

French Police Begin Razing Infamous Refugee Camp in Calais



Paris, October 25 (RHC)-- French police are being deployed as authorities begin dismantling "The Jungle" refugee camp in Calais amid reports of scuffles with the settlers.

Demolition workers on Tuesday started tearing down the camp, where some 6,000 to 8,000 refugees, including 1,200 children -- mainly from Afghanistan, Sudan and Eritrea -- have been living in dire conditions.

The demolition is set to continue through Wednesday. An interior ministry spokesman said the demolition would start by hand and that bulldozers would not roll in immediately in an effort to minimize tensions.

Despite those pledges, police were being deployed to "keep order" among the young refugees pushing barriers at the makeshift camp. Dozens of refugees reportedly jumped over railings in an attempt to get to the camp's temporary processing center, the first step to being relocated in France, triggering scuffles with police.

Nestled in the sand dunes, "The Jungle" is a symbol of Europe's failed refugee policies as member states

bicker over who should take in asylum-seekers. Many of those who crowded at the camp's temporary processing center identified themselves as unaccompanied minors with relatives across the English Channel in Britain.

More than 1,200 police and officials have already been deployed in the northern port city in what Paris calls a “humanitarian” operation. Help Refugees, a UK charity for refugees, said in April that 129 unaccompanied people had gone missing from the camp shortly after police demolished the southern part of the camp.

The dismantling comes after President Francois Hollande paid a visit to Calais and pledged to tear it down.

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