral was celebrated in the strictest privacy.

We wanted to have a somewhat solemn moment despite everything.

An informative message was circulated, as widely as possible, the day after the accident... Also, for all voluntary associations:

Jean-Claude last night,

4 shipwrecked people died in front of Boulogne in the night that followed...

Tomorrow at 6:30 p.m. at the Richelieu Park in Calais, the traditional commemoration for the shipwrecked will take place. Following this moment of contemplation, the Salam volunteers, accompanied by all those who wish, are invited to walk to the place where Jean-Claude's truck fell into the water.

We will throw a flower into the water and respect a new moment of contemplation.

Let us be numerous. We miss him terribly.

An invitation followed for the volunteers of Salam:

After the moment of commemoration, the volunteers of Salam are invited to meet at the MER, "Maison d'Entraide et de Ressources" of the Secours Catholique, rue de Croy, for a moment of convivial exchange (Spanish Inn).

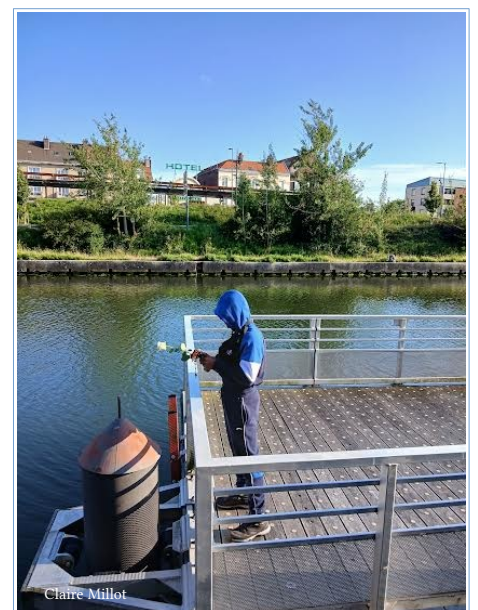


In Calais, after the moving moment in memory of our four friends who died in a shipwreck,

Our president was greeted by two speeches, that of Claire Millot (secretary general of Salam) and that of Pascal Brice, who came quickly from Paris. We would like to thank him for this...

An excellent video of "Calais la Sociale" reports on the whole ceremony, including the beautiful piece of music played by Abdullah.

<https://www.facebook.com/salamnordpasdecalais>



In Dunkirk, Claire Millot's speech was largely different from that in Calais, out of respect for those who had come both times and also to give an image of Jean-Claude's historic investment in Calais, in the long period (12 years!) during which he "made" all the food distributions, seven days a week...

Out of respect for those who were there, in Calais, the day before yesterday, Saturday, I will not repeat myself.

Just the beginning: because it talks about what J Claude wanted if he disappeared, if he died, suddenly. He knew he was threatened. He had undergone heart surgery three years ago. He didn't want it to be known, the few people in Salam who were in the know had promised not to talk about it. And we kept our word.

Be careful, death does not release you from a promise, what lifts the secret is that her son has spoken about it to the press...

He told me a few weeks ago: "When I was operated on, they promised me a ten-year reprieve..." I only have seven left... »

Good...

I come back to the beginning of my text of the day before yesterday

What do we do in situations that are a little tricky?

We call Jean-Claude...

The death of Jean-Claude Lenoir... What do we do ?

To the Patron ?

"Listen to me," he said, "for once listen to me. We do NOTHING, NOTHING AT ALL.

Jean-Claude Lenoir was a modest, discreet man, he would not have wanted any ceremony, especially no praise...

AH...

So I replied:

Boss, for once, shut up, FOR ONCE...

We need to find each other, we who esteem you, who admire you, who love you...

We need to meet again to talk about you, to say "goodbye", to say "goodbye".

And we are here to tell you, our admiration for your generosity, for your availability.

We are here, together, despite your order...

I'm going to talk to you about J Claude in distribution, in Calais, because normally it's mainly the people of Dunkirk who are here today.

So, Jean-Claude until 2014, presided over the distribution on rue de Moscou. The town hall made land available to associations for the distribution of meals. Yes, Ms. Bouchard boasts of a dialogue with Jean-Claude, it's not entirely untrue, except that the dialogue stopped in January 2015...

Jean-Claude climbed into the metal structures, at the end of the kind of protective roof of the line in case of rain and he made the guys pass in small groups, so that there was no jostling at the distribution table.

