FROM HERE AND SOMEWHERE

DISTRIBUTION CENTRES
CLAIRE MILLOT

In Grande-Synthe and Tétéghem the team of health workers of “Medecins du Monde” has recently built shelters to allow for meal distribution in a dry place. In Grande-Synthe, an old transport container disused for years has been cleaned and redecorated. It now has a concrete floor, and is equipped with two large tables and two benches. A large free space is available so the maximum number of can find shelter during bad weather.

In Tétéghem, the shelter is a new construction. From the outside it looks like a kiosk, like those you can see on the beach. There is a counter for lunchboxes and food containers, and canopies that allow people to stay dry when it’s raining.

In Grande-Synthe, it was a bit complicated on having a shower days when it was raining. Volunteer workers got wet waiting for the guys to have a shower. They had to keep clean clothes in their own vehicles. Distribution of clothes was therefore more complicated. Sylvie’s husband (member of Salam association) and one of his friends have recently built a shelter there. So that volunteer workers, migrants and their clothes can be protected.

BETWEEN SHAME AND ANGER
CLAUDIE RAULT-VERPREY

They are back. After spending the period of winter truce in a Cherbourg-Octeville community hall, Afghan asylum seekers have to return to the Nordex squat.

“I arrived in France one month ago. I never expected to live in such a place!” tells us a refugee.

In Cherbourg, they are at the moment 45 asylum seekers. Some of them have been waiting here for agreement of asylum proceedings for several years. They are waiting for the implement of the 2003 European circular called “The Reception Circular”. They are waiting for accommodation. They are waiting for their right to be respected.

“Here, it is a squat of shame. Everything is damp and rotten” protests Pascal Besuelle, volunteer worker of the “Itinerance association” and president of the Action group against racism and extreme right wing practices.

DIARY

Saturday 25th May : PSM inter-associations meeting, Saint-Medard Hall, Oye-Plage.


From 3rd to 24th August: Project: “Voices of the borders”.

Lovis, a fine three-masted sailing ship “as nice as a bird” with a crew of 30 people from all over the world will sail to Rotterdam, Brugge, Ostende, Dunkerque, Calais and Brighton. A two-day stop is planned for each harbor. The purpose is to inform and make people aware of the plight of exiled migrants on European coasts.

P SM is an action group of associations taking care of migrants on the Channel and North Sea coasts.
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LET’S TALK TOGETHER!
Le Journal des Jungles
A puzzle, an adventure, a terrific tool?

EDITORIAL
MARTINE DEVRIES

This newspaper wants to be the one of the Jungle, the newspaper for squatters, and the exile world. It’s the newspaper of helpers, not the one of persecutors and those voting laws and special rules against migrants. It’s the newspaper of those people who care? The border between caring and persecution is not always so well defined, but let’s pretend it is... So, this newspaper is for people who spend time in the Jungle and similar areas and are interested about these types of places. It should be written by these kinds of people, whoever they are: French natives or naturalized citizens, foreigners, temporary or definitive residents.

It should pay witness to all points of views, reports feelings, difficulties and satisfactions (yes, they do exist!). This newspaper is not one of resignation. It should express anger, indignation but also victories concerning amendment or implication of laws, gaining improvements of daily life and personal experiences.

So take out your pens, keyboards and glasses!

We invite migrants and volunteer workers to make this newspaper their own in contributing to its contents. We hope it will be a tool of expression for those who are so frequently forgotten and seemed to remain silent.

We hope to published it in various foreign languages.

P.1 : Let’s talk together!
P.2 : Volunteer workers - Free expression: I wish to become a magician.
P.3 : Calais Police violence - Exiled people in the north of France references.
P.4 : Distribution centres - Between shame and anger – Diary
WHE ARE VOLUNTEER WORKERS
CLAIRE MILLOT

You see us pass in the jungle areas and at distribution sites.
We bring you cooked rice, pasta, and warm vegetables with a small amount of halal meat. We bring you blankets, clothes, shoes (shoes are always missing). We propose you medical services, hot showers and sometimes, take you to hospital. We escort you to the French administration offices (administrative subdivision of the department or administrative office for health)...

