

DISTRIBUTION CENTRES

CLAIRE MILLOT

In Grande-Synthe and Teteghem 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



Tétéghem : distribution center

maximum number of can find shelter during bad weather.

In Teteghem, 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 cloths 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 cloths can be protected. ■



Grande-Synthe : Showering place

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 Nordez 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 6th to 14th July : Jungle tour ! What is the Jungle tour? It's a cycle around the Nord-Pas de Calais area with the purpose of informing and making people aware of the plight of exiled migrants in our area: 6th July : Lens-Grenay - 7th July : Grenay-Norrent-Fontes - 8th July : Norrent-Fontes-Bailleul - 9th July : Bailleul-Grande-Synthe - 11th July : Grande-Synthe-Calais -12th July: Calais-Canterbury.

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.

PSM is an action group of associations taking care of migrants on the Channel and North Sea coasts.

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Journal des JUNGLES

Quarterly and free newspaper. Please dispose of it properly.

Plate-forme de Services aux Migrants j dj@psmigrants.org

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

NAN SUEL

In the context of the “Service Platform for Migrants” (PSM), some volunteers met together, designed and created this newspaper. It will be published quarterly, distributed freely and placed in all camp sites and squats. This newspaper has been written and produced by a team of volunteer workers and active members of associations whose purpose is to help exiled people without any shelter in camp sites in the north of France around Calais, in Paris and around Cherbourg.

We hope it will not belong to a few people but to everybody, French citizens and foreigners.

people, whoever they are: French natives or naturalized citizens, foreigners, temporary or definitive residents.

It should pay witness to all points of views and speeches, that may sometimes be conflictive, but that's not a bad thing and should report 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 forced to remain silent.

We hope to published it in various foreign languages. ■

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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 cloths 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 Sebö

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 express my political opinions. I was not free. I decided to leave to Europe for my freedom.

To get to Europe, I travelled by bus from Iran to Turkey with a passport. Then I passed illegally into Greece. Life was very difficult in Greece. I stayed for a year there, before coming to France via Italy by boat. There was 70 of us all together in a tiny boat. All of us were afraid that we would sink. The trip lasted 4 and an half hours.

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.

My brother is in England. I would be prepare to risk my life to join him. What is important is not the way you do things but having a project. Then I will seek political asylum and start to study. I will never go back to Iran except eventually as a tourist to see what is happening there.

I wish to become a magician. ■



Cherbourg : Harbour area

I knew before coming that nobody in Europe would interfere with my private life. It would be my own life. In Europe, nobody would look into the life of somebody else. It is completely different to the situation in Iran. That's what I was looking for.

CALAIS : POLICE VIOLENCE

LOU EINHORN-JARDIN

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 taking 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" formely demanded that the Police stops its attitude of a lack of respect. Manuel Vals, the Interior Minister, answered that there was no proofs of such happenings in the past and denied everything. Associations reacted with a press communication. Since then, illegal police actions continue.

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.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT

EXILED PEOPLE IN NORTH OF FRANCE : REFERENCES

NAN SUEL

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. The migrant's countries of origin changed according to geopolitical context.

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



picture from video available on "Rue 89". 2011/06/22

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.

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. ■

motorways that come to Calais (Steenvoorde, Grande-Synthe, Tétéghem, Tatinghem, Norrent-Fontes, Angres) as well as in Paris and in some French and Belgian harbors (Roscoff, Cherbourg, Zeebrugge...).

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. ■