From July 2014, when the rue de Moscou was closed after the evacuation and dismantling of the tents that had occupied this space, we gave the meal on the Quai de la Moselle. Jean-Claude was there, making sure to avoid cheating.

"E duro, il capo," I once said in exile. ("And tough, the boss")

I replied: "Yes, he's hard, but if he wasn't hard, you wouldn't have food..." He wasn't "HARD"; He was firm, firm but never brutal, rather tender even: he took the guys by the shoulders, he gave them a little pat on the stomach, or on the shoulder, like sportsmen do and he accompanied them firmly but gently at the end of the line.

And he was there 7 days a week, almost 365 out of 365, which makes him known... and recognized.

"Il Capo" the guys said...(the Boss)

Then he came less on the field,

When some people are sometimes surprised by it, criticize it, I say "Start by doing twelve years of daily distributions (end of 2002 evacuation of the Sangatte camp – January 2015 opening of the Jules Ferry centre) and let's talk about it again..."

For the day-to-day there is no problem, we continue, serenely, the teams are well-trained, we know what to do...

Now, I am going to insist, as at the beginning of this speech, as Pascal Brice also did the day before yesterday in Calais:

Jean-Claude was someone we listened to...

Neither Pascal Brice nor I made an important decision without having taken his opinion. It's normal for me, he was my president. But Pascal Brice is President of the Federation of Solidarity Actors, former director of OFPRA, so often present in Calais on the Great Jungle in 2015-2016. He told us the same thing. No decision without consulting Jean-Claude Lenoir... J Claude had a breadth, a rare, irreplaceable accuracy of vision.

We will have to learn to do without it... We already miss him...

Want an example?

Only one, very recent: the end of deportation to Rwanda from the United Kingdom.

I call him:

That's good, isn't it? The guys are relieved.

I hadn't looked any further.

Of course, he tells me, but it's also important for Europe, for Africa...

What one country does leads to an entire continent... And he explains... (We don't silence Jean-Claude Lenoir. It's terrible what we're going to miss...).

He also said, and it's the same approach: it is the citizens' movement that must block the rise of the far right. It is up to us to impose the maintenance of our republican principles, LIBERTY – EQUALITY – FRATERNITY. Almost all of the president's words ended with the motto of our Republic.

So, for the months, the years to come, we will try to listen to J Claude, to hear what he would tell us if he could still do it, to broaden our vision of things, without bias, totally freely in relation to political parties and personalities... to defend what we think is right. Thank you, Patron, thank you Jean-Claude...

This speech was followed by that of Anne-Marie Defrance from "Terre d'Errance" in Steenvoorde:

JEAN-CLAUDE,

You are the president of the SALAM association "Support, Help, Fight, Act for Migrants". You were among the first to mobilize in the 1990's for our brothers from elsewhere, migrants, exiles, uprooted people, refugees. You were an integral part of the citizens' movement that was involved in helping migrants. You were modest, indignant, committed, dedicated, passionate to defend humanist causes, the fight for injustice, provide extraordinary generosity.

You went to the other bank.

Oh, how much we will miss you,

But oh, how you remain forever in our hearts. We, Terre d'Errance de Steenvoorde, join in the sorrow of your loved ones, your friends. Heaven weeps as we mourn you." Salam" in Arabic translates to "Peace". We hope that what you have sown with your concrete actions and your strong words may bring peace even to the most hardened hearts. I will end with a few sentences from Martin Luther King:

"I have a dream that one day men will rise up and finally understand that we are made to live together as brothers. I still have the dream that fraternity will one day be a little more than a few words at the end of a prayer. Yes, we will be able to hasten the day when peace will reign on earth and goodwill among men. »

Good luck, Jean-Claude, your humanist legacy will continue.

**Anne-Marie Defrance,
Terre d'Errance de Steenvoorde.**

Then Sylvie Desjonquères from the "Maison Sésame" took the floor in turn:

JEAN-CLAUDE

Jean-Claude

It was

The voice of refugees

The warmth of a shelter

The good taste of bread that is hungry

Attention to others less fortunate than us

Always

Jean-Claude was a man who understood

Understood that he could relieve all these people again and again

A little, a lot, passionately, madly

Permanently inhabited by all these bridges and links

Where he had the power to exercise,

that WE should be able to exercise

Jean-Claude who dared,

The Big Mouth

Who proclaimed his anger by reminding everyone, all the time,

The duty of concern for freedom, equality, fraternity for every human being

Quite simply, this respect for every man, woman, child

Wherever they come from, whoever they are

Jean-Claude,

What a terrible thumbing of the nose at last

Your van that becomes your coffin

The sea, that beloved, which becomes the grim reaper

Thank you, Jean-Claude for everything you were

For all this population in exile

Thank you for not filling your heart and mind with infamous and murderous barbed wire

And for having always kept this humanist openness deep inside you, the driving force behind our actions.

