



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 23rd 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 !

You 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.

Pour nous contacter :

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 examples¹

- 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 »² : 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.

January 2009 : account of the situation of undocumented migrants in Calais



On an official visit to Calais on the 27th of January the new Immigration Secretary Besson gave the same old refrain as his predecessors'. Subjects such as insecurity, the illegal practices of the refugee smugglers or the suffering of local people were used again to justify a total absurdity, the project to make the area 'impervious' to illegal immigrants. It was a useless visit because, in spite of the way the migrants are hounded, they keep on reaching England. In order to avoid systematic manhunts and more and more violent aggressions, they do not stay in the surroundings of Calais now but move to different places all along the coast between Roscoff and Holland.

Calais's complex situation started long before the Red Cross had to close down its camp for refugees in Sangatte. The first 'refugees' arrived from Poland in 1994. Then in 1997, there were about forty Czech Romanians who were rejected from England. Later, there was the series of imperialistic wars that the western nations waged in Yugoslavia, Afghanistan and Iraq. They forced thousands of people to leave their countries. After having gone a long way, many of them came up against the difficulty of crossing of the channel.

But these military conflicts are not the only reasons. In the space of fifteen years more than one hundred various nationalities came to the surroundings of Calais. All the regions they came from were not devastated by fights. But the problem of work and the international dimension of the labour market has also deeply influenced the process of immigration. That is why so many people have tried to reach England clandestinely. It is not so much because of the 'odd jobs' advertised there as it is often claimed, but for the fact that there are many sectors of the industry in the UK where legal conditions of hiring are close to those of illegal work.

Gradually, France, Britain, Belgium and Holland got themselves an incredible set of laws, technologies and police forces to defend their borders in spite of basic rights and international conventions protecting the refugees. Through the cooperation between nations and by using conventions, agreements and the international filing on migrants, European countries are helping these four countries to

In England, legal conditions of hiring are close to those of illegal work

set up a machine of war aiming at the exiled people who are already weakened by their conditions of living and the hardships of their migration.

The security apparatus

In addition to that international cooperation, a powerful security apparatus is used to make the crossing of the border through the usual ways impossible. Calais and its surroundings are gradually turning into a combination of areas closed by walls, stockades and wire fences. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry got their own security service and the harbour is now enclosed by walls and electrified barbed-wire fences. Moreover, it has been equipped with an alarm system, fibre optic technology and heat-seeking cameras. In Coquelles, Eurotunnel has set up 280 cameras, infrared detectors as well as 40 km of barbed-wire fences around an area closely watched over by 360 security agents...

Also part of the border controls are done by private societies. The vehicles are scanned with military equipment belonging to the British army. They scan the inside of trailers with heartbeat and breath detectors. (...) So Calais offers a lucrative market for security companies. Its security budget amounts to 12 million euros per year.

But the systematic use of these controls has directly negative effects regarding the economic aspect : it slows down the transit of goods and passengers (10 million people per year) between France and England. And even if it is harder to cross the Channel, it is still possible to do it since the authorities cannot control or stop the thousands of lorries which pass through the border every day.

Out on the field

Currently, between 500 and 700 people are waiting their turn to cross the Channel. The struggle for survival is extremely difficult. Grouped into different nationalities, they hide themselves around the city, in the woods, by the dunes, in encampments made of plastic covers that they call "jungle". Others stay in squats in the city. They suffer from various health problems which are difficult to handle because they are only dealt with by volunteers of local associations. Moreover, the state constantly harasses them. Its goal is clear : make sure that nobody can see these men and women in the

city-centre and its surroundings. For this purpose, in Calais more than 500 policemen are said to deal currently with the action against undocumented migrants. Police interventions happen at any time. Sometimes they happen where meals are served by the associations and look like real roundups. Sometimes they happen at night, and the encampments can be completely destroyed. The use of violence is frequent : the personal belongings, the clothes are sometimes burnt or policemen urinate on them. There were times when the policemen marked the migrants' skins with ink, which painfully reminds of Nazi extermination camps.

The arrests always end up at the immigration

former communist mayor of Calais said : 'I recognize the work that has been done by Mr Sarkozy and Mr Blunkett, but it is a shame they have waited for so long...' Then when he saw that all the immigrants rejected by the British State arrived in the city, he changed his mind. While talking to representatives from the local associations who were asking for the setting up of a place with showers and toilets for the refugees, he told them : 'I regret that the cause of refugees has been led astray by idiots and I weigh my words... I am not in favour of the opening of such a place supported by the city.' (And you call that a communist !)

