

SALAM



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

www.associationsalam.org

APRIL 2024 NEWSLETTER

A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

LIE WHEN YOU HOLD US!

Deceit

A necessary condition for governing?
England and France compete in the exercise.
Even more than for a Five Nations match,
Everyone scores more.
Our FRIENDS can at least benefit from it
and cross the strait by the hundreds very regularly.
On the French side, the method is simplistic:
let's harass, let's harass...
let's discourage, let's discourage...
The crossings will be all the more numerous!
On the English side, the method does not change:
Let's take advantage of this precarious workforce
and let's pretend to be irritated by the arrivals!

Deceit

would then be enough to govern?

Jean-Claude Lenoir.

EVENTS OF THE MONTH

SEVEN NEW DEATHS : month after month the cost in lives is greater !

How many deaths will it take on our beautiful coastline for the authorities to stop hiding their faces, to stop imagining that the solution is to increase police pressure, so that they understand that it is people, people like us, who must be welcomed...

"In twenty years, our coastline has continued to see its security reinforced, to prevent crossings and fixation points, pushing more and more migrants to take to the sea."

This time, it is not us who say it, it is the conclusion of an article in the "Voix du Nord" ("The Voice of the North") of 24th April, 2024, p.4, the day after the last deadly shipwreck (article signed "H.D. with the archives service", p. 4).

And it is a policeman who speaks for us, at the conclusion of Aïcha Noui's article in the same newspaper of 25th April, p.5: "The State must take its responsibility, we prevent people from leaving but we don't find solutions for them here".

On that day, more than a hundred people climbed onto a rubber dinghy. Five died, drowned or suffocated due to the pressure of numbers, including Sara, a seven-year-old girl. This is the second seven-year-old girl we have lost in less than two months; of course it is no worse than a bigger boy... But a seven-year-old child did not choose to be there... However, let's not forget that his parents had no choice either. "I spent fourteen years in Europe and I was rejected," Ahmed, her father, said in an interview with "The Guardian" on 1st May 2024.

As the beautiful Somali poem (written in 2010 by Warsan Shire) says:

"You don't take your children on a boat
If the water is not safer than dry land. »

More than a hundred people on a rubber dinghy, it's absurd!

Two large groups found themselves in competition (BBC journalists, who happened to be on the scene at the time, saw two groups rushing to a single boat).

Two other deaths in the month were caused by violence that should not exist:

On 18th April, a man died after being hit by a car on the road D601, at a place called "the Reed Bridge". This is not a trivial traffic accident: the crossing of the bridge is now mandatory for the exiles, since (on 10th April) the passage under the bridge was blocked by a wall of concrete studs, built to prevent them from passing.

This gentleman has not yet been identified... We received a very touching message from the person who first tried to help him at the time of the accident and who would have liked to know who he was....



On 2nd April, a man died in Dunkirk hospital. He had been found the day before near the Loon-Plage camp with serious stab wounds. After a possible fight. This time, we can't blame the authorities... The fact remains that if we force people to live like animals, there comes a time when we should no longer be surprised that they are made to behave like animals...

The day after the publication of each death in the press, a moment of contemplation always takes place in Calais, at 6:30 p.m. in the Richelieu Park. This was the case on 3rd, 20th and 24th April.

In the photo, the group of 24th April:

On 4th April, there were also 19 of us on the station square in Dunkirk. This small number pushes us to think about another kind of manifestation of our pain and anger in the face of these repeated deaths...

An appointment had been made on Monday 29th at the Pont à Roseaux the site of the last accident, for a rally. The aim was to make people who pass by aware of the risks faced by the exiles who survive in this area and the reasons for their presence.

There were still about twenty of us...



OBSTACLES TO TRAFFIC AND DISTRIBUTION HAVE MULTIPLIED THIS MONTH.

On the Dunkirk side, it is the concrete walls and the fences.

We have spoken above of the wall erected under the Pont à Roseaux to prevent the passage of exiles from one side of the road D601 to the other.

This is extremely important because it is obvious that everything has been done for a long time to push the camps to the north of the road: we could already feel it coming at the end of December, when the first drinking water point connected to the network was installed to the north, as well as the garbage truck. The evacuation of 11th April only concerned the people living on the south side and the barriers are flourishing that prevent any approach to the industrial zone. In January, the closure of the southern industrial zone, Total land to the north and the railway line with barriers began. Now access to businesses along the canal is completely blocked (forbidden to supporting associations and exiles) by a barrier controlled by a guard 24 hours a day.



The entire portion of the rue de l'Aven that leads to the road des Prés février is being lined with stakes to install a fence. However, behind it you can only see fields...

The Roots team discussed this on 21st April with a representative of the port.

This fence, he explained, will extend to the safety hut next to Clauser. He estimates that it will take six weeks to complete.