I remember the void that Jean-Pierre left us

I dread the void you already leave

To God Jean-Claude

Rest

To that elsewhere where you may find your refugee friends

Sylvie Desjonquères,

Sesame House.

Thank you to these friends for the emotion they were able to put into writing and reading their text.





Amélie Fenaux

On 23rd July in Dunkirk, about twenty people paid tribute to the two castaways of 18th /19th July. Pascaline enriched this moment by reading a poem.



Amélie Fenaux

THE PASSAGES.

In July, the Home Office counted 3,414 arrivals by sea in the United Kingdom on 58 boats, which is an average of almost 59 people per boat.

We have known for a long time, we have seen it: the police pressure on our beaches does not encourage anyone to give up the crossing. For a while, the departures were further and further away from the straight line from Calais, or Dunkirk, to the Bay of the Somme, and even from the rivers (Aa or Authie). Currently the greatest confusion exists for everyone, and departures are made from any point on the coast...

A real game of cat and mouse...

On 2nd July, we received images of crossings, sent by exiles to the guests of the Maison Sésame: We are delighted with them that they all arrived safely that day.

This is a video taken from the dinghy that passed by on 29th June with 77 people on board. Frightening! We didn't imagine that there could be worse afterwards...

It was carried out by a gentleman who has been at the Maison Sesame since the beginning of May. His family had passed by a fortnight before.

The blonde lady with her child was also there the week before (she has two children, 9 and 23 months).



Exilé anonyme

The video from which we took photos for last month's newsletter (June 2024) showed people mostly wearing life jackets. The one on 2nd July, on the other hand, shows almost all people without any protection... The authorities said that, on the dinghy from which the one fell who drowned on 19th July, there was only one person equipped with a life jacket...

POLITICIANS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE CHANNEL.

The conditions of passage are objectively more and more difficult and dangerous. When can we hope for a different reception policy?

In our last issue of this newsletter, we watched with terror as the rise of the far right accelerated, and not only at the ballot box: the worst happened on 2nd July when exiles in Calais were chased and injured by men in cars.

The tension has eased a little with the result of the second round of the legislative elections and the republican surge that prevented the National Rally from having an absolute majority in the assembly. He also allowed the left-wing forces to come out on top. This, and Labour's victory in the United Kingdom elections, allowed us to look at the near future with a little more serenity.

Have we been naïve?

We learn from an article in "Le Parisien Newspaper" on 25 July that, in the United Kingdom, "(Labour) preferred a "serious program of return," according to the Minister of the Interior. The United Kingdom announced on Thursday that it had deported 46 people to Vietnam and East Timor on a chartered flight. We did not expect such quick and radical decisions, but it is not a total surprise: the day after the elections, we read in "Libération" of 5th July: "... a line that is intended to be firm - reducing legal immigration and fighting against irregular arrivals - but also more humane with the abandonment of the conservative project of deportations to Rwanda. »

In France, at the same time, the New Popular Front was unable to agree on a Prime Minister.

At least one positive sign is the sentence to eight months in prison by the court for the car attackers of 2nd July, in Calais. This is no small thing, even if the person who was sentenced to it will be able to serve his sentence at home, with an electronic bracelet...

"The act of rushing them was voluntary and there was a fault," said the Public Prosecutor ("Voix du Nord" of 14th July, 2024, Calais edition).

THE EVACUATIONS

Comments made by police officers:

What is striking in the HRO's (Human Rights Observers) reports of 19th July in Dunkirk are the comments of police officers, recorded by the HRO a little before 10 a.m. They leave you speechless...

The police accuse the HRO of obstructing traffic by parking on one of the lanes.

"When you block traffic," says one of them, "if there is an accident, I put you in court..." »

All right... but the astonishing thing is that the video taken by the HRO shows a police motorcyclist completely across a lane.



