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SEPTEMBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

THE TESTIMONY OF THE MONTH

THE CHILDREN OF WAR...ARE NOT CHILDREN

Charles Aznavour, 1968

A retired teacher tells us...

She had exiled children in her class in Grande-Synthe. She distributes sheets of paper, colours, what is needed to draw. A little girl (about ten years old) represented a sea, blue, with a boat.

- And there, around it, what is it? Fish?

- No, they're drowned, replies the little one... without any apparent emotional feelings.

Claire Millot.

EDITORIAL

Another terrible tragedy occurred on our shores yesterday.

And of course, we hurry to shout loud and clear the guilt of the smugglers, it avoids looking at each other or questioning ourselves.

In truth, the real culprits are Europe, which closes its borders like a fortress, which pays Libya to keep refugees in terrible prisons, Morocco to prevent refugees from coming, Algeria to push refugees back to Niger.

Guilty is France with its inhuman policy of harassing and chasing refugees from Ventimiglia to Paris to our shores.

Guilty are the heartless mayors who sow hatred, rocks and barbed wire.

Guilty are the CRS (Republican Security Corps) and the police who obey blindly and mercilessly by destroying the makeshift shelters of our refugee friends every day.

The bus drivers who close their doors to refugees because they are too dirty, are also to blame.

Guilty are those who shout loud and clear that we cannot accommodate all the misery in the world.

The real misery of the world is the heartless people.

If all these people still do not understand why these men, women and children are fleeing their country to come here, I invite them to go and live for a week in Eritrea, Iran, Iraq, Sudan or Afghanistan.

Long live freedom of movement.

Open the borders.

Ferri Matheeuwsen (volunteer in Salam).

DEATHS.

22 deaths at sea in the month... Words fail...

This brings to 52 the number of people who have died (found or missing) for trying to reach Britain since the beginning of 2024.

*On Tuesday, 3rd September, the sinking of an exiled dinghy in front of Wimereux left twelve dead and two missing, in other words fourteen dead.

*8 deaths on the night of Saturday to Sunday (14th and 15th September), between Wimereux and Ambleteuse. The boat was obviously torn apart on the rocks.

The sad tradition is maintained: the day after the announcement in the press in Calais (Richelieu Park) and the day after on the beach of Malo-le-Bains in Dunkirk, rallies in their memory take place.

On Thursday, 5th September, Ghislaine wrote to us: "This busy day ended by the sea to pay tribute to the people who lost their lives while attempting the crossing, a moment of gathering and communion that does us both good and harm, the weather was very mild last night, The sea was very beautiful, very calm and very innocent!! The sea is not the one responsible ... »

An additional rally took place in Ambleteuse on 21st September.

In the online "Voix du Nord" ("Voice of the North") of 22nd September, Pauline Drouet wrote:

"As walkers come up from the beach after enjoying this last day of summer yesterday, at the end of the Ambleteuse seawall, people of all ages gather with serious faces for a symbolic goodbye to the eight exiled people who lost their lives, not far from there a week earlier. (...)

... A necessary tribute, to put words "in a dispassionate way". Or this minute of silence. In respect, "So that it doesn't become commonplace," said another participant.

An activist from the Salam association, which also helps exiles, came from Calais. She praised the organization and the silent march to the church afterwards. "I find it so beautiful," she who is not a believer, appreciates this time, "worthy of a real moment of contemplation that we owe to the dead, no matter their colour. And the mayor, who does not condemn from the outset, who is moved. » (...)

They all hope not to see each other again in such circumstances any time soon, but unfortunately, they don't believe it..."



Another baby funeral:

We received this message on Thursday 12th September, via WhatsApp groups:

"Tomorrow, at 9 a.m., at the southern cemetery of Calais, will take place the burial of Genet and Edros' baby, who died prematurely at seven months during the shipwreck of 3rd September... The family would like to have support. Flowers are welcome. Thank you in advance for your support. »

It's unbearable, but the parents will manage it well...

And the disappeared?

We read in "Le marin.ouest-France.fr" of 7th September at 3:47 pm, about the shipwreck on the same day:

"The Regional Operational Centre for Surveillance and Rescue (CROSS) Gris-Nez engaged the Customs patrol vessel Jacques Oudart Fourmentin after being informed, on 7th September, that a migrant boat had set sail from Berck (Pas-de-Calais).

At the same time, a migrant on board the boat reported to the CROSS that a person has fallen into the water previously. (...) Once on site, SNS 709 relocated and recovered the conscious person on board. (...) Once the rescue was completed, rescued persons informed the crew of the patrol boat that two people had fallen into the sea, to help the first person who fell into the water during the attempted crossing.

Many resources are involved.

(...)

During the search, the two other people reported as potentially having fallen into the water could not be relocated and recovered by the aeronautical and maritime resources present in the area. The Maritime Prefect of the Channel and the North Sea decided to interrupt the search by means directed by the CROSS. »

Three, then two missing, the uncertainty "two people would have fallen into the sea ...", "potentially fallen into the water"...