The road des Prés février is important for us: it is the one that leads to the distribution site that had not been tolerated by us, but imposed on us by Mr. Bieuville, then sub-prefect of Dunkirk, on 10th October.

On 11th April, during the dismantling of this area, the access gate was closed and the closure reinforced with concrete blocks.



The exiles had a hard time the same day... but had managed to clear the entrance (the photo was taken the next day..)

We suspected that it was only a postponement: on Monday 22nd we received on WhatsApp a photo of the end of the street, just before the distribution site:



Quickly leaving for information, we discover that our friends will not succeed in clearing the access this time: the blocks run in four rows:

At lunchtime we distribute at the side of the street. It's a dead end so there's little danger in installing a line that overflows onto the road, we can continue there, as long as there are no new gates or new cones and as long as we are not fined. A new sub-prefect took up his post on Monday 22nd. We are waiting to see what his attitude will be towards the exiles and towards us.



Medical associations and those who take care of women and children can work and distribute on the north side of the road D 601, on the route to Mardyck, where there are open spaces on the side of the road, but these spaces are small enough to hold a queue of several hundred people like those at food distributions. This road is very busy and with trucks, we can't endanger those waiting for the meal! It is high time that the authorities gave us a distribution site that offers everyone the necessary space and security.

On the Calais side, it is not clear where new barriers could be added!

There have been fines to discourage our distributions: at BMX, several tickets have been issued to the vehicles of the Salam team: there is a sign that indicates a parking area reserved for buses. This is of course a sign that is only valid on the days of sports competitions... But it was enough for the police to senselessly apply the order... Since then, we park a little further away...

These are obstacles to the movement of people that we see multiplying, in the days when the weather seems to be favourable to sea crossings again: On 23rd April, at the Fontinettes station, until then less guarded than the central station, the exiles rushed in. The police were there with a dog and prevented people from getting on the train: at 5:46 p.m. it left empty... The next day, associations noticed the same thing... and the same thing also at the central station. And this is repeated in the following days. It is obviously a question of preventing people from reaching the coast, in the places where they now embark most often.

CROSSINGS TO THE UK HAVE BEEN VERY LIMITED THIS MONTH.

The cold and the wind most often prevented the passages.

However, the Prefecture announced ("Voix du Nord" of 28th April) 6,606 successful crossings, almost double those of the 1st quarter of 2023 (3,793).

The Home Office gives 82 people who passed on 8th April on two boats (41 on average on each), then 748 on the weekend of 13th and 14th April on 15 boats (an average of 50 per boat) and 402 on the 23rd on 7 boats (between 57 and 58 per boat !!), 500 on 10 boats on 26th and 27th April (70 per boat on the 26th, it is getting frightening...), 132 on 3 boats on 29th April, 268 on 5 boats on the 30th. (2132 over the month on 42 boats: on average between 50 and 51 on each).

What strikes us is that the number of people we see showing up at our distributions does not decrease significantly with passages like those of the weekend of 13th and 14th April. All the associations make the same observation: many people arrive just to pass without stopping in the camps... But what happens to them when they fail?

We see lonely men whom we have never seen... In addition, on 22nd April, the Salam team saw dozens of families pass in front of our Calais premises, in the direction of the Fontinettes station (the man in front, walking at a good pace, the woman trotting behind and dragging the little ones who can't take it anymore)... Where are they the next day? Not all, of course, have arrived in the United Kingdom...

On the morning of the 26th, some guys arrive hungry in Calais for breakfast. They waited three days near Boulogne for a sign from the refugee smuggler, who never came...

A team of volunteers from Salam, on their way to Easter Sunday mass, meet a group of soaking wet exiles who had missed the passage. No mass for them in the end, but an improvised distribution of clothes for these people. Certainly, the behaviours of true Christians!

The largest number of medical treatments in Loon-Plage, according to "Doctors of the World", are injuries in the trucks, due to loads...

In the absence of easy passages by sea, discreetly, passages by road are regaining importance... And they are not counted by the Home Office...

THE POPULATION IS CHANGING, AS ARE THE CONDITIONS OF DISTRIBUTION:

The number of people who will come to eat is almost unpredictable: a few examples: in Calais, we ran out of food on 3rd April, on the 16th we had to buy more bread during the morning, and also on the 17th, 22nd and 26th...

We meet a lot of families therefore, in the recent arrivals for the passages.

There were more of them in Calais than usual, in terrible situations: on 3rd April, the Salam team met a single mother with four children, who had been sent back from Germany.

On 16th April, a family was released from a citizen's accommodation (three children: 9 years old, 5 years old, 2 years old. The older one speaks perfect French.) They tell us: they spent four years in Lyon, then were welcomed in Germany, where their papers were not renewed. They see no other solution than England. On the 26th, they were still there. They have just missed the passage once again...