The HRO points this out. The policeman's answer is: "We're here, we're protecting you by being on the tracks. The police protect associations. »

Right after, a policeman (another or the same one, it doesn't matter) declares (it is also recorded in a video by the HRO): "The prefecture will provide security and make the humans you mistreat by keeping them in groves live in correct conditions, humane conditions..." »

There, the HRO chokes up...

The police officer continues: "What are you offering them as potential accommodation? We came with the prefecture who offered them hotel rooms..." »

We must hope that this gentleman is convinced of what he says. This should allow him to sleep better at night than if he realized (as is sometimes the case) the reality:

- it deprives human beings of tents and tarpaulins that should allow them to sleep more or less dry

- the reception centres to which the exiles are directed only offer temporary reception for a few days to people whose status almost all prevents them from obtaining refugee status anyway: they are in fact already rejected for the right of asylum somewhere in Europe or they are "Dublinated", i.e. obliged according to the Dublin Ireland Regulations to apply for asylum in the country of entry into Europe (in the country in which they have been granted, for the first time, that took their fingerprints).

We find the same kind of breathtaking remarks in a video taken by the HRO in Calais, on BMX, on July 20 at 11:35 am:

"If you cross the road outside the pedestrian crossings – there are none – it's €80 fine. You cross the road, it's dangerous... »

Be careful, it is the police who specifies that there are no pedestrian crossings...

In Dunkirk, there was an evacuation on Friday 19th and Tuesday 23rd July.

The one on 19th July was relatively limited: the HRO saw 24 displaced people on the Loon-plage side (including three minors) – but it was kept away, there were surely more – and on the Mardyck side, about a hundred displaced people; Families report that tents have been seized.



On 23rd July, a major operation mainly concerns the Total site. HRO (Human Rights Observers) see at least 200 displaced people, including 25 minors and 40 tents seized. Despite the safety perimeters, they managed to count from afar and saw the loader Van dump its catch into a large skip.

The security perimeter is not justified: the police do not answer the HRO's question: "If it is a shelter, why can't we see if people freely choose to board the buses?"



The operation is well presented as a "shelter". At least one bus is there with the AFEJI, but when a man asks to get on, he is searched and is not allowed to go and get his belongings, he is finally accepted on the bus.

In Calais, the pressure of evacuations is less strong.

Heavy weapons and helmets are put away for the moment. The HRO also notes the presence of some bad gases.

There were eleven dismantling operations during the month (on 1st, 4th, 6th, 9th, 12th, 15th, 17th, 20th, 24th, 26th and 29th July). The normal rhythm seems to have become every 72 hours and not 48 hours (there are 48 hours left between the 4th and 6th, between the 15th and 17th, and between the 24th and the 26th of July) and even 96 hours between the 20th and the 24th of July!

Counting in hours like this (96 hours instead of 4 days...) may seem ridiculous, but this is probably what people do who know that at any moment they will be made to move all their poor possessions to the other side of a road or to the other side of a ditch, even if it is only to put them back in the same place less than an hour later...

The photos were taken on 17th July on the hospital site and on 1st July at BMX.



A lot of equipment is seized, always considered abandoned when the owner is not present.. (photos of 17th July behind the PASS and on the Fermette site on 4th July).



Those who come back after a failed passage find nothing, and these failed passages are not exceptional: On the 9th, the Salam team met a group of about forty people in survival blankets and diverted to bring them "shipwreck kits", i.e. something to dress from head to toe.

On 15th July at the BMX, we saw about 250 people arrive soaked and full of sand.

And these are just examples.

The presence of families does not change this policy (photo of 17th July behind the PASS).



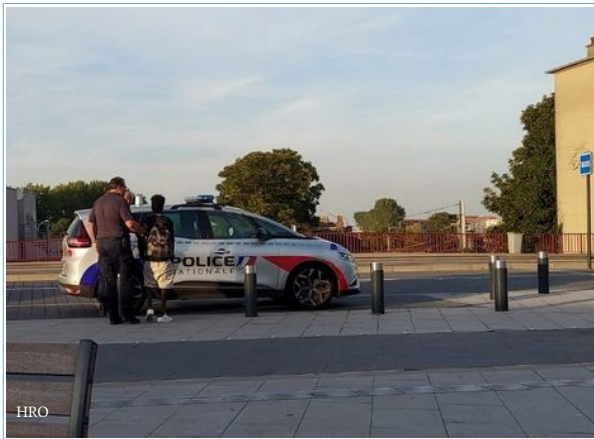


The HRO Human Rights Observers, continues to be kept out of police operations; on 20th July, a video by the HRO shows very young cyclists quietly crossing this roadblock, behind the PASS, contrary to all the safety rules affirmed by the police. We continue to wonder what there can be to hide if everyone can pass except the associations helping exiles...