When you have the names, you know who to look for, and your loved ones are at least prepared:

The body of Jumaa, who disappeared on 3rd March 2024 in the Aa channel, was found on 19th March at the entry.

Artin's (15 months...) missing on 27th October 2020, was found in Norway on 1st January, 2021 and identified on 7th June...

But here... How many? Who? How many families and friends are in anguish...

And those that we may not expect, and that the sea will one day...

The "Voix du Nord" of 18th September, headlines a brief on the "Region" page: *Fishermen discover a body in the English Channel.*

« ... in an advanced state of decomposition (...) the victim is, according to witnesses, an exiled woman »

In uncertainty, the rallies took place on 18th and 19th September in Calais and then in Dunkirk.

Finally, those who must not be forgotten, who have not even reached our sea coast,

Those who died on the way and whom no one follows the trail thereof, makes a list... of whom we do not know if the relatives have had any news...

René, a representative of Emmaus France, was present with us on 5th September in front of this banner illustrated, which grows longer from time to time. He was the one who pointed it out to us... Thank you René.

Jacky sent us this message on 17th September: "Hope that one day these messages will stop... To act as we can for those who are on the ground."



Claire Millot archives juin 2024

THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE DEPARTURES ON OUR WORK.

The number of successful departures varies greatly.

The Home Office publishes arrivals by sea, at least those it identifies:

No-one between 9th and 13th September inclusive, but 1,188 between 14th and 17th including 801 on 14th September...

No one on September 18th, 19th, 20th, but 1,537 on September 21st, 22nd and 23rd...

No one on September 24th, 26th, 27th and 28th ...

A total of 4,192 on 76 boats as of September 29th... an average of 55 per boat.

On the 30th, we witnessed a scene that has become rare: a large group of Sudanese ran away from breakfast. They will try to cross the channel in trucks...

During the big departures, the camps in Calais are emptied: for example, 600 breakfasts were given on 20th September, but only 330 on the 22nd...

The distribution locations vary from one day to the next: the Salam patrol goes around and only stops at the Quai de la Moselle, Quai Paul Devot, at the citadel, when they see people...

It is often past 1pm when the distribution of the "breakfast" ends...

On the other hand, surprisingly, in Dunkirk, the number of meals given is regular, around 500 **per day**.



MISSED DEPARTURES

On Sunday 22nd September, Roots near Dunkirk, reports people who have made failed attempts and who return to the distribution area covered in mud and without shoes (three at first, then seven others, finally 55 people in total and others at the back with families and toddlers...)

Some asked for a doctor.

The press increasingly noted the tensions and fights between the police and exiles in search of a boarding...

More serious: attacks on the property of local residents.

This is not acceptable, of course, but we repeat: how can we expect people to remain relaxed when they are prevented from leaving and when they are only offered the precariousness of a misery camp as an alternative?

On 15th September, we learned that some people had seen them launch themselves with a piece of polystyrene as a swimming board to cross the Channel!

SITUATIONS THAT FORCE DEPARTURE.

A poem by Ferri, from 16th September, a day of mourning among others.

Nobody can stop me from dreaming...

I kissed my mother one last time
I left my wife, friends and house behind
And set off on my way to a better life.
It took me so many years
I've wanted to cry so often
I'm a man on the road
Alone... so alone.

They didn't want me in Greece

Didn't want me in Spain
And in Italy, Belgium or France there is no
place for me.
I don't know where to stay anymore
And I don't know where to go anymore
I'm always a man on the road,
Alone... so alone.

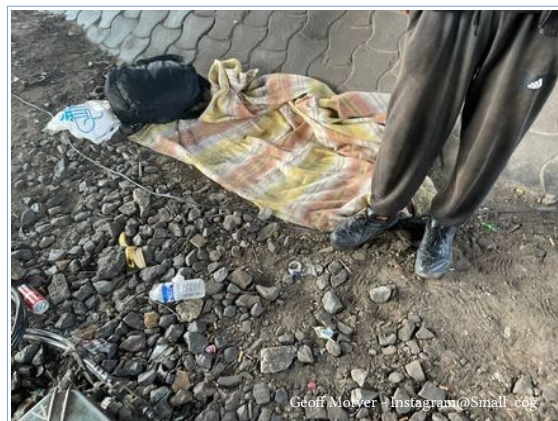
If I die around here
No one will remember my face, my name or
my life.
And my mother will wait for me for
eternity.
So I have to keep going,
I couldn't stop.
No one can keep me from dreaming
No... Never!!

Ferri Matheeuwsen (volunteer in Salam).

Material conditions (Dunkirk)

Everyday life.

Geoff, from Dunkirk, testified on 26th September:
"I found a brother who was trying to sleep and was
shivering under a muddy blanket under the railway bridge.
The police had taken his tent and sleeping bag the day
before during the eviction at lunchtime.