The shuttles to the CAES that leave from the rue des Huttes, on weekday mornings, are insufficient: on 8th April, about 150 people are waiting at the gate. They only took the families. 35 men slept in the evening on Quai Paul Devot with the awning as their only shelter...

On 10th April, many did not come to eat so as not to lose their place at the barrier and finally did not leave: neither breakfast, nor place in CAES...

Also on 19th April, only families were taken on the shuttle bus to the CAES.

On the 23rd, families were waiting, there were children who were just beginning to walk; but at 10 a.m. the bus is still not there; It will not come...

It's the same thing in Dunkirk: on 15th April, Roots has about 150 people and 15 children waiting for the shuttle to the CAES. AFEJI says there won't be enough room for everyone... Of course: normally it's one bus a day.

If it is difficult to find places to shelter people, we must at least have the honesty to acknowledge this and not be told that they only have to accept shelters and that "if they sleep outside, it is because they want to..." »

But what also strikes us enormously is the number of young single women who show up at our meal distribution in Loon-Plage: they are extremely young and only ask for a portion, their own... What did they experience on the road, what do they still experience in our camps where violence is commonplace, how do they pay for their crossing? They won't say anything, but we don't dare to imagine...

DISMANTLING:

On the Dunkirk side, it is clear that the idea is to push people back north of the D 601.

The evacuations only concerned the south side:

On the 4th, only the shops were destroyed,

On the 11th, at 8 a.m., the police were there (mainly 17 CRS vans with two semi-automatic weapons) and put the population to flight (at least 250 people ran away).



*the HRO (Human Rights Observers) see at least 5 arrests of exiles with body searches,

*Additional fencing is laid along the railway track, and the distribution area is closed (see "traffic obstructions" above).



*an excavator and several construction machines are in action, in particular for deforestation,



*The shops are again totally destroyed:



*A lot of equipment was seized: tarpaulins and at least 58 tents, 3 of which were full of equipment (according to HRO's reports (Human Rights Observers)).



*People are pushed towards four buses, but in the end, only those who wish to do so (about ten) leave.

On the Calais side, months go by, and the evacuations are similar.

It remains a rhythm of one day out of two, but less and less rigorously: five times one day out of three this month: nothing between 30th March and 2nd April, between 4th April and 7th, 13th and 16th, 16th and 19th, 23rd and 26th April).

The evacuation on 4th April, on the site of the rue de Judée, was particularly brutal: 15 CRS vans arrived, at 6 a.m., with four buses, and departure was mandatory (most of the guys ran away). It's a place that had to be cleared because work was about to begin. A lot of equipment was seized...

Generally the police arrive in large numbers (pictured on 26th April 26 the BMX):





with impressive weapons (pictured on 26th April at the entrance to the former Great Jungle):

On 13th April, those queuing for Salam's breakfast fled when the police arrived and did not return. They were left hungry. security perimeters are established, increasingly wide, to prevent the HRO's observations.

arrests are not uncommon, with body searches (photo of 27th April in the city centre):



The movement of tents is the rule. HRO's photos show columns of exiles carrying their tents (like ants with their eggs bigger than them) moving around escorted by the police (in photo: 4th April behind the PASS and at the Hospital on 19th April):



The rule remains: "What is abandoned is removed", which in practice becomes "all equipment whose owners are not present next to it, is removed". We see on a video of the HRO (Human Rights Observers), (at the BMX on 6th April) an exile having difficulty getting his belongings back, even though they are carefully packed in a tarpaulin, with a neatly buckled backpack right next to it, ready to be put on...

Worse, a police officer pushes the rule to the point of: "we don't pick up the tents, if there's someone inside..." (April 13)

On 26th April at Salam's BMX breakfast, the guys run by to get a piece of bread and quickly return to the side of their tent so as not to see it removed...

On 27th April , our breakfast team sees men arrive without tents and without shoes: after a failed passage to the United Kingdom, they have found nothing...



On the 30th, on the site of the Hospital, the dismantling took place during the distribution of meals from La Vie Active: we can clearly see on the HRO (Human Rights Observers) video men carrying one of the white sachets, the other two jerry cans, characteristic of these distributions. They come across the cleaners who are carrying away tents. The exiles were gone: it could be theirs...

The wood is systematically removed, by trucks or shopping carts (the photo was taken on rue de Judée on April 4).



The HRO (Human Rights Observers) even photographed, on the same day, a cleaning agent who starts a chainsaw to cut pallets into pieces.

The exiles will return to settle after the police operation but will have nothing left to heat themselves and boil water...

They often resettle before the complete departure of the forces of order. On 21st April, the HRO video shows the exiles bringing back their tents on the heels of the police.

On 16th April, the Salam breakfast team saw them once again, behind the PASS, pass between the police to put their tents back in place. Once again, making people leave because they illegally occupy other people's land makes no sense if we let them resettle afterwards! It is only a question of complicating their lives...s



We see that evacuations are done in all weathers. The first photo (from 4th April behind the PASS) speaks for itself, the second (from 21st April on BMX) shows a tent, moved, which goes away on its own!