There are other police interventions to intimidate and obstruct the movement of exiles and associations:

According to the HRO, police checks at Calais station are frequent. It is often from there that those who attempt to cross by sea leave and return.

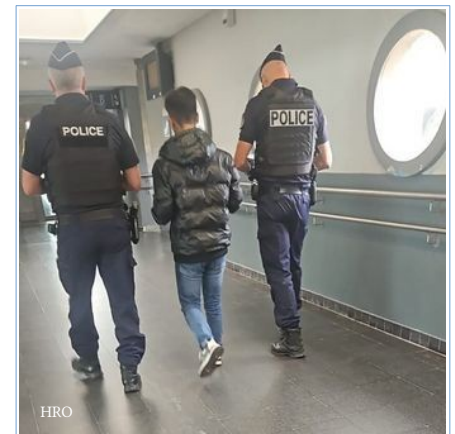
Checks took place on 2nd and 5th July, arrests with bag searches on the 3rd, three arrests on the 10th.



On July 17th, a young boy was arrested there.



A rather violent altercation took place there on 21st July:



And another arrest on the 25th of a very young boy:

Again, these are just examples...

On 22nd July, Salam's breakfast team was prevented from accessing the camp behind the PASS by two police vans; It was a group of exiles who were deprived that day of this daily supply of food, on which they know they can rely.

OUR DISTRIBUTIONS.

Salam adds a fifth distribution point in Calais:

Since 4th July, we have added a fifth distribution point, alerted to the presence of a new camp, with people deprived of everything.

The next day we distributed 47 blankets. Sometimes no one is there, but for example on 9th July we gave 95 cups of hot drink...

The number of meals distributed is extremely variable.

In Dunkirk, it can be 200 or it can be 400, sometimes impossible to predict overnight (400 on July 1st, 200 on July 2nd). In Calais, it went quite gradually from 225 on July 2 to more than 500 at the end of the month.

PROGRESS IN DUNKIRK IN THE PREVAILING PRECARIOUSNESS:

We will not have the twelve water points that the number of people present would require according to international standards.

But the Urban Community of Dunkirk has promised two additional water points (there will be three) connected to the sector's water network. Thank you!

The second is on the territory of Mardyck (the greater Dunkirk): it is forbidden on the Total estate. It's a beautiful material, recovered after the "Bonne aventure" festival in Dunkirk. The Roots Association is authorized to watch over these facilities and to improve them.



Roots also manufactured a third shower enclosure. Of course, it works in cold water, but it's a great comfort during the summer at least. Thank you to them.

We will not have toilets or showers: it depends on a decision by the State that refuses them.

These water points are an improvement, and we say thank you without hesitation. But there is no law prohibiting us from being more generous than the State, Jean-Claude Lenoir told us after our last meeting with the CUD, on 25th June ...

Let us dream that no child will be forced to feed himself in these conditions! (Dunkirk, 1st July).

Claire Millot



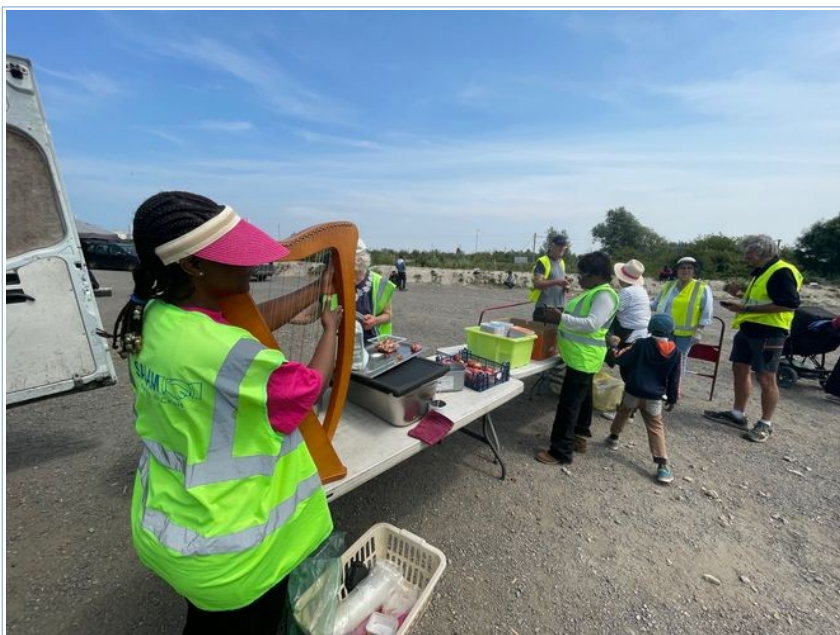
LET'S FOLLOW OUR HEART RATHER THAN OUR FEARS!