Unfortunately, I noticed that people accessed
the underground fire hydrant to get water.
But the area is neither clean nor hygienic.



These are just examples...

This is stable.

The water points, the dumpster and the distribution point were very close to a much-used railway line.
Some drivers exercised their right to withdraw for fear of running over exiles installed on the tracks (it's not
so stupid, it's the only place that is always dry) or children playing there...

Representatives of associations (including Salam) were urgently invited to the CUD (Dunkirk Urban
Community) for an information meeting on 5th September.

We have been informed of decisions by the sub-prefecture:

The water points (connected to the network) will be moved, away from the railway line, but will remain on
the same side of the road (dangerous to cross: speed bumps have been installed since 7th September).

D. P., a volunteer in Salam, wrote on 16th September, in a letter to the "Voix du Nord":

"The volunteers of the Associations exhaust themselves daily at the task without any consideration from the public authorities. Is it normal that the authorities do not deign to receive a dialogue with the representatives of associations that provide more than 500 meals a day and participate through their action in the maintenance of order? A Dialogue is then considered as an admission of weakness! What are the authorities afraid of? »

There will be an additional water point. Please note that this third water point is a decision of the CUD, not the sub-prefecture.

Thank you to the CUD, in which we still have high hopes for the improvement of the situation, because "...no law prohibits being more generous than the State! Jean-Claude Lenoir told us just after the 25th June meeting at the CUD, less than a month before his death.

The dumpster and the distribution site would be moved to the other side of the road, to an area that we call "The Pylon" because it is accessed by a path that leads to a... pylon!

The distribution site has been enlarged, but remains very small because there is now the dumpster, the bus and the AFEJI team in the same space, which offers shelters... It becomes complicated when there is both a queue for food distribution and medical teams, and a few other less regular groups of passage...



We understand the danger posed by the proximity of the railway line, but we regret that the old space was closed on 12th September,



It is very complicated for us to create a food distribution line when there are more than 500 people in a small space...



before the new one is ready, and we regret that the space has not been enlarged further as we had requested during the meeting at the CUD.





In addition, in the additional part, the rain transforms the ground into mud in which we risk getting bogged down and it brings out pieces of sharp metal that come from the crushed concrete used for the construction of this car park: an additional danger for the tyres of our vehicles and for the feet of all users (associations as well as exiles).



Evacuations:

They are done in all weathers:

On 27th September, in Dunkirk, the Police were not the only ones to be soaked...

On the same day in Calais, also the day of evacuation, the camp behind the PASS became an island in the middle of a lake!

On 27th September, in Dunkirk, a very courteous policeman explained to the HRO (Human Rights Observers)... (their video recorded it) that no, no, there was no seizure of equipment: the guys could take away absolutely anything, except the shopping carts that belonged to the supermarkets, and it was what was left (and therefore what was abandoned) was removed. This gentleman didn't understand (but was it explained to him?) that the guys are not under house arrest and can have gone for a walk, to do some shopping, or to try to cross to England and that they are very likely not to find their belongings when they come back.

He adds that they are offered shelter for a period ranging from one day to one month: this is the emergency procedure. Surely it has not been explained to him either that what they are looking for is a permanent installation in a European country with the right to work, to lead a "normal" life and that a few days in a CAES only lengthen their time of wandering from home, which has lasted for months, sometimes years...

More serious on 23rd September: at the BMX in Calais, the police prevented men returning from the shower from passing through their barrier to get their belongings. Seized with doubt, a policeman telephoned his superiors; we hear the response of the authorities on the walkie-talkie: "They will wait for the end of the operations" A policeman explains: "They had to be there before we arrived."

Reminder: the shower is managed by the Vie Active which is mandated by the State, it is not the exiles who choose the schedules!

That the policeman on duty does not know it, we can admit it, that the hierarchy does not correct it, it is serious...

In addition, the places in CAES, which can try for a moment of respite in bad weather, are insufficient: on 16th September, there were still about thirty people left without a place on rue de Huttes, at the departure of the shuttle; Then, about 150 people, returning from failed crossings, were added, some with babies.



Dunkirk: the evacuations took place on 11th, 25th, 27th September

The goal always seems to be to empty the camps... But they are still there...

On the 11th, police officers were equipped as for war (helmet, leggings and shield).

A security perimeter was established with men carrying tear gas canisters, then an LBD rifle was seen.

A bus is there. It leaves half empty shortly after 9:30 a.m. (people are not forced to leave).



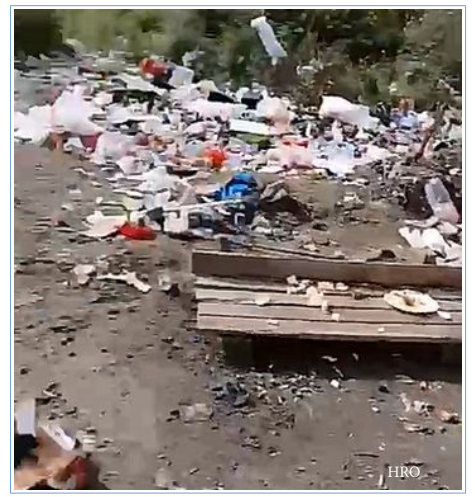
In total, more than 150 people were deported. A van is full of seized equipment, a backhoe loader full of blankets. The camps were destroyed.

