



# The role of NGOs in the management of migration crisis in Calais

The obstacles to the humanitarian action since the covid-19 crisis, the example of the NGO “*l'Auberge des Migrants*”

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2. Case study: how the NGO « l'auberge des migrants » faces the new challenges of the Covid 19 crisis ?
3. The decree of September 11th, 2020 : a legal consequence of the Covid Crisis ?

# 1. A brief history of "the Calais Jungle"

## Where is Calais?



Sources:  
Wikipedia  
VOA News  
RFI

# Chronology of creation of the "Jungle"



1999 : Establishment of Sangatte refugee centre in Calais

2000 : Closing of the Sangatte centre

2003 : Signing of Le Touquet treaty between the UK and France

2009 - 2014 : Series of other bilateral accords follow

2009 : First dismantlement took place

2016 : Biggest dismantlement carried out under François Hollande

2020 : Dismantlement and ban on food distribution for the migrants

## 2. Case Study : the NGO “l'auberge des migrants”



- Founded in 2008 in Calais
- Working with British NGOs Calaid and Help Refugees
- HRO : the communication tool of “l'Auberge des migrants”

### 3. The food ban decree of September 11th, 2020 : a legal consequence of the Covid Crisis ?



Source : "Auberge des migrant"'s website



This decree improved the  
mediatisation into the  
French media for a short  
time

## Activists protest ban on distributing food to migrants in Calais

**Charities and human rights groups said officials had failed to provide basic services**



▲ Migrants from Sudan sit near statues of Winston Churchill and Charles de Gaulle in a public park in Calais.  
Photograph: Sameer Al-Doumy/AFP/Getty Images

About 250 human rights activists have protested in the northern French port of **Calais** against a local ban on distributing food to migrants in the city centre.

*The Guardian, 27th september 2020, from AFP*



“ the media works a lot in a spectacular way [...] We can see it right now but it's true all the time. But it doesn't concern all the media, there are still some who do background work, La Croix, le Monde, Libé, Média Part, Brut, l'Huma ... The others are there when something happens.”

(Interview of François Guennoc, VP of L'Auberge des migrants”,  
22nd of October 2020)



## Attempts of NGOs coalitions largely inoperant

“The problem is that the decisions we manage to obtain from the ECHR\*, CNCDH\*\*, the defender of rights, the UN, ... do not have the power to impose things on the French state. They are almost inoperative.”

(Interview of François Guennoc, 22nd of October 2020)

\* ECHR : European Court of Human Rights, \*\*CNCDH : French Consultative National Council of Human Rights

# Conclusion



- This crisis is rekindling the controversy about the concept of “solidarity infraction” in France.
- Calais Crisis must be understood as a multi-layered crisis whose evolution is important not only for Calais and France but also for the future of the EU and in particular for its new partnership with UK.
- This case study illustrates the harsher treatment of migrants in Europe and particularly the rise of aggressive practices perpetuated by French police forces.
- Despite that and the challenges brought by the pandemic, NGOs such as “l’Auberge Des Migrants” keep adapting and their role has never been as important than it is now.