"These children are so much in danger! Playing so close to the railway... *These children are in such great danger! They play so close to the tracks...!* exclaims Christina Tourin, an internationally renowned American harpist. She is at the origin of the International Therapeutic Harp Programme and it is thanks to her that all hospices in the USA offer the sound of this instrument for the well-being of all, patients and caregivers.



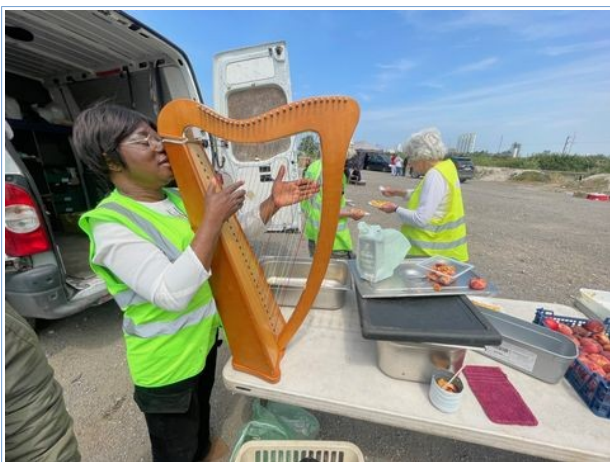
Passing through France, touched by the situation of our friends, she wanted to come and play for them at the very end of June 2024. Having dedicated her life to sharing her music with many children around the world, Christina is very quickly surrounded by all those who are present at the camp today.



The usual lines of young men evaporated this morning. For once, in 8 years of going back and forth to Grande Synthe, there are almost as many Salam volunteers as exiles! Unique!! Many passages in the UK surely but also the camp now being so far from the distribution site, difficult to come there especially with young children. Several families sit on the ground to enjoy the good hot meal prepared and distributed by the Salam volunteers of the day. Christina is impressed by the organization and their kindness.



Today, as is often the case when the little harp passes, the sun is shining and with the music, smiles return to the faces of young and old alike. Myriam, Cyrus and Navrous, from Kurdistan, Wrang, Rasha and Jasmine from South Sudan, eat side by side with the children who come and go around the harp. Two little ones, Arsenna, two and a half years in her pretty red dress with white polka dots and Yohann, a year and a half, elbow their way to the stool and hold out their little hands begging me with their eyes... Of course they end up on my lap, one on each side, and long live the music! Bursts of laughter! The happiness of children spreads and there is a general contagion!



The next moment, it is the volunteers of Salam who start playing the harp!





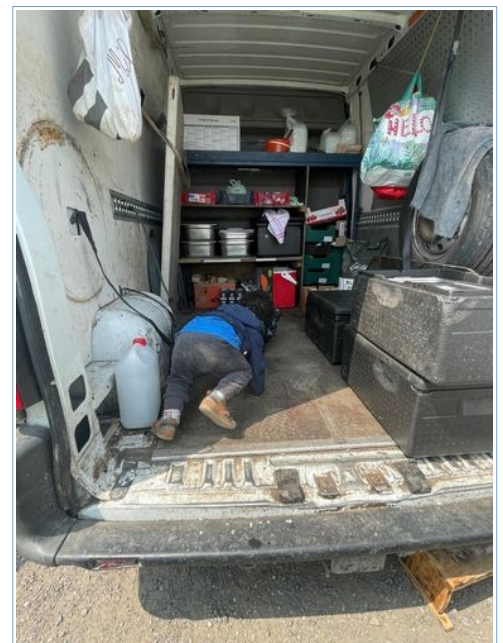
then those of ADRA, "No BordersMedics" and our permanent accomplices from Flanders Terre Solidaire:

Moments of happiness, joy and good humour shared, despite the circumstances, the conditions of survival and the hostile environment endangering the lives of these families...