Even the police are freezing

LIVING CONDITIONS HAVE NOT IMPROVED.

There has been no progress in access to the most basic rights. Washing in Dunkirk is mainly done outside (the photo is from 18th April).

Access to water remains insufficient (only one point connected to the network, granted at the end of December by the CUD).



However, we note, with hope, a constructive dialogue with the Urban Community of Dunkirk: two meetings have taken place since the one on 18th December during which we obtained the first water point connected to the network and a garbage truck.

There is a desire for help on the part of the CUD officials, but we have to reckon with the will and the instructions ("no point of fixation") of the state authorities.

Let's not lose confidence and hope...

SOME UNEXPECTED DIALOGUES WITH THE POLICE:

A touch of humour, to which they have not accustomed us:

On 28th April, under the bridge that leads to the former Great Jungle, we hear on a video by the HRO this dialogue with a policewoman:

- What is going on asks the HRO,
- A tennis match.
- On what legal basis?
- The Olympic Games.

The same day in Marck, a policewoman (the same?) told the HRO "I too, when I was younger, wanted to save the world, so that we can change..." »

We hope not to see our young volunteers change too much... Fortunately, for us, the elders, it is too late, we will persist until the end in wanting to change the world...

Claire Millot.

RECEPTION "SOLIDARITY REFUGES" OF BRIANÇON .

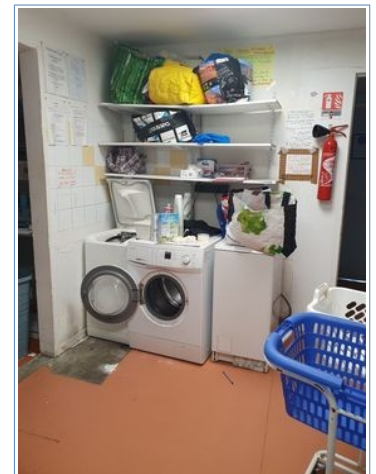
Arrived on Thursday 4th April around 2:30p.m. for two weeks of volunteering.
We brought from the North little hygiene products, towels, donated by Salam who has enough.



The building that "houses" the organization (a former rest clinic) is located at the height of the city.



"SOLIDARITY REFUGES" occupies the basement (kitchen and storage of food and clothes), the ground floor (offices, reception, cloakroom, linen room and laundry, meeting room, "Doctors of the World" office and PASS, a few rooms and sanitary facilities) and the first floor (majority of the rooms, sanitary facilities, the refectory and two terraces).

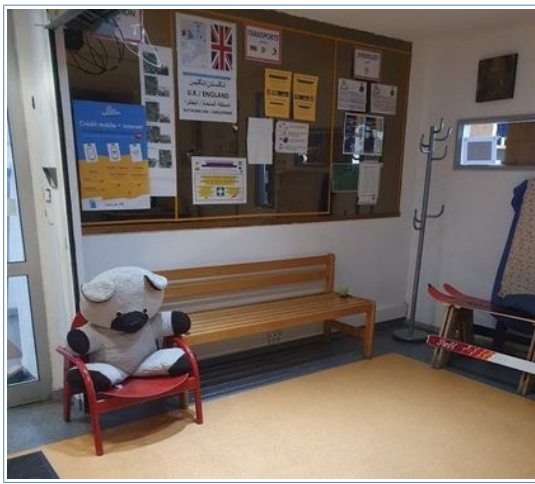


The exiles, who have transited through Italy (often accommodated at the Oulx refuge, on the Italian side) arrive via the Montgenèvre pass, they are welcomed and accommodated for three days (time necessary to rest and regain strength).

During our stay, the shelter welcomed 22 to 40 exiles, mainly men, the majority of whom were young Sudanese. The number of places is about 60, however in case of crowds, the refectory is transformed into a dormitory. In the past, the place had to close its doors momentarily, no longer being able to provide a proper reception as the number of exiles was so large.

The exiles must be welcomed, provided with room and board (if necessary clean and suitable clothing) and prepared for the rest of their journey; The reception is provided 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The organization employs a few employees, including three-night watchmen, helped by regular local volunteers and occasional volunteers (students, retirees, etc.) from all over France, for periods of one week to a month, or even several months for some.



After receiving about three hours of training, each volunteer signs up for at least two daily tasks (breakfast, lunch, dinner, reception, life in the place, cleaning, linen room, cloakroom) knowing that the priority tasks are reception and meals.

