

20,000 people deemed "undesirable" excluded from public space in Ile-de-France for the Paris 2024 Olympics.

Paris, November 4, 2024 - **A few weeks after the closing of the Olympic Games, the collective *le revers de la médaille* has published its final report, which reveals the continuing social cleansing operations by public authorities, before, during and after the Games. It makes recommendations on how to deal with social issues and social exclusion when organizing international sporting mega-events.**

Following the report "[1 year of social cleansing before the Olympics](#)" published in June, the collective has published [its final report](#) documenting the continuation of social cleansing over the period from the beginning of May 2024 to the end of September 2024.

+40% evictions in Ile-de-France, 20,000 people affected

Based on field data and observations in the Ile-de-France region, the report notes that evictions from informal settlements (shanty towns, street encampments, squats, etc.) for the period April 26, 2023 to September 30, 2024 involved almost 20,000 people in 260 eviction operations, an increase of 41% on the 2022-2023 period. Of these, at least 4,550 were minors, almost twice as many as last year, and three times as many as in the 2021-2022 period.

While exclusionary public action logics have been at work for several years, the Olympics clearly acted as a gas pedal of these dispersals and removals, to increase the invisibilisation of the most precarious people, deemed undesirable in the public space of the capital and its region.

Social legacy of the Games: the gold medal of social washing

The collective's main demand was to open a round of consultations with all the stakeholders involved in the organization of the Olympic Games. The aim was to draw up a joint plan for the Games that would contribute to the fight against extreme exclusion, and fulfill Paris 2024's promise of an unprecedented positive social legacy. Despite numerous meetings and a series of practical, quantified proposals, no concerted plan has ever been drawn up.

Conversely, our report reveals that the public authorities made disproportionate use of measures to restrict fundamental freedoms, used incarceration, and systematically resorted to the police to respond to humanitarian problems. They intervened pre-emptively and unjustifiably to exert pressure on all sections of society who, in the minds of the authorities, might have disrupted the festivities.

"Most politicians, including the President of the French Republic, are congratulating themselves on the social legacy of the Games, with the care provided for 256 'highly marginalised people'. For