

Paris 2024 Olympics: social cleansing is accelerating, with 12,500 people already evicted in the last year in the Paris region.

Paris, June 3rd 2024 - **With two months to go before the opening of the Olympic Games, the collective *le revers de la médaille* is publishing today its report entitled '1 year of social cleansing before the Paris 2024 Olympic Games'. The report, which is based on documented figures, highlights the intensification of social cleansing operations in France in the run-up to the Games. The collective is calling on the government to take urgent action to organise a massive accommodation scheme for homeless people.**

For the past 8 months, the hundred associations in the *le revers de la médaille* collective have been warning of the sharp increase in evictions and social cleansing operations in the run-up to the Olympic Games, which the government continues to deny. However, with its report '[Circulez, y'a rien à voir : 1 an de nettoyage social avant les JOP](#)' (Move along, there's nothing to see: 1 year of social cleansing in the run-up to the Olympic Games) published today, the collective is putting concrete figures to the government's opacity.

Evictions have risen by 38% in the last two years.

Based on data and observations on the ground in the Ile-de-France region, the report shows that evictions for the period from April 2023 to May 2024 affected 12,545 people, an increase of 38.5% compared with the period 2021-2022. Of these, 3,434 were minors, twice as many as last year and almost three times as many as in 2021-2022.

While exclusionary public policies have been at work for several years, certain indicators suggest that the Olympic Games act as an accelerator of this dispersal and removal. It would therefore seem that the Games represent an opportunity for the State to increase the invisibility of the most vulnerable people in the capital and its region.

"This social cleansing is based on a double dispersal movement: dispersing the most precarious people within the Parisian public space to avoid setting up informal living spaces that are too visible, and dispersing them outside Paris to other regions", said Paul Alauzy, Health Watch Coordinator at Médecins du Monde and spokesperson for the collective.

Hundreds of clean tags and 3,000 posters in Paris to call for urgent action.

With a new action in the streets of Paris on the evening of Sunday 2nd of June, the collective once again wanted to draw the attention of the public authorities to the catastrophic consequences of the social clean-up operations under way before the Paris 2024 Olympic Games on people living on the margins of society. 200 volunteers criss-crossed the streets of the capital in a major poster campaign. To raise public awareness, 3,000 posters were put up and 300 clean tags created.



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With less than 60 days to go until the opening ceremony, it's not too late to take action. The collective is calling on the public authorities to take action, particularly with regard to emergency sheltering for homeless people. The City of Paris has indicated that it has identified the possibility of housing and caring for 1,000 people in a series of vacant buildings, while demanding that the State allows it and take care of 2,000 people in similar facilities.

The collective will also be sending this report to the French Human Rights Ombudsman, the European Committee of Social Rights and the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing, with a view to taking France to court for its failure to respect fundamental human rights.

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Collectif le revers de la médaille

Paris 2024 Olympics : for a positive social legacy

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