Since then the UMP party (right-wing) has been elected in Calais. The mayor Natacha Bouchart wants to clean the place in her particular fashion since she considers that the undocumented immigrants are 'responsible for constant damages' and 'put dirt everywhere they go'. If the former communist municipality always refused to meet the representatives of the local associations, Bouchart invites them at her table. She has created a 'council for immigrants' that she has at her disposal and of course immigrants are not invited. She has understood how to put these representatives to sleep just with words since they have been complaining for so long that they were not listened. The subsidies granted to the main two associations have increased and promises of financing toilets were evoked. And already some say it is an 'advance'...

Currently, you have to wait for several weeks, sometimes for several months before you can reach the beaches of England. So groups of immigrants go to settle elsewhere. Further into the land, about thirty or forty kilometers from the coast. The lorries can go there more quickly. Is Calais becoming less central ?

By La Mouette enragée, published in Courant alternatif, n°187, february 2009, and in the leaflet 'De Sangatte à Coquelles - Situation et interventions (1999-2004)'

NB : *Nomade* has done a few small changes and cut a few passages to make the original text shorter.

Calais offers a lucrative market for security companies. Its security budget amounts to 12 million euros per year.



detention centre in Coquelles where you can mostly find people who are likely to be deported. On border police premises, behind the detention centre, you can even find a branch of the county court of Boulogne-sur-Mer. But the protests against that way of making justice 'on a production line' did not change anything. In a few steps, you can go from your cell to the court room, from the courtroom to the charter plane.

Calais town hall and associations

Locally, former and current municipalities share the same desire to hide away the undocumented immigrants. When the camp for refugees closed down in Sangatte, at first the

No Border : to the gallows

The media, the police, the justice system, the city and regional government are in cahoots to feed the psychosis of a terrorist invasion. Could it be that the authorities have something to fear of the solidarity that this kind of event always creates?



You're the mayor of a city that will host for a week a major event on an issue of direct concern to your municipality. What do you do? Bouchart (UMP) has the answer: she canceled all cultural activities, called in police reinforcements, postponed a meeting of the city council, organized a ghost town campaign, gave alarmist interviews, put pressure on all the associations in Calais, and made sure not to meet with the No Border collective, under the pretext that the emails signed with the collective's name are "anonymous." "I have no idea who they are... It's signed 'No Border.' We don't know who's who, we can't identify them." Crossing the street that separates city hall from the Maison de la Culture where the No Border organizing committee meets is also out of the question. "Within this seemingly 'peace and love' movement, there are anarchists... Judging from their state of mind, anything could happen." Anything? Now here's a stance conducive to dialogue...

Police everywhere Justice nowhere

At the prefecture, things are clear: they have imported truckloads of CRS (between 1000 and 2000 are penned in the Jules Ferry camp), packs of BAC*-style cops in civilian clothes, and RG* snoops will occupy Calais hotels commandeered for the occasion. Pierre de Bousquet de Florian* is wary: "we see full well that the people we're talking to either do not keep their promises, or do not want to keep them." He is referring to the organizing committee's refusal to use land already reserved by Travellers, a point the préfet conveniently forgot to mention. He is acting "in good will," though, and his declarations prove it: he has "absolutely no illusion about the organizers' intentions." Indeed.

"All the documents we receive are signed No Border. But, to me, No Border is nobody." How witty... "We negotiate with different people each time. They're usually pawns, and we never see the real deciders." And he's paranoid, to boot... A structure without hierarchy is just too much for him to take!

And how about this one: "The demonstration request has been filed under false names, false identities... What are they so afraid of?" Maybe they're wary of this funny habit cops and magistrates have of putting people in jail under any pretext? During one of the negotiation meetings, the sub-prefect warned "not to reply to police

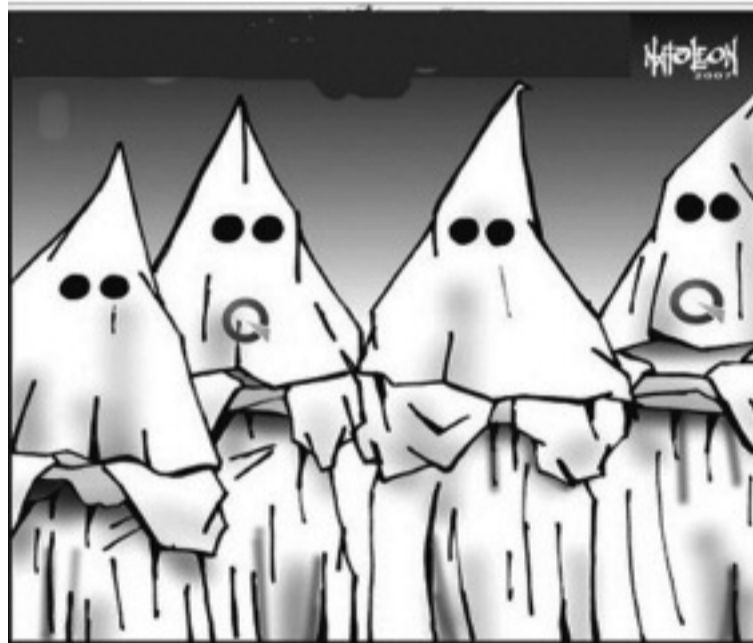
provocations."* You can't get much clearer than that!