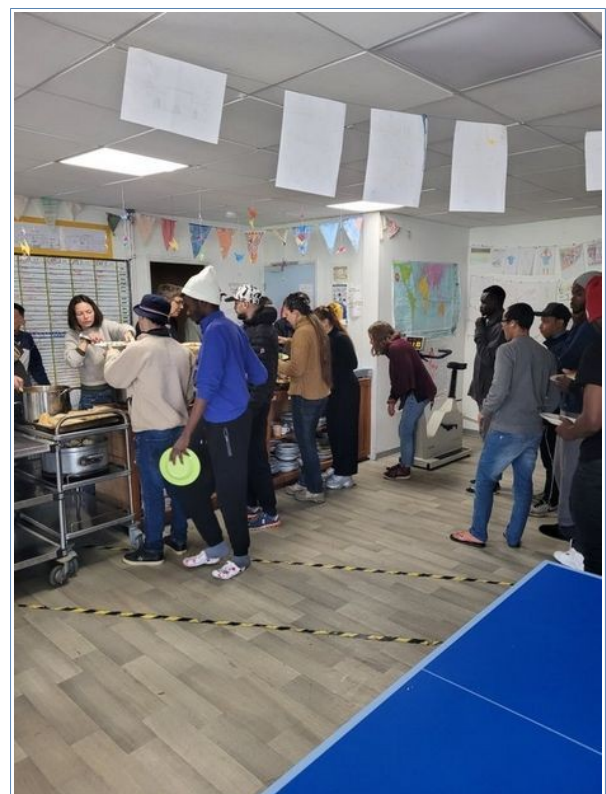
The exiles arrive alone or in small groups (some of whom have met at the refuge on the Italian side). They are welcomed in the hall where they are offered a (hot) drink and a snack.

It is explained to them that the place is managed by an organisation, so that they can be reassured. We are worried about their state of health, and we ask them if they have met the police and how it happened (conditions, fingerprinting, etc.). Then they can go through the changing room to pick up dry, clean and suitable clothes. Those we met had previously passed through the Oulx refuge in Italy. They arrived wearing "après-ski" boots, dressed in ski pants, anoraks, thick socks, hats and gloves. We did not see any exiles arrive in flip-flops and, fortunately, did not have to apply the "frostbite protocol". (All this equipment provided by the Oulx refuge, is dried and packaged by us, in bags, for a return there, once a week or so). A kit of bed linen and towels is given to them, and they are taken to a room where they are divided by "affinities".

(In order to avoid various inconveniences such as bed bugs or galls, the rooms are equipped with camp beds only. Pillows and blankets are placed for decontamination four days after each use.)



A room for relaxation, sewing, DIY... is also available to them.



Meals are taken together in the refectory, it is also the place where they can relax (TV, board games, ping pong table).

At the same time, the reception service sees with them the next step they plan for their journey, the financing of a bus or train ticket can be provided for a large nearby city and the CIMADE intervenes several times a week to explain their rights.

On the day of their departure, they are accompanied to the train station or bus stop by a volunteer. Information on organizations likely to help them in the destination city is provided, a picnic is also given to them.

In summary: a lot of solidarity and mutual aid between volunteers:

busy days and flexible schedules,

The pleasure of seeing these men smile, laugh, have fun, sing...

some more difficult moments (conflicts over small things sometimes) that we had not "anticipated",

and sometimes the frustration of the language barrier, many Sudanese do not speak French, English or German, but Arabic which we do not master.

An experience rich in lessons and unfortunately questions about the "future" of these exiles.

For more information:

<https://refugessolidaires.com>

Facebook: Refuges Solidaires.

NB. For those wishing to volunteer, collective accommodation at the "Chalet" adjacent to the building.

Text and photos : Elisabeth and Jean.



Shortly after their arrival, Elisabeth and Jean took part in the preparation of "Eid al-Fitr", the festival at the end of Ramadan.

GOODBYE, PIERRE.



Pierre has left.

After two years with us in Salam Dunkirk, he returned home to the Tarn. He took to the road on the evening of 3rd April...

Of course, Pierre was not unanimously accepted by the association: a free electron, too autonomous, too impulsive...

But precisely, he provided an "itching powder", he was the one who didn't let go when he noticed a need, a lacking: "You thought..." You don't forget... Do you know that the "L" in SALAM is to « Let us fight? »

Two years for all of us are the hundreds of mornings when, up at dawn, before sunrise in winter, he would go to a refugee camp to wait for a possible evacuation. He then warned the exiles and put as much of their belongings as possible in his van to prevent their items from being seized.

He managed to annoy the police and the bailiff to the point that, on the morning of 19th October 2023, his vehicle was confiscated...

During his two years among us, he went to look for hundreds, thousands of blankets wherever they were mentioned to him: in Audotri in Saint-Omer, in the small chapel of the Dunes in Dunkirk, as far as Maldegem in Belgium...

During his two years among us, hundreds of vans filled with pallets, whole or in pieces, were brought back to the camps to warm up our friends, especially those who came back soaked after a failed attempt to cross into England, and to heat water for tea or soup.