On the 25th, it was a lightning operation (barely more than an hour), between 11:51 a.m. and 1 p.m. It is mainly the shopping district that is affected:

There are eight vans and a CRS truck, two vans and a motorcyclist from the National Police, no cleaning team. The space of the shops is completely destroyed and, indeed, nothing is collected...

In addition, at 1:04 p.m., a Sudanese man said that the police had taken all their belongings (at least 40 Sudanese concerned) from Total.

However, it is not unusual that the cleaning is not done even when a huge skip has been disturbed: you can clearly see in this photo of 27th September what the dumpster leaves behind!



Calais: the evacuations took place on 4th, 6th, 9th, 11th, 16th, 18th, 20th, 23rd, 25th, 27th and 30th September. It seems that the rhythm is set to evacuate the camps on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Friday afternoons...

If we go back a little in the archives, this has been the case since 7th August.

The period of "treasure hunts" with the HRO (Human Rights Observers) (see in particular the "events of May and June 2024") seems to be over.

It is missing 2nd and 13th September. But there must have been a limited evacuation these two days: both times the HRO announced an evacuation and then only the presence of three CRS vans at the BMX on the 2nd and 13th "convoy at the BMX"...



The same war clothes are found in the dismantling operations, on 4th September at the BMX and on the 25th Quai du Danube, for example. :





On September 4th, there seems to have been a desire to take EVERYTHING,



wood (furniture for fire)



mattresses



of course tents deemed abandoned:



The Sub-Prefect affirmed on the 13th in a meeting that everyone could recover their tent not damaged...
 "They are folded with the sardines stored inside," she says...
 The HRO's photos show that this is not the case: this view of a tent collection at the Danube Embankment on 30th September shows that the tent is being used as a "bag" to carry other equipment and that the sardines are not recovered at all.

Even if it were true, it would imply, by the time it takes to get her back at the Ressourcerie, at least one night under the "beautiful" star, if not three (when the evacuation takes place on Fridays, which is regularly the case, since the Ressourcerie is closed on weekends...)

We invite him to come, just once, to take a tour on the occasion of a dismantling...
Similarly, D.P., a volunteer in Salam near Dunkirk, invited the President of the CUD, in a letter dated 19th September, to come and meet us in the migrant camp:

*"Today I go to the camp and think of you,
Since you will soon be back with us full-time, I invite you to come and observe and even participate in a distribution at the camp.
You will see real, resolute and anonymous people working modestly for the good of others.
You will see uprooted, mistreated, people who have lost everything except their honour and dignity, smiling at you and thanking you.
You will see in it another way of doing politics, concrete, imbued with the values of respect, humility and fidelity to one's convictions, far from the gold of the republic and the whims of Jupiter.
This will reconcile you with the notion of commitment to the service of others for the common good.
Thank you for your attention.
Respectfully
D P volunteer. »*

The same absurd situations have been repeated month after month for years:

*The "security" perimeters only serve to keep the associations away, otherwise the frail young girls who cross them would also be prevented from passing.

* "Liberating someone else's land from illegal occupation" is only a hypocritical formula: very often the exiles reinstall their tents, at the end of a dismantling operation, under the eyes of the forces of law and order who have not yet left.



Traffic obstructions at Calais station:

*On 5th September, the railway security expelled about sixty people from the trains.

*HRO (Human Rights Observers) report that the most brutal action took place on 13th September, when people were prevented from boarding the train to Boulogne and even entering the station. Salam volunteers, present by chance, confirm this testimony of the HRO.

150 people sat on the tracks to hold the train. Their only solution was to join the buses to Dunkirk, thus to move away from the point on the coast from which they were supposed to board...

Again, these are just examples.

Then everyone goes with their little hummingbird stone:

Two examples among many others:

*On the morning of 5th September, in Calais, Salam distributed blankets and tarpaulins.

*On the 26th in Dunkirk, Geoff was able to put the one who was shivering outside in contact with MRS for a new tent and a new sleeping bag.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FOR SEPTEMBER 2015 began as follows

Nothing changes...

The situation is getting more complicated
The number of migrants is increasing in both Dunkirk and Calais
Autumn has set in with a lot of rain
Precariousness intensifies even more
Latent pressure seems to be settling on the camps
The volunteers are short of time...

Jean-Claude Lenoir.

**It is the safeguarding of our own
dignity, to help them keep theirs...**

Claire Millot.

What is Salam spirit?

It is the concern of the service of exiles, of ensuring our commitments against all odds...

