

## CAPTIONS :

### **CACHAN** **Refugee camp on the outskirts of Paris**

Photographs by **Diane GRIMONET**  
August – October 2006 - France

#### - The Daily life :



**Photo o1** 08/17/2006.

The police evacuates bluntly an old building of the CROUS (a regional student social support service) in Cachan occupied since 3 years by more than 650 people, leaving dozens of families on the streets.



**Photo o2** 08/18/2006.

The former squatters in Cachan were dispersed by the policemen. The squatters intended to stay in order to obtain a relocation and the release of 66 illegal immigrants arrested on 08/17/2006. Later in the day, the mayor of Cachan made available the gym "Belle Image" by emphasizing on the temporary nature of this solution. In the gymnasium, families are struggling to find covers and somewhere to place mattresses.



**Photo o3** 09/20/2006.

Early morning in Cachan, people start to spread. 30 to 40 % of them get up at 5 or 6 o'clock in the morning, with the fear of being arrested at the train station. Many have lost their jobs.



**Photo o4** 08/20/2006.

Toilette of the children.

Even if hot water is often lacking and only three showers are available, these families are able to exploit it, and to wash every day and remain dignified.



**Photo o5** 09/14/2006.  
Prayer in the morning before going to work. Many families are Muslim.



**Photo o6** 09/25/2006  
The volunteers help evacuees in Cachan outside political calculations. These humanitarian district were first aid. They have seen sick children or women fighting for a blanket. Shocked, they were mobilized, they have obtained the support of local authorities and various associations such as les Restos du Cœur or Emmaüs.  
The children go to school despite the difficult living conditions in the gym. A volunteer gives them some candy.



**Photo o7** 08/20/2006.  
At the gym Cachan despite very difficult living conditions, many women and men work. Ibrahim is employed by a guard company. Since the law Sarkozy was voted, he does not want to be declared, he lives in fear of arrest. The law allows to declare an illegal immigrant but not to regularize him. Since he is staying at the gym, he is even more afraid, but continues to report to work.



**Photo o8** 10/06/2006.  
The women prepare the meals, life goes on in spite of everything.



**Photo o9** 08/27/2006.  
Women are clustered in the gym itself while men sleep in the changing rooms or in the hallway. Their mattresses are so close that they leave hardly any room to move. Most of them share this space with their children and babies. Fatima cracks.



**Photo 10** 08/19/2006, Arcueil, France.

The nursery of Arc en Ciel in Arcueil opened its doors so that young children could take a bath and the mothers take advantage of calm for an hour or two.

Halimatou uses the occasion of this short moment of calm in the nursery to nap with his son Mohammed.



**Photo 11** 09/29/2006.

Kadie, 7 years old, returned to the school. Children are often exhausted and sick.



**Photo 12** 08/20/2006.

A father alone with his son to bottle-feed him and calm him down.



**Photo13** 10/07/2006.

A moment of relaxation for the men : watching the television provided by volunteers.



**Photo 14** 08/20/2006.

Because of the lack of space and mattresses, you sometimes have sleep where you can.



**Photo 15** 10/09/2006.

An agreement in principle was reached on 10/07/2007 by the representatives of families, associations such as France Terre d'Asile, SOS-Racisme and the LICRA for a relocation. For the illegal immigrants, a commitment was made by the Interior Ministry to review all the files one by one.

Finally the departure, the evacuation of the gymnasium will last eight days. Buses take the deportees. They are scattered among hotels in the Val-de-Marne region, in a shelter in Stains, Boissy-Saint-Léger or Créteil. The families have not finished with precariousness.

- The Mobilization :



**Photo 16** 08/26/2006.

While Nicolas Sarkozy continues its policy of deportation, parliamentarians, associations, activists, volunteers struggle to stabilize the relocation sustainable former squatters in Cachan.



**Photo 17** 09/11/2006, Orly, France.

During the eviction of the squat in Cachan, families were unable to take any of their belongings. Assets of the deportees were placed immediately in a storage in Orly in disarray, with the promise that everything would be returned.

Families discover large containers and boxes ruptured. Many of the small belongings will not be returned to their owners.



**Photo 18** 09/21/2006.

Children whose parents are illegal immigrants leave the gymnasium by for the National Assembly. They must participate in a ceremony with sponsors of deputies and senators.



**Photo 19** 09/30/2006, Paris, France.

The sponsorship for the families of Cachan took at the Bataclan theatre. Personalities came to support them.



**Photo 20** 08/23/2006.

Solidarity Marching from the City Hall of Cachan up to the Sub-Prefecture of Haÿ-les-Roses.