

MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES IN FRANCE

26/05/2021 – 07/06/2021

- On the first week of June 2021, around 300 migrants set up tents and makeshift shelters in the Villemin garden in Paris demanding French authorities to provide them with [decent accommodations](#). The people were then transferred to emergency shelters

27.04.2021 – 10.05.2021

- On 29 April 2021, around 209 migrants in nine boats have [crossed](#) the English Channel from Calais: the highest number in one single day so far in 2021. Another 166 people were intercepted by the French authorities. More than 1,850 people have reached the UK by boat in 2021.
- On 23 April 2021, the Council of State [issued a decision](#) where it refuses to order the closure of the border police “shelters” at the French-Italian border of Menton (Alpes-Maritimes) and Montgenèvre (Hautes-Alpes), where foreigners who have been refused entry to France are locked up without any legal framework or rights.

13.04.2021 – 26.04.2021

- On 26 April 2021, the Anafé (National Association to assist foreigners at borders) [declared](#) that it will stop its activities in the waiting area of the Roissy airport (called ZAPI) due to the non-respect of sanitary measures and the dangers posed to the detained people there and the staff. More than 120 people are still detained there in deplorable conditions and various COVID-19 cases are recorded each week.
- In just five months, between November 2020 and March 2021, France [returned](#) almost 16,000 migrants to Spain (nearly 3,000 a month). This significant increase is also a result of increased arrivals in the Canary Islands and reinforcement of border controls.
- At the beginning of April 2021, six camps in Calais, in Northern France, were dismantled by the police in one single day, leaving at least 300 people without shelter in freezing temperatures, aid organisations [denounced](#).

29.03.2021 – 12.04.2021

- 70 people, including 12 children and 46 asylum seekers, are [detained](#) in the Roissy Airport waiting zone in very worrying sanitary conditions.

10/03/2021 – 29/03/2021

- On 23 March 2021, six boats carrying a total of 183 migrants [reached](#) the UK coast, 231 people were intercepted and arrested on the French side.
- At the French-Spanish border, controls have [intensified](#) and migrants trying to cross are “hunted” by the police and pushed back to Spain, according to local aid organisations.
- Twenty-five Algerian nationals have been [blocked](#) in the international zone of Roissy-Charles-de-Gaulle airport since the end of February 2021. The Algerian authorities and their national airline, Air Algérie, refuse to repatriate them.
- French authorities [rescued](#) 72 migrants, including 11 children, who were trying to cross the Channel to the UK.

23/02/2021 – 10/03/2021

- A [photo reportage](#), from the photographer Pedro Brito Da Fonseca, witnesses the evictions and the inhumane living conditions of migrants living in tents in the woods in Grande-Synthe, at the periphery of Dunkerque, Northern France.

08/02/2021 – 22/02/2021

- The NGO [Utopia56 denounced](#) the alarming situation in the coastal region in Northern France, amounting to a humanitarian emergency, where more than 1000 people, including women and unaccompanied children, live on the street amid freezing temperatures and snow.
- On 6 February 2021, around 36 migrants attempted to cross the Channel to reach the UK on two boats. They [were rescued off Calais](#) and taken back to France.
- On 3 February 2021, the French authorities reportedly [pushed back](#), at the French-Spanish border, a 16-year-old boy who was directly handed over to Spanish authorities, without possibility to appeal to the decision, and he was left alone in the street. Different associations strongly denounced this incident and the unlawful pushbacks at the French borders. At the [French-Italy border](#), in the Alps, an increased number of people attempting to reach France were prevented from accessing asylum procedures and were pushed back to Italy.

21/12 2020 – 8/2 2021

- The anthropologist, Didier Fassin, and the doctor, Alfred Sprira, [denounced](#) the daily human rights violations committed by the State at the Italian-French border in the Alps.

12/01/2021 – 25/01/2021

- On 19 January 2021, migrants were [evicted](#) from their shelters under two bridges in the city centre of Calais, in the North of France. According to a press release from the prefecture, “115 people were taken care of and transported to be sheltered in different accommodation structures in the department (Nédonchel, Croisilles and Merlimont)”. On 16-17 January 2021, despite the activation of the “Cold weather plan” in **Calais**, hundreds of migrants stuck there have been [forced to sleep under the snow](#) in freezing temperatures. In the Puythouck forest, in Gran-Synthe, another 500 migrants are living there in inhumane conditions.
- In 2020 there has been a [41% drop](#) in the number of **asylum requests** in France, also due to the travel restrictions imposed by the pandemic.

21/12 2020 – 12/1 2021

- Between 400 and 800 migrants – mainly Sudanese, Eritreans, Ethiopians, Afghans and Pakistanis – [live](#) in makeshift camps in the Calais region. In recent weeks, local associations have [denounced](#) several cases of hypothermia and expulsions, without any long-lasting solutions by the authorities.

21/12

- *Le Monde* [denounces](#) an alarming situation in detention centres (CRAs) amid the health crisis, where physical distance and adequate sanitary conditions do not apply.
- On 16 December 2020, nine associations, members of the French Coordination for the Right of Asylum, trade unions and foreigners concerned, made a [complaint](#) to the Council of State to suspend the freezing of visas for family reunification, which has prevented families of refugees and foreigners in France since March 2020 to reunite.

24/11 – 08/12 2020

- On 7 December 2020, the French Minister of Justice, Eric Dupond-Moretti, and his counterpart, Mohamed Ben Abdelkader, [signed](#) in Rabat, Morocco, a readmission agreement for unaccompanied minors.

- The French Minister of Interior Gerald Darmanin, declared he will launch an investigation into [accusations of brutal force](#) used by the French police in dismantling a migrant camp, including by attacking refugees, journalists and others with truncheons and teargas, [according to The Guardian](#).
- On 28-29 November 2020, 64 migrants, including children and a pregnant woman, were [rescued](#) by the French coast guard in an attempt to cross the Channel.
- France and the UK issued a joint declaration on future bilateral cooperation on migration management aiming at preventing migrants and asylum seekers to reach the UK from France. The plan [includes](#) enhancing border surveillance tech equipments, an increase in police forces to investigate and dissuade crossings and increase border controls.

12/11 – 23/11 2020

- On 17 November 2020, French police [dismantled](#) a migrant camp in Saint-Denis, northern Paris, for public health reasons, where at least 2,000 people were staying. The evacuees have been screened for COVID-19 and housed in a hotel until at least mid-December.
- On 15 November 2020, French Minister of State for European Affairs, Clément Beaune, [stated](#) that France is willing to “reduce the number of **visas** granted to citizens of countries that are reluctant to take back their undocumented nationals”.

29/10 – 10/11 2020

- At the end of October 2020, a family of four Iranian Kurds [died](#) while trying to cross the Channel in a boat. 15 people onboard survived but another 9 are feared to be dead.

15/10 – 26/10 2020

- On 18 October 2020, the body of a dead man, who might have been trying to cross the Channel, [has been found on](#) the shores near Calais. More than 6,100 migrants have arrived in the UK on small boats so far in 2020.