Migrant populations detained at the Administrative Detention Center of Coquelles have been transferred away for the occasion. Indeed, demanding the liberation of populations in exile at the gates of ADCs is precisely the kind of "ultraviolet actions" No Border participants are likely to commit.

Pressure galore

Things aren't much better on the civil society side. Some humanitarian associations are wary of the "politicization" of the migration issue*. Others fear possible retaliation on the mayor's part were they to participate: so long, subventions! Would the director of the Channel theatre have canceled the meeting organized by No Border in his building had he not been subjected to pressure? "I was asked to make this decision. But I did make

The sub-prefecture of Calais :



Tranparency, clarity, communication

it, freely," he said, otherwise adding that "the future of the Channel is at stake." And its future is not challenged by No Border: "honestly, I don't think that a lawyer and a doctor were going to break everything in the theater." Considering that city hall subvention to the theater amount to a yearly €800,000, it seems that mayor Bouchart was the most likely to weigh on the director's "free will."

"Subtle" positionings

We know how prompt the Green Party and

the Human Rights League usually are to denounce repressive policies in meaningless official statements. Yet this time the Human Rights League representative in Calais and the Green Party elected official for the region leisurely dump on No Border in Nord Littoral, the local rag.* When we attempted to get in touch with them, they gave no sign of life... maybe they were ashamed to death. If some of the local associations of support for the sans papiers did not sign No Border's call to demonstrate,* some eventually backed the document publicly,* while many association members chose to participate in the event's organization in their own name.

The media crusade

Newspapers have given full pages to the authorities, entertaining fantasies of demonstrations turning "ultraviolet" without bothering to investigate the veracity of those claims or allowing for a dissenting opinion. The media elected to pontificate on the hackneyed talking points of cops and informers: security, order, violence and threat. The way they describe the No Border network borders on the comical: "an international nebula of associations with anarchists sensibilit-

es," "the Greenpeace of immigration," "anti-imperialist mercenaries," "pacifist hippies or thugs?," "underground ultraleft network," "extreme left wing anarchist group" ... When we asked a Nord Littoral journalist about these terms, he replied: "we did it to provoke No Border people into reacting." Now that's true journalism...

The Voix du Nord takes the cake with this headline: "The No Border camp, a no-go zone." The journalist lets it all out: "these militants... lock themselves up, turn inward, isolate themselves and delimit a no-go zone." He lays it on even thicker: "they clearly do everything to live in autarcy." Why so hateful? Because like the cops, the press has been invited to stay outside of the camp. Why? First: because holding a press

card doesn't mean you can do anything you want. Second: the camp is organized in work groups and collegial meetings, and it is therefore especially important to secure it against informers. Third: when journalists finally start doing their job, we'll talk. This journalist and his colleagues wait nicely in the hall when ministers and CEOs have their secret meetings. Yet those usually concern millions of people. What's with that? When authorities speak, guard dogs lay down.

Frenzied psychotics

This network of security, media and underground structures is worrying. We have to deal with police omnipresence, the prefecture and mayor's office recurrent declarations about "ultraviolence," the dozen articles in local media dedicated not covering the event, but to discuss the risks it allegedly entails... No Border camps are an opportunity to confront authorities through direct action (site occupations and blockades), and also to meet with migrant populations. Where "humanitarian" associations work in perpetual negotiation, we aim at showing clear and direct opposition, not against population, but against repressive, xenophobic and "ultraviolet" policies.

All quotes from Voix du Nord, Nord Littoral et Nord Eclair, newspapers owned by the Rossel media empire (that also owns L'Indépendant, Lille Plus, Nouvelle Côte d'Opale, etc.). For more information, read La Brique n°12.

Notes:

- 1 : Brigade Anti-Criminalité (Anti-Crime Brigade), mobile police units in civilian clothes known for acting like cowboys in the French projects.
- 2 : Renseignements Generaux (General Intelligence Services).
- 3 : Prefect for the Pas-de-Calais region, former director of the French counter-intelligence agency, co-prince of Andorra between 1997 and 1999 (no kidding), and also involved in the Clearestream money laundering case.
- 4 : Quote of the sub-prefect during a meeting with a No Border delegation.
- 5 : Emmaus, the Secours Catholique and Médecins du Monde have officially "desolidarized" from No Border (Nord Eclair, 06/18/09).
- 6 : 06/13/09 edition.
- 7 : Except for the Terre d'Errance association.

* Notably, the C'Sur network and the Salam association, whose official statements denounce the psychosis fed by the authorities.