During his two years among us, there have been hundreds of distributions in the evening, with Pascaline, in the camps, in winter at nightfall, distributions of blankets, shoes, clothes, tents when there were any available.

During his two years among us, constantly filming took place around the camps, he also guided dozens of journalists, or volunteers from far away, to discover the living conditions (of survival) and our daily work.

It is also friendships that he created with the other organizations he met. Salam's relationships (with their aging volunteers) and the newer supporting organizations with a more marginal view (such as Roots or Help 4 Dunkirk) have been facilitated... Let's hope that this mutual recognition, which he achieved, will last beyond his departure...

Two years among us, it's finally an adventure that ended in a hunger strike. We did not approve of it, but we supported it as best we could: a radical action to try to move the lines. He put his life in danger, and we could only respect...

We owe him, in large part, at the end of December 2023, the dumpster and the water point. And even if they were far from the main campsites, it is not nothing, because they are the first since the arrival of the camps on Loon-Plage more than two years ago (end of November 2021).

It was a tired man that we saw leave, with a heavy heart, his faithful dog Arthur at his side. We wish him full development and happiness in his new life. And we hope to see him regularly at ours, as well as at his home...

Claire Millot.

COLLECTED WRITTEN WORK BY YOUNG PEOPLE FROM THE DARIUS MILHAUD COLLEGE IN SARTROUVILLE: DRAWINGS, POEMS AND LETTERS.

It has now been four years since we formed a partnership with the students at this college, and also with their teacher Anne-Catherine Mourgue.

In February, it was the 3rd 2 class that wrote and drew once again to the sound of the harp.

In our March issue, we published the first third of them. Here's the next one, and the last one will arrive in May.

Thank you to these young people and their teacher.

THE TEXTS IN THIS MARCH ISSUE SPEAK OF HOPE...

Despite the bad things that can happen in life
There is and always will be, a glimmer of hope.
Even if some days can be more negative than others.
There will always be a better day than the moment we live

We can all succeed in overcoming our difficulties,
I must surely not be the first to say this kind of thing.
But life is not only bad,
and even if it may seem difficult, you have to find the courage
To fight
To succeed

We are never alone, even if we may think otherwise,
There will always be someone to watch over us, here in heaven, in our hearts

And there will always be someone to think of us
and we here in this school are part of it
I hope this message will find you healthy and can put a smile on your face.

Eléa

Even if we start with nothing, we build our life, our path.

I know it's hard to leave your country, to restart your life from scratch, to leave everything you used to experience. I understand all the bad feeling of leaving one's past location because of the hard conditions to live with such as famine, war, poverty, injustice and many other reasons. There are still many problems in this world but be brave because there are still good people who will help you without hesitation and one day, maybe..., everything will work out. Having the status of immigrant is difficult in some countries, but we should not be ashamed of it because there is no reason, we must never forget our roots and our history, each person has his or her own hard or less hard history, it is useless to compare ourselves because our experiences forge us to take us further and further, Your journey is yours. Even if it's hard, you shouldn't give up and leave your life unlived, I hope that your projects will be carried out and that in the future, we will be accepted everywhere regardless of our origins, our skin colour or our beliefs.

Good luck to you,

Manel

A Letter for The Migrants

I wish these people would
find a place to live
because sleeping in a tent
is not often easy

But I hope that
before long we will find them
a place where they can
shower, feed and sleep

So that they can
live in good
conditions and that they
may live in peace

Otherwise, I wish them
happiness, and courage
and don't give up
Stay happy!!!

Jibril



Hello Dear Immigrants.

I hope you're doing well? It can't be easy to live outside in the cold. Not to be able to eat enough and to live in the mud or even to have to confront the authorities because they want to destroy the land you inhabit, you fought to come to our beautiful France but instead of being well received you have your camps destroyed with excavators and or a local authority decides to have your land ploughed so that you don't go back, you have your tents taken, your belongings taken, even things for young children, and this is really serious, they prevent immigrants from being able to live in peace, even to the point of putting concrete blocks to prevent supporting organizations from giving you food when you are only requesting just that, you have experienced the death of people to whom you cared for, all this so that France would treat you badly every day, you fight for your life to find food but unfortunately, some decide to end their lives but you must continue to persevere and fight for your survival, you have walked several kilometres you have potentially come by boat or by swimming you have fought to hold on as long as possible, but forget your past and move forward, work to officially become a citizen and since you will be able to help your neighbour by going to work and giving them money, a lady once told me that it is only by persevering that you get what you want the most.

Lorenzo

Cheer up

Arriving from Afghanistan by Ocean
Great Britain, is waiting for you
On the floating boat
Or while waiting for the torrent
Keeping hope despite the bad weather
You will see a bigger picture.

Yanis



Although for many people,
Life is good, but for others it's not.
Some have a house, others don't.
Even if we all deserve the good life...

