



DAILY NEWSPAPER OF CALAIS NO BORDER CAMP - N°1 - TUESDAY 24TH JUNE 2009



## No Bor-what ?

Created in 2000, No Border is an European network of activists who struggle for freedom of movement against immigration policies mostly in Europe within the Schengen area (even if a camp has already been organised at the border between Mexico and the USA). The No Border network demands the regularisation of illegal immigrants and the closing down of detention centres. No Border camps are tools of resistance (aiming at creating a balance of power in favour of activists in symbolic places of Fortress Europe) which are different from counter-summits. Regularly, camps are set up near border areas or other strategic places (such as airports) in that perspective. It already happened once in France in August 2002 in Strasbourg. In 2004, No Border network has organised a first international action day which happened in 50 cities of 11 European countries.

This camp in Calais was initiated by several British groups who had organised the first No Border camp in Britain in September 2007 in Gatwick airport where the building of a detention centre had been planned. These groups have done coordination meetings and workshops with French and Belgian activists in order to prepare the camp in Calais. For Sylvain who has participated in the organisation, the reasons for the choice of Calais are obvious : *'Calais is central in the questions about borders. On the one hand there are a lot of goods which pass through it, on the other hand there are also many tourists. Last but not least, the city is on a border which is closely watched over and which has blocked hundreds of people for years.'* Therefore there is an opportunity to bring the situation along the last border of the Schengen area to light and also to consolidate international solidarity against European immigration policies by creating 'a camp which will be a place for meetings, discussions and exchanges about the questions of borders. Moreover, there will be symbolic actions planned against the institutions responsible for the fact that only goods and rich people enjoy freedom of movement.'

After Calais, the next No Border camp will take place in Lesvos in Greece on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August !

NB : Presentation and interview from *La Brique* n°15

## Workshops...



Lundi 22 juin : Setting up of the camp - marquees, big tops, toilets, etc. [Wo]manpower needed !



Mardi 23 juin : Official opening of the camp:



Mercredi 24 Juin :  
 12h00-13h30 : STREET MEDICS AND BASIC FIRST AID  
 14h00-15h30 : Debate : MIGRATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE.  
 15h30-17h00 : ACTIVIST RECOVERY AND TRAUMA  
 17h00-18h00 : Paranoia VS SECURITY, VS OPEN CLOSED CULTURE  
 18h00-20h00 : DISCUSSING THE SITUATION FOR MIGRANTS IN THE CALAIS REGION. *An opportunity for all groups and individuals involved in the support of migrants: humanitarian organisations, NGOs, activists and migrants to meet and exchange perspectives and experiences on the current situation for migrants in the Calais region. All local groups and individuals welcome!*

## Cinéma...



Mardi 23 Juin  
 15h / 18h : Setting up of the cinema  
 18h / 20h : Meeting  
 20h / 21h : Showings open to films directed during the week and to other propositions  
 21h : "No comment" by Nathalie Doupeyre, 52 mn (2008).

Mercredi 24 Juin / Wednesday 24th june :

⌘ 15h : "Divine Intervention" de Elia Suleiman, 2002, 1h32 min.

⌘ 18h : - "Leaving or dying" / "Partir ou mourir", 50min. Documentaire sur les frontières les plus dangereuses à passer (filmé en Ukraine).

- "Exposure" (28min)

- "UPROOTED : Refugees of the Global Economy. National Network for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, 2001, 28min.

⌘ 21h : - "Djomeh" de Hassan Yektafanah , 2001, 1h34min, VOSTF.





## To every one !

**Y**ou are holding the first issue of the No Border camp newspaper. *Nomade* will give you news and information in French and in English during the week of the camp. So you will have something to read which will be very different from the propaganda of *La Voix du Nord* and *Nord-Littoral* and other police-like voices such as the prefect Bouquet's or the mayor Bouchart's.

Designed for the residents of Calais, but also the immigrants and the people involved in the No Border camp, this little paper will provide you with relevant analyses about immigration policies, refugees and their situation throughout the world. The idea is also to publish accounts given by the people who suffer from security measures (mostly immigrants but also those who try to help them), looking at the particular cases of Calais and the English Channel continental coast where repression is very intense. Of course one of the goals of this paper is to keep you informed about the No Border Camp : the debates and meetings, the organisation of the camp as well as all the gossip and good news, etc. We also want to give information to the mi-

grants about their rights, the legal tools they can use, the conditions of detention, the support movements, etc. And we will not forget to blame all these deceitful politicians who are all talk and no action but who are at the same time so conspicuous by their absence when it comes to making an effort to support the cause of these exiled people. *Nomade* is a friendly newspaper and if you would like to contribute to it you are more than welcome (but it must be said that xenophobia, sexism, racism and haughty intellectualism will not be so welcome here !)