One morning, early September:

It was impossible to count the cups that morning: it was a total evacuation on the BMX.

There is no one left on this camp.

There are also very few people on the other sites, the Salam team decides to go back to BMX... It is still a mess, the full evacuation.

Finally, while looking for the Eritreans, we come across an appointment with the smugglers: there are a lot of people, of all colours, all sizes...

A volunteer quickly takes one of the vans and goes to buy bread, water and milk.

The team distributes to about 150 people, then comes across another hundred hungry people, returning from a failed departure.

A second time, our colleague goes back to the shopping so as not to leave all these people hungry.

It's the smuggler who makes the queue and... immediately restored... as soon as they left...

They were hungry, we gave them food... Salam announced "ready"

Another early morning:

That morning, in the Rue des Huttes, a tall gentleman, in a large car, stopped at our breakfast distribution.

- Do you give food?

- Can you go there, by the bridge, there's a family with life jackets.

The gentleman spoke in a not very nice tone, but they are there.

Three children (eight years old, six years old, four years old), a gentleman, an exhausted lady. She starts crying, crying, crying...

She speaks English... They have been sleeping in this hollow, by the side of the road, for three days.

She would like a shower, eat... Salam gives pastries, tea, coffee.

Children stick to our legs to cuddle.

Phone calls,

We find them a house to take a shower.

In the end, it is not just Salam who has the Salam spirit.

Claire Millot.

**ENCOURAGING A POLITICALLY INTELLIGENT IMMIGRATION POLICY,
A WEAPON OF "SMART POWER"**

This summer has been deadly for the exiles. Twelve people (including ten women and six youths) drowned on Tuesday 3rd September (and two people were missing), the heaviest toll since the tragedy of 24th November 2021¹ when 27 migrants, mostly Iraqi Kurds, perished at sea near Calais. On August 12th 2023, a shipwreck between Sangatte and Les Hemmes de Marck had killed six people (and two people disappeared at sea)². Always the same *modus operandi* proposed by the smugglers in these deadly shipwrecks - "small boats", small makeshift boats to cross the Strait of Pas-de-Calais. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, more than forty people have died on the coast since the beginning of 2024. Mortality has never decreased.

1 : Julia Pascal, Le Monde, Thursday, September 5, 2024

2 : La Voix du Nord, Saturday, August 12, 2023

The French authorities mention the 1700 police and gendarmes (paramilitary police officers) deployed on the coast, boast of the 60% of failed crossing attempts,blame "migratory pressure" and the responsibility of smugglers. They are more discreet about the inglorious role played by France, which plays the role of the United Kingdom's auxiliaries, by subcontracting their immigration policy³ This same decried mission has been entrusted by the European Union to Turkey or Libya - to prevent the crossing of a border in return for payment. Since the 2003 Le Touquet Accords, French law enforcement agencies have been the guardians of the UK's rail and sea borders, exempting our British partners from examining asylum applications at the border as required by international law. Since 2023, this self-serving aid from France to the United Kingdom has brought in €543 million over three years to the French authorities to cover the French surveillance resources, equipment and personnel involved. The French police act like real "bounty hunters" without offering any legal way of migration, even though it is called for by many associations.

The political and geopolitical situation is delicate, with the rise of far-right parties in Europe in general, and in our two countries in particular, which instrumentalise the issue of migration. The racist riots of the summer of 2024 in the United Kingdom affected the entire country, with unrest orchestrated by extremist movements on social networks. They were finally contained. British citizens, who elected a Labour government in June 2024, mobilised with the firmness of their Prime Minister, Keir Starmer, and royal support. Calm and a better state of mind have been restored in the country. We remember the shocking proposal of the Conservative government, which suggested outsourcing migration to Rwanda, a controversial country in Africa for its authoritarian excesses and its unpeaceful relations with its neighbours.

The diplomatic route is the only alternative to regulate migration policy with humanity and intelligence. The security strategy is short-term and discredits France, and Europe, with our partners in the South (particularly in Africa), with a human cost that has continued to increase and that could have been avoided. The proposal for a "migration treaty between Great Britain and the European Union" already mentioned is once again topical. The European elections have made it possible to neutralize (for five years) the threat of the far right in Europe. A new government that is less tense on the migration issue has returned to power in the United Kingdom. Migration was manipulated during Brexit, with an active disinformation campaign led by Boris Johnson or the far-right leader of UKIP. The same profile of voters was abused during the August 2024 riots, capitalizing on resentment, resentment and the feeling of downgrading. The most vulnerable Britons were the first victims of Brexit. s

An original form of "migration diplomacy" is at work in Italy with a President of the Council who is on the far right of the political spectrum and who does not have the same discourse on immigration⁴. Georgia Meloni links the immigration strategy to her foreign policy (a diplomatic weapon) and does not instrumentalise it like her French counterpart Marine Le Pen, who "rather summons, by means of unspoken words, an anxious imaginary referring less to real flows than to tensions and internal identity malaises, products of the long colonial and migratory history that has shaped contemporary French society". This colonial past is precisely blamed on us by the most authoritarian and anti-democratic countries to discredit us – Turkey, Russia, Iran, China....