Many only suffer, others die.
No person deserves to die,
Even less deserving are young minors...

Many travel without even wanting to,
Some see their parent, their brother, their sister, their child,
others don't.
Some leave with courage, pride, others leave with
sadness, sorrow...

Many arrive in France, some are refused.
Because of their skin colour, their origin.
For all the migrants who are reading this letter, courage to you, you are
brave and this is very good, you must continue!!

Good life to you !

Élisa

Maintain hope

Crossing the ocean
Getting off the boat
I could see the sea and the water
Water, you who can feed us and drown us
I have had my ups and downs
But I woke up, now I'm at the top of Mont Blanc
I have experienced escapades from Pakistan
Keep hope, it will come with time
I didn't experience nocturnal madness like other children

Samy



Dear Migrants,

From afar I support you, your good humour and your efforts warm our hearts. I send you my strength and my support. Life will have its ups and downs, but you have to stay strong. Because after the rain comes the good weather. You have a big heart and are supportive, and I envy you for these beautiful qualities. Don't be sad because we only have one life. One fine day, your dreams will come true. Keep the faith, soon you will be "kings". Life is beautiful, don't be afraid to face it. Don't regret anything!

Lola.

For all the migrants,

Each of us hopes that you will have a place to sleep, that your hearts will be filled with joy, that your children will live in a place where peace reigns. We want to help you so that you don't suffer anymore, maybe our words will make you smile, that's what we hope from the bottom of our hearts.

Everyone deserves to be happy, even you and even more than us, because you live in misery, one day you will have a place that will make you safe without being taken away from you what you have. Stay strong and one day everything will get better, you have a lot of courage and I'm sure that when you succeed, you'll go far. Don't give up, we are with you, we are very much thinking strongly for you.

We have not forgotten you.

Célie.

THANK YOU

First of all, I ask forgiveness from all those who helped in one way or another and whom I forgot, or whose work was not reported to me...

THANK YOU TO THE VOLUNTEERS.

***Thank you to our regular volunteers,**

who week after week go to collect donations, do shopping, prepare, distribute, clear waste, do the dishes...

***Thank you to the exceptional volunteers.**

- **Thank you to the young people of Sciences-Po Lille**, who have taken turns every weekend since September to help distribute breakfasts in Calais.

- **Thank you to those from an engineering school in Lille** who gave one day of their Easter weekend to Grande-Synthe: four on Saturday and four on Monday.

Those on Monday did a pleasant cleaning of the basement of the Guérin room with Elisabeth in a good mood.

- **Thank you to the young people of the AFEV**, Flora and Ahlem, who came on Easter Monday when they had been released because it was a public holiday.

- **Thanks to Marianne, a student in Social Sciences**, who came on 11th April for an interview and came back on the 18th to enhance her investigation.

-Thank you to our friends Adamou, Amara, Brooke, Dramy, Fatoumata, Kara, Keita, Kourouma, Lamine, Madona, Mirandukhti, Moussa, Naili, Oumar, Souma and Yaya.

In twos or threes, as they have since February, they came to help with meal preparation and cleaning. Amara, Mohamed, Moussa and Lamine have done some cleaning which is becoming challenging for the elderly volunteers as we are becoming the majority!

A special thank you to Lamine for his giant work in moving and cleaning the packaging bins.



-Thank you to friends of friends, volunteers for a day:

Charlotte and Frédérique who accompanied Manon on the 27th,

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO JOINED US, COMING FROM A FRIENDLY ASSOCIATION:

Malou and Kelly from Sesame, twice a month, on 1st and 6th April.

A team from FTS de Bailleul, on 16th April.

Patrick and Jean Paul, who regretted not having done the carnival, found themselves on the front line of a real Dunkirk ruckus... (There was *A lot of people when we arrived. It was difficult* to get the guys in line.)

THANK YOU TO THE FORMER PLAYERS WHO GREETED US AND JOINED THE TEAM OF THE DAY, AS IF THEY HAD NEVER LEFT.

César and Leslie (owners of our favourite chip shop), April 4th.

Elise, the 18th.

Manon, the 27th.

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

In Material:

***the volunteer** who brought back on 13th April trays on which was written "Bon appétit" in several languages...

***a couple from Zuydcoote** who came on 27th April to bring us blankets. Thanks to them: the people in the camp unfortunately still need them!

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...

Thank you to Secours Populaire/Copains du Monde, to Christian Hogard, to Caroline and to their team, in particular Bruno and Evelyne,

Our message of 31st March:

"Three cases of pastries and six cases of bread...

... a nice gift to participate in the distributions of the full Ramadan: we give to people who come in the morning to get something to put in a pocket or a bag and who will only eat it in the evening, when the fast ends.

Still more practical than a cup of milk or a tray of boiled fruits!

Thank you Christian, thank you Caroline, thank you friends from all over the world!