On the day I send this little testimony to Claire, six people have left for their Great Journey of No Return, in a single week! Drowned in the English Channel... From one commemoration to another, Jean-Claude left too... All his life and until the end he was in tune with our friends... To the point of leaving us in the water, like too many of them... Best tribute to our President Salam: to continue to support, to reach out, to be at the service of this humanity in distress, in search of a better world... Our friends can't count on our leaders whose will, is elsewhere...

As we leave the premises, we are very moved by this 72-year-old grandfather who is walking with difficulty and difficulty in the dust with a makeshift cane. At the sight of Christina's phone, he says: "Above all, no photos! If I'm recognized in social networks, they'll find me and ... Bang! putting his index finger to his temple..." "In my country, there is so much corruption that it has become impossible to get out of it. At my age, this trip is terribly exhausting for me with my health problems. I'm struggling to hold on. Fortunately, I am helped by a few younger ones. If I am sent home, I am a dead man! I can't wait to just breathe a little and I pray that I can finally reach England where my two nephews are waiting for me. »

Let's keep hope and confidence, just like little Yohann who, at the cost of a great effort and at the height of his almost two years old, climbed into the Salam truck on his own, looking for a precious fruit juice or biscuit for dessert...



Stronger. More resourceful. At the school of life, harsher for him... When his parents noticed his disappearance, what a relief to get him back in the truck! They promise that Yohann will wear a life jacket for the planned crossing as soon as possible, if the weather is good... My heart sinks as often when I meet the exhausted eyes of the mothers of her little beings who are going through the worst while keeping this joy of life specific to the little ones...

May the Best accompany you all!

Exiled friends, volunteers from Salam and elsewhere... Thank you again for your warm welcome!

You can count on the little harp! She will continue to awaken smiles where tears often want to flow...

Just as Jean-Claude often showed us, let's follow our heart rather than our fears!

Courage and see you soon!

***Text and photos B elinda M. Welton
(Music for life and a better world)***

THANK YOU

THANK YOU TO THE VOLUNTEERS.

In this summer period, a holiday for all, we have not missed a single food distribution.

First of all, thank you to the volunteers of the summer:

To those who came back for a while:

Makan came to help us with the distribution on 23rd July.

Elise and Clara, 25th July,

Clara who, just before, made us known as far away as in Greece during a volunteer in Lesbos.

"A month of unforgettable adventures," she writes, "that would require hours to tell... »



To those who have passed:

A group of young people from the Paris region came to help the Calais team on 6th and 7th July.

- Pierre-Marie, on 18th July, a writer who is devoting himself to writing a book about the life of a migrant. We will have had the pleasure of reading it.
- On 25th July, five people from the Epide de Doullens (with whom contact has been established for several years) and two young people passing through the Sesame house, Foucauld and Camille. Without them, our distribution would have been more difficult.
- Azita and her husband, from 27th to 30th July, anthropologists specialising in Afghan migration in Europe and Iran.



Dunkirk, 22nd July

To the permanent volunteers who prepared, distributed...



Calais, 5 July

Including those who worked overtime:

Ursula on Tuesday, 16th July and Bérénice on 20th July.

To those who have taken on, on their own initiative, these "nobly thankless tasks" (as Henri says):

- Those who once again removed the mud from the basement on 4th July: Claudine with a broom relayed by the day's volunteers and then, an hour later, by Amara and Thierry from FTS who courageously and efficiently did the "garbage collectors"!
- Thierry, who has put together a dream team for the 4th July banana chore, a team of volunteers recruited from among his friends, Jacques, who like him has a lumbar belt, Valérie and Guy. Without them, our friends would probably have gone without bananas that week...
- Gaby who repaired the thermos taps. Without it, they would have remained unusable.
- Those who took on a particularly thankless cleaning chore on 11th July: Amara who sorted the potatoes and eliminated the smallest ones, and who also cleaned the bin.
- Sylviane who cleaned the fridges and swept the basement.
- Geneviève who cleaned up Ali Baba, on 18th July.
- Jean-Pierre, always active and inventive, not content with repairing barriers and tables, eternal restart, installed a small towel warmer for us in Vogica.
- Henri who was present to pick up additional vegetables at the "Jardins de Cocagne" in Leffrinckoucke on 9th and 19th July 9 ... (150 kg on 19th July!)