Some of us are middle-aged men, some are young students or young unemployed people. Many of us are grey-haired retired women.
That’s because it takes time to decide to meet you, to cook for you, to sort out clothes that have been given to us for you, to wash those you left before having a shower.
We are volunteer workers. That’s not a job. That sort of job doesn’t exist.

We work as volunteers because we have been very touched to see your passing in our area or maybe we have seen a broadcast about you on the TV, or having been told of you by friends or parents who met one of you. In any case we share the same values: the care for human dignity.

Independence is necessary to be able to work freely and peacefully. We come together sometimes in associations (NGO). Together we are stronger

FREE EXPRESSION

« I WISH TO BECOME A MAGICIAN »
Interview with Judith Sébő

Exiled man from Iranian Kurdistan, 30 years old, bachelor, no children.
At the Iran-Irak border, trading is prohibited. So illegal trading developed. That’s what I used to do. You can earn a lot that way. For now I am single.

I left because I felt in danger. I was in great danger because of my job. But, above all, I knew there was no future for me in Iran. There was no aim to my life. I couldn’t earn a lot that way. For now I am single.

When I arrived here, at that camp site, with erected shelters, association logos, the explanations that you gave me, all warmed my heart. That comforted me. It is very important for us. We can feel that there are rules and laws in Europe. It is very comfortable.

But what I am afraid of today is that somebody else could take my place in the jungle while I am in hospital. I don’t know where I am going to stay tonight.

Exiled people in north of France: references
NAN SUEZ

During the 90’s migrant people from the former communist states of Eastern Europe started arriving at Calais blocked at the border, they were followed by families escaping the ex-Yugoslavia war.

Between 1999 and 2001, thousands of people had been sheltered in a rescue center created by the French government at Sangatte. In 2002 the French government, under the British political pressure, closed down the center.

Since then, many makeshift camp sites have arisen along motorways that come to Calais (Steenvoorde, Grande-Synthe, Téhéghem, Tatinghem, Norrent-Fontes, Angres) as well as in Paris and in some French and Belgian harbors (Roscoff, Cherbourg, Zeebruge...). In these camp areas, neighborhood citizens come together to organized help and support for passing exiled people. Certain local populations are welcoming, others are very hostile.

The State prevents fitting care of these migrants. Shelters are regularly destroyed, squats are emptied by police forces. The asylum seekers situation is getting worse everywhere in France.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

EXILED PEOPLE IN NORTH OF FRANCE : REFERENCES
NAN SUEZ

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LÉGISLATION

In June 2011, “No Border” people, supported by about 20 local, national and international associations for exiled people and human rights, gave to the Défenseur des Droits (1) a report about police violence against exiled people in the Calais area. This report includes many videos and witnesses about police harassment.

After investigations, this report denounces several abuses: for example, the same person or foreign people legally present suffering identity controls, questionings and being taken to Coquelle police office many times within a short period. It denounces recurrent visits to shelter areas and provocation and humiliation to migrant people by individual policemen. Destruction of humanitarian materials and of personal belongings has also been reported. And lastly, expulsions without any judicial formalities being undertaken have been observed.

The “Défenseur des Droits” formally demanded that the Police stops its attitude of a lack of respect. Manuel Vals, the Interior Minister, answered that there was no proofs and evidence of significant abuse. The amount of significant proof could allow such a situation of police violence to change. Don’t forget: The police vocation is to ensure the respect of laws. But it has to respect those concerning migrants, whether they are legally or illegally in our country.

Associations request that migrant people report all irregular police attitudes and send their experiences to the Défenseur des Droits : a squat closing down, confiscation or destruction of personal belongings and humanitarian material (tents, blankets, sleeping bags...), identity controls within food distribution areas, repeated visits within squats and Jungle areas. All important information should be reported to the association teams. Reporting can be anonymous.

1. The “Défenseur des Droits” is, in France, an independent authority looking for the respect of human rights and freedom as well as promoting equality.