On behalf of Salam and those who have benefited this morning. »

And the one on 4th April:

"A new delivery of gifts for our exiled friends from Calais arrived yesterday:

new provisions to store to eat after sunset, since it is Ramadan and it is in the morning that we make our distributions!

pastries, boiled fruits, and lots of small practical individual boxes, each with a small bottle of water, a cake and a fruit juice.

Thank you Christian, thank you Caroline, thank you to our best friends (in the world).

From Salam and our hungry refugees. »

Here is Christian's response of 5th April:

"Dear friends of Salam, we are doing our best because in this period of Ramadan among our Muslim

Friends we are very (and this is quite normal) addressed by many associations that help OTHERS !!

However, for our Friends of Salam, the priority remains in order.

So much the better if this delivery is useful to you and makes you happy, you deserve it, since you make OTHERS so happy.

Fraternal friendships and above all solidarity. »

Finally, our message of 21st April:

"In this difficult period when the number of exiles, who come to Salam's breakfast in Calais, fluctuates between 400 and 900, five cases of bread and three boxes of pastries are welcome and appreciated by all (volunteers and recipients).

Thank you for this gift from the beginning of the week.

Thank you Christian, thank you Caro and thank you to all the friends! »



**Thank you also to the Secours Populaire de Roubaix, and to our friends for their many and varied donations through the camps near Dunkirk, on 18th April,
And thank you to our old friends at Loon-Plage for guiding them and helping them with their exceptional distribution.**



Thank you once again to Onjali and his association "O's Refugee Aid Team", for a second visit on 6th April, on the occasion of Ramadan, this time to help respect the feast of Eid. Onjali came from the UK on purpose, along with Yasmin Ishaq, the administrator of their refugee team.

The purchase of 30kg of beef was the best expense. The butcher almost disappears behind the prepared bags!

But there were also spices, boxes of vegetables, milk and oil.

Thank you to Aftha, from the association "Help me" in Pontoise, who came on 31st March, although weakened by the fast of Ramadan.

Here is our message for 1st April:

"Yolaine told me about your crazy outfit with nothing in her stomach, yesterday, so as not to betray a promise... Thank you!

She told me about the shoes, the clothes, the dates, the milk... enough milk to give whole cartons to people who won't drink it until the evening...

Thank you! really thank you so much, on behalf of Salam and on behalf of the guys who are going to enjoy it. »

And Aftha's response:

"In response to your message, it is with great pleasure that I came to visit you, sick or not, it was important to us (my association and myself) to relieve you a little and above all to contribute in our small way to the well-being of migrants.

Thank you for your help towards migrants and see you soon. »

Thank you to Emmaus of Saint-Nazaire, for its visit on 5th April,

With two big trucks that arrived full: milk, jam for breakfast, blankets and clothes, 105 tents! The trucks left empty and the guys with smiles and full hands.



Thank you to our allies from FTS, who came on 16th April with the surpluses of the solidarity grocery store in Bailleul:

salad dressings in 5-litre cans,
 "soy alarm clock" bottles,
 Packages of cooking aids for sauces,
 bags of tomato twists,
 bags of cashew nut seeds and peanuts,
 boxes of rusks and crusty jacquet bread.

Thank you to Maison Sésame,

For the quantity of carrots and potatoes deposited on 2nd April.

Thank you to the Red Cross

for the donation of two packs of milk brought on 18th April.

Thank you to Abdelkader and the Renaissance association

for having resumed on 11th April after the end of Ramadan, the making of the big bowl of hot meals that relieves us twice a week in the preparation of meals for the camps.

AND FINALLY THANK YOU TO ALL THOSE WHO GAVE US FINANCIAL DONATIONS,

without which we would not be able to maintain the vans, put diesel in the tanks, pay for the water and electricity used in our premises, replace the gas bottles...

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

This month, Eric from the East of France gathered some tents at a small party with friends (not the first time he's helped us with this.)

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 EMMAÜS 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, Utopia 56, Chris Nunes de Roots, Caroline Hogard, Frédéric de Bels, 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, and Guillaume who introduced us to the LinkedIn network two years ago.

Claire Millot.

OUR NEEDS FOR VOLUNTEERS

Dunkirk:

We need people on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from the beginning of the food preparation, 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

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

A big thank you to all our generous donors!

TENTS AND TARPAULINS!

From dismantling to dismantling, the tents are being removed on both sites and we are unable to replace them. Many people sleep with nothing protecting them, in all weathers.
You can also buy tarpaulins, pieces of 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 been getting a lot less fresh vegetables lately),
bags of pulses,

Drop off your donations in the Salle Guérin, rue Alphonse Daudet, behind the St Jacques church 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](#)

And the LinkedIn page, which can be consulted at the following link :

www.linkedin.com/in/association-salam-nord-pas-de-calais

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.