The life of *Nomade* will be short but well-lived and exciting. We rely on you to read it whatever the cost (in money but also

mostly in brains) will be for you !

Welcome home !

The newspaper and other informations about the No border will be available here :

[www.lille.indymedia.org](http://www.lille.indymedia.org).

Pour nous contacter :

[newspaper@calaisnoborder.eu.org](mailto:newspaper@calaisnoborder.eu.org)

# Police harrassment

## Just say it !

**"The police at borders is the weapon of state xenophobia."**

As it was confirmed by the court of Rennes on the 12/12/08.

## Vols London-Lesquin-Kabul flights soon to be canceled ?

Last Fall, the French and British governments attempted to deport Afghans in chartered planes. The deportation was stopped after people gathered in protest at the Lesquin airport. British authorities nevertheless contacted the French to try again, a few weeks ago, during a secret meeting in Calais. Phil Woolas, the British immigration minister, allegedly put on his agenda twenty-some deportations, each concerning about fifty Afghans. These are supposedly forbidden by the European convention on Human Rights, a text most likely taking up dust in a drawer in Brussels that will not prevent anything. Nothing like a welcome committee in Lesquin or at the Stansted airport of London to get results!

Source: Nord Littoral, 06/16/09, quoting the Daily Express.



**Repression against the « sans-papiers » increases at all levels, in regions, in France, and in ll of Europe. The arrival of former socialist Eric Besson at the ministry of immigration, raids and roundups, his cookie-cutter statements and the increasingly intense series of raids have increased tension in Calais.**

In January, Besson stated: « *There is no room for illegal immigration in our country* » also promising increased police resources at the borders. In February, he launched a call to sans-papiers to inform on people smugglers. Informers will be rewarded with a residence permit! On the Cote d'Opale, between Calais and Boulogne, the police organization is winding up. Following three « massive arrests » in Calais in March (concerning 200 migrants), a broad roundup took place on April 21st: hundreds of police and gendarmes organized a huge refugee hunt in and around Calais (190 were arrested). In his subsequent visit to Calais on April 23rd, Besson announced that he intends to destroy the « jungle », the dunes where migrant populations have been finding shelter.

Lately, police has multiplied arrests, in the « jungle », in the city and up to the areas surrounding locations

where associations distribute food to migrants. The situation has also worsened all along the coast, where populations in exile gather. Daily harrassment has become the norm.

### A few examples<sup>1</sup>

- On May 31st, after the evening distribution, Youssef was attacked by CRS near the jungle. He was tackled to the ground and beaten up. He lost consciousness and was taken to the ER.

- On Thursday, June 4th, as a Salam militant was filling out asylum requests near the evening food distribution location, CRS stormed out of vans and chased migrants away.

- On May 6th, Afghans and Pakistanis were arrested by the border police, placed in police custody in Coquelles and their camp dismantled.

- On May 11th, the border police brutally intervened in Steenvoorde.

## Bouchart asked the army to intervene and destroy the Afghans' tent village. What political courage!



« They burned everything, tents, clothes and food, » complained a militant. « It's terrible, unacceptable. »

- A few days ago, the refugee camps of Teteghem and Loon Beach, near Dunkirk, were torn to pieces by police forces.

The increase in police checks and the extra resources given to border police have led to an increase in the number of refugees in Calais. As of now, between 700 and 800 refugees show up at food distributions, the highest number in the past seven years.

On April 22nd, Natacha Bouchart, the new mayor of Calais—who was elected thanks to Front National votes—cried havoc on Radio 6 : she asked the army to intervene and destroy the Afghans' tent village. What political courage! After the Secours Catholique charity closed down the only four available showers in order to build more in a different location, the mayor of Calais

blocked the building permit. From now on, « migrants have to take risks to wash themselves »<sup>2</sup> : on June 13th, a young Erythrean man drowned while washing in a Calais canal. For lack of showers, diseases and infections have increased among migrants. Some « even wash in the lukewarm waste water of the nearby Tioxide chemical plant... »

One thing is sure, with Besson and Bouchart, the situation has grown worse for the sans-papiers, and those who support. This is Fortress Europe in all its glory.

1 : From the Nord Pas de Calais Human Rights League local communiqué of May 13th, available in French on the Salam association website: <http://associationsalam.org>.

2 : Céline Dallery, nurse at the health service office of Calais, interviewed in 20 Minutes, 06/15/09.