For Georgia Meloni, immigration is an external phenomenon. A migrant is a "desperate victim" whose "right not to emigrate has been flouted" by a well-identified coalition of former colonial powers (including France, which takes the brunt of it) and "human traffickers". On this last aspect, the President of the Council praises the Italian expertise that has worked wonders in the fight against the mafia. This strange, very skilful speech was able to convince many African states, at a very opportune time. Italy, like other European countries, is looking for alternatives to Russian gas – it has moved closer to Algeria. Italy's demographic decline has been notorious for decades – labour from Africa is essential. In particular, the carers are all foreigners, often from Cape Verde and other neighbouring countries; the construction industry recruited workers from Egypt and Tunisia on a massive scale.

3 :Editorial in Le Monde of Friday, September 6, 2024

4 : Alain Kaval "Meloni, Le Pen: on immigration, two speeches, two strategies", Le Monde, Wednesday, September 4, 2024

The Italian motivation is not only economic, it flatters national pride. Albania has agreed to host detention centres under Italian law by praising Italy's very generous reception policy towards its nationals in the 1990s. The success of Italian athletes at the Olympic Games, whose diversity has not escaped anyone's notice, has led to a proposal for a more generous naturalisation policy. Immigration in Europe could also become an intelligent strategy, a real "smart power" but without cynicism, with a real humanity. A bet on the future.

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

Bénédicte Halba directs a research institute (iriv) that has been working on the theme of migration since 2003, she led a club at the Cité des Métiers for a migrant public (2012-2022).

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 territory 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...



- Calais ?
- Yes ! of course



- Calais ?
- No! The border between Mexico and the United States of America.



- Calais ?
- No ! Ouistreham, in Normandy...

EXCERPTS FROM OLIVIER WEBER'S BOOK "FRONTIERS".

Editions Paulsen, collection Démarches, published in 2016.

A medina, Morocco (Pages 229 to 236).

In Tangier, we meet two kinds of migrants, or rather candidates for migration, for crossing maritime borders, whose destinies are often heroic, in any case Homeric (characteristic of the Greek poet Homer): the fleeting migrants, those who try the adventure, fail, arrested by the Moroccan authorities, expelled or taken to Rabat, just to dissuade them, and who quickly become discouraged, so watertight is the fence; and the tenacious migrants, those who are ready to do anything or almost anything to renew the attempt, even at the cost of thirty, forty, a hundred attempts, in the Sisyphus of the Camusian Mediterranean and hope. Among the latter, there are those who are stuck, who do not want to go back, at the risk of suffering the dishonour of the family in the village or town of origin, there, thousands of kilometres away, in Burkina Faso, Guinea Conakry or Liberia. They cannot go back, even if their muscles, their bodies are tired, and they observe the border again and again because the spectacle is free, the dream too, the hope allowed, even if it is dwindling.

The cache of Adonis and Moses, a stone's throw from Paul Bowles' final resting place, is a small mess of the candidate for exile, two meters wide and three meters long, which smells of mustiness and saltpetre, which one enters through a low vault encouraging humility. There are a few packets of rice, two paddles for the upcoming zodiac crossing, as soon as the wind calms down, and a small waterproof bag.

(...)

No, nothing will stop Adonis, who prepares rice without spices and a little oil, his only luxury, and we take his word for it because he seems so determined, on the first floor of the house of the ramparts, with only an old front page of *Paris Match* showing the King of Morocco Mohammed VI received by Jacques Chirac. A dog-eared blanket, eaten by humidity, we take his word for it because he has faith, you understand, that's all we have," he murmurs, stirring the rice, "we have the energy, the will, which is free, even if we bump into fortifications, barbed wire, fences or traffickers' garbage from time to time. Adonis' language is flowery, he says that he has wanted to go to the end of the world since he was a child to find happiness, according to his pretty expression. Happiness, he tried many times to find it, he saw it in Douala, when he arrived from the village, when a girl looked at him for a long time, but we stopped there, he also saw it when he arrived on the coast of Tangier, or rather between Tangier and Ceuta, a little further west, when the Old World is never so close, Nine kilometres, a junk for someone who has been migrating for two years and has travelled thousands of kilometres, but at the same time the most delicate border, the most difficult to cross. He has tried happiness many times, that is to say that he has tried at least ten times to cross the strait and each time he has been turned back by the Moroccan coast guard or his zodiac has sunk. He will "tease luck" again, look for a new rubber dinghy in Casablanca for fifty to one hundred and fifty euros, bring it back to Tangier not by bus because it would be automatically checked but by the car of a smuggler, paid a high price, and who will drop him and his nine other transit comrades at the appropriate place. as he says, that he also calls the rowers of the galley because you have to paddle, again and again, you have to fight against the strong currents, those that throw you into the arms of the Atlantic, those that push you adrift, those that drag you into the depths of humanity, bring you back to the shore, a temporary fold that has become cursed by dint of permanence, of forced returns and stopovers. On the outskirts of Tangier, the marine cemetery is not an empty expression.