- Bruno who cleared the way, in Calais, so that it was easier to access without scratching the truck, on 26th July.



- The little hands that helped me put the "Quai Salam" in envelopes.

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

In textile:

Two donations of clothes, especially men, on 4th July.
two bags of clothes, passed on through Abdelkader.
blankets from Ghyvelde transmitted by Pierre.

two boxes of clothes and shoes donated by Gwenaëlle from Brittany, transmitted by Ursula.

In food:

A large offering of chicken by a generous donor allowed Abdelkader to prepare a large and unexpected bowl for us on Monday, 22nd July. There were even some left, which Michèle went to pick up the next day for the following meals.

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

The town hall of Grande-Synthe gave us a hundred notebooks, ballpoint pencils, markers for blackboards for young unaccompanied minors to whom Annie, as part of Salam, undertook to give French lessons. Kits consisting of pencils, pencils, eraser, pencil sharpener, pouch, slates, will be given to us at the beginning of the school year in September, at the same time as to the students of Grand-Synthois.



The children of the IME, who regularly came to help prepare Thursday's meal, ended their season on 4th July and left with a small gift, prepared and offered by the "big hearts" of volunteers.



Schools have organised collections:

- The Lycée du Nordover: Nelly, teacher, brought back the result of a collection (clothes and school supplies)
- The Jean Jaurès college in Aire-sur-la-Lys (donated by Charles and Julie).

The Audotri association made us a new donation on 6 July through Nathalie.

On 13th July, Jocelyne brought back donations from the **Secours Populaire de Guérande**.

On 18th July, the Collectif Dons et Partages de Valenciennes dropped off tents, loose clothes, shoes and sleeping bags.

There was also a large bin, which Pascaline then took to the camp.

"Les paniers de la mer" donated fish distributed on 5th July by the Salam team from Calais.



Yolaine Bernard



Yolaine Bernard



Bélinda Welton



Bélinda Welton

Bélinda, on her last visit on 27th June, had come with a car more than full of donations from old friends of Salam: **members of "Music for Life", students from the Darius Milhaud College in Sartrouville and the "Buncoeur Damocles" association.**

Friendly cooperation with the Refugees Womens Center:

On 3rd July, Pascaline wrote to us: "With Pierre, we had created a link with a lady in Belgium which allowed us to have blankets on a regular basis and in quality and quantity. Since Pierre left, these blankets have been going to MRS and the Refugee Women's centre. RWC will pick up a full truck load tomorrow and can drop off a hundred in Guérin around 3:30-4:00 p.m. »

Geneviève and Ghislaine received them at the scheduled time.

And a spontaneous and welcome help from Roots for a slightly shaken distribution on 23rd July

"Natasha from Roots comes to see me, offering help from her team - Help accepted of course," Marie writes in her report of the day.

S 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 check, made a transfer directly or through Helloasso.

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 tonne 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 from the rue du Kruysbellaert, to the Ressourcerie de Montreuil sur mer ("Il était deux fois") and to the Secours Catholique de Berck which provide each month clothes brought to Calais by André de Merlimont, to the 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.

Thanks to the HRO, the Maison Sésame, Tom de Roots and Xavier Vilain 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** more than two years ago, **and Quentin who has just opened an Instagram account for Salam** (salam_calais_grandesynthe).

And I ask forgiveness from all those who helped 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 food preparation and peeling chore (8 a.m.) to the end of the dishes (between 2 and 4 p.m.). In between, we distribute the meal.

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

Calais:

Salam continues to distribute improved breakfasts every morning with tea and coffee. But we are sorely lacking in volunteers, especially 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 discharging, 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 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. From outside France 00 33 6 83.16.31.61

And for Grande-Synthe:

Especially canned vegetables of all kinds (we have received 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 2024 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 2023, help us to exceed the 300 thresholds.

CONTACT US

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 2024

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

Association SALAM-Nord/Pas-de-Calais

BP 47

62100 CALAIS

Monsieur/Madame : _____ Prénom _____

Adresse _____

Code postal _____ Ville _____ Pays _____

Téléphone _____ E mail _____

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

(5 € pour les étudiants et demandeurs d'emploi , adhésion valable jusqu'au 31/12/2024)

Date et signature :

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

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

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