(...)

... You find yourself in the mouth of the Strait, yes, because the Strait swallows everything, for fourteen kilometers from here, but especially for the four or five in the middle, between the wind, the waves, the currents, the tankers, the container ships, it swallows everything because it is greedy, it attracts, it has under its feet marine cemeteries that are always starting over, he tells you to come and at the same time he swallows you up, it seems like he has it in his blood, he sucks blood, he devours humans, he likes to lie, show off his finery like a beautiful girl, make all the promises of the world shimmer, with a surface shining like velvet where the sun comes to reflect, Your dreams too, when all this is going to sink into the water and you with it, that's why the Strait is treacherous and nasty, it eats us when we want to give it everything, our energy, our strength, our ideals, yes, it's a bit nasty to be like that with quiet travellers who only want to seek happiness.

(...)

Before, migrants could count on slipping into the port of Tangier, trying their luck under the axles of trucks, huddling in a cargo, but this game is now impossible, they have padlocked everything, yes, the police, the customs officers, the truck drivers, they are all in cahoots (partnership), and more efficient than the Spanish *Guardia Civil*...

Thanks to E.V. volunteer Salam who sent us this text.

On our website www.associationsalam.org you will find the entire excerpt as of 23rd September, 2024 in the section "We read, we saw" and a presentation of the book in the "Selective Bibliography."

THANK YOU

A BIG THANK YOU ESPECIALLY THIS MONTH TO THOSE WHO CONTRIBUTED TO THE TREMENDOUS OUTPOURING OF SOLIDARITY LAUNCHED ON 10th SEPTEMBER.

That morning, it was cold... After a lacklustre summer, it's really cold... Our Facebook and Instagram pages are sounding the alarm. Everyone in the cottages woke up with this feeling of cold and the reactions are immediate. Our phones ring:

What time can I come in warm clothes?

Before noon, but if you can't, I'll give you the schedules for this week...

But no, Madame, I want to come by today: they are cold!

This is an example.

People come by unannounced, in our premises, in our home...

It's impossible to make a list: too many anonymous people, too much risk of forgetting, I'm sorry, but the shelves are filling up and that's what counts.

*Carène arrives from Maisons-Laffite in Calais with a full van on Sunday 22nd .

*Kevin, a companion from Emmaus in Limoges, and Laurent, a companion from Emmaus in Angoulême, arrived on the 26th with a van full of blankets. They thought they were going straight to the camp but ropes are falling, everything would be soaked and anyway the guys are hiding under the tarpaulins. Never mind, they bring them to our home in Grande-Synthe.

Was it raining that much? Yes, really: we unloaded in the shower and the state of our room, usual in bad weather, testifies to it.

*Even our Corsican friends from "Per a pace" were ready to program a truck of blankets from the PACA region. (They had brought 80 mattresses to the Linière camp in 2016. What a party!).

But no, they need it too much for rescues in the Mediterranean and collections are being set up here.

The money is also coming.

On Hello assos, six donations between 10th August and 10th September, 34 donations between 10th and 16th September. THANK YOU ALL!





THANK YOU TO THE VOLUNTEERS.
To those of all the weeks who prepare,



A special thank you to Amara and Mory, pillars of the Saturday kitchen.
For a superb result:



Who distribute



Thank you to the Roots and ADRA teams who have given a great helping hand to manage the distribution queue several times.

... **in all weathers** (in photos on 30th September).



Olivier Schittek



Olivier Schittek

who do extras:

*Elisabeth and Jean, twice a collection of 100 kg of potatoes, at Marie's in Brouckerque.

*Pascaline, on her way in the evening to distribute what is missing to the latest arrivals. On the 30th, there was such a demand that she really needed two people as reinforcements. Congratulations and thank you to all three.

*The Emmaus collection on 28th September: it's a Stand by you Saturday, we don't prepare food but we have to go and get the surplus from Emmaus. We are here...



Olivier Schittek



Claire Millot



Claire Millot



Claire Millot

To those who pass by.

... but that morning, Amar was there, for the first time, and Bruno from Les Copains du Monde gave his hand!

Geoffrey gives two days of his time, at the end of the month, he needs certificates from associations to be able to go with MSF, but these two days, he really gives them!

To those who return:

*Soline, passing through on 7th September with arms full of clothes...

*Guy and Régine are back on the 21st, after a long summer of absence.

*Olivier, who has offered showers at the Dunkirk camp for months, offers a few hours of help with the distribution. Thank you.



*Vianney, our swimming champion, is there for the second time with Jean, his dad, on 5th September.

*Caesar (the king of fries) is not far away. It gives two full days (September 3rd and 5th).

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

Food donations:

On 9th September, a baker left the Grande-Synthe market with 15 kg of bread: he had sold less than expected because of the bad weather and had the idea of dropping it off to us.

It was a Friday... no one at the premises...

But Martina from the "No Borders Medics" who lives on the floor above, contacted by phone, gladly opened the door for him to get him back... Thank you both!

Régine took advantage of her holidays to make 120 jars of jam for breakfasts in Calais.

Regularly, Josette and Elisabeth continue to improve the ordinary of Mondays with cakes or creams prepared at home...

Textile donations:

*the blankets, brought by Marjorie on 14th September.

*The monthly bag of hats, knitted and offered by the Grannies of the Val des Roses in Dunkirk.

*The last of the month, the smallest but the prettiest:
a set of cozy socks for the ladies, knitted by hand.



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

In addition to the Emmaus and "Per a pace" communities, already mentioned,

**Paul from "La ferme urbaine de Grande-Synthe",
Marie, from Brouckerque, twice with 100 kg of potatoes,
The Jardins de Cocagne de Leffrinckoucke, which have even gone so far as to bring us
at home their surplus vegetables, because we were short of volunteers.**

ALEDS, which provides lunch on the last Sunday of the month, gave us new distribution trays, boots and tents.

The young people of Sciences-Po Lille will start taking turns again to help distribute breakfast in Calais, every weekend from 1st October.

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

Message from Christian Hogard on 6th September:

"Here we go again for the "Copains du Monde" and the "Solidarity Shop" of Loon-Plage:



Today our partner, the Dunkirk vocational school, has resumed its professional activities with young people and it is quite natural that we have returned to our Friends of Salam de Calais to deliver a large quantity of pastries and breads that Yolaine and her teams will be keen to offer to the most vulnerable people. More than ever, the "Copains du Monde" of Loon-Plage and the "Solidarity Shop" of Loon-Plage remain deeply attached to the values of the association of our Friends of Salam and we thank you for your struggles and your commitment. »



The answer goes out the same day:

"Thank you very much, Christian, Caroline and the team of "Copains du Monde" for this renewed and so useful support for the help of our friends in Calais.

How many times during the summer did we have to buy bread being distributed to meet the voracious appetites of these young and disinherited men...

The start of the new school year in vocational schools and your generosity will make people happy and make our lives easier. In a word, THANK YOU!

Claire (for the whole team and on behalf of the "voracious people")"



The 13th and 16th were also days of indulgence for Salam:



... then we write on 21st September:
"Good evening "Friends of the World",
Friends of Salam,
Yolaine told me yesterday that you brought
us two superb deliveries of bread and
pastries this week on rue des Fontinettes.
It's a great gift: the number of exiles in
Calais is particularly high at the moment
when crossings are complicated: 600 people
came yesterday to have breakfast,
fortunately you're here with us. THANK
YOU friends! »

Return of Christian's email

"It is always a pleasure for us to be of service to you, dear friends of Salam; We salute your dedication and commitment... who goes through all the trials, and we know that the last one was very complicated for you, just like for us...

Our and our clothing drives... but also tents and blankets are well underway... to help the teams of Salam Calais and Salam Grande-Synthe.

Good luck, together we are stronger, and we will go further... »

Another message follows in the evening:

"Faithful to their commitments, the Friends of the "Solidarity Shop" of Loon and the "Copains du Monde" of Gravelines were again yesterday to meet our Friends of Salam Calais...

... to deliver once again an important quality of bread and pastries...

... that our Friends of Salam will offer to the most vulnerable people...

These solidarity and humanitarian actions are carried out with the very, very important support of the Northern Federation of Secours Populaire and Dunkirk solidarity actors.

The goods are collected from various schools in the Dunkirk area as well as from various economic partners. »

Our response is also immediate:

"Thank you Christian for all these clarifications and for the photos that will enrich the text of the next newsletter.

It's really superb! »

On Wednesday the 25th, it was before my eyes that the crates of bread arrived in Calais!

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.

Special thanks to

***Solidarity Pitcher and Barter for** a big transfer at the beginning of the month,

***Julien for** a big tack after a morning patrol with the Calais team.

He was very touched by the team's motivation: the rue des Huttes is at the beginning of the route, but from a distance the volunteers saw people again and made a second visit. This gentleman had tears in his eyes...

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 Geoff Motyer - Instagram@Small_cog, HRO, Melissa Merinos, Olivier Schitteck, Secours Populaire, Tom de Roots, 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 about 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 food preparation 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

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

A big thank you to all our generous donors!

TENTS AND TARPAULINS!

From dismantling to dismantling, the tents are being removed on both sites and we are unable to replace them. Many people sleep with nothing covering 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 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 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 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](https://www.instagram.com/salam_calais_grandesynthe)

Association SALAM
BP 47
62100 CALAIS

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



Bulletin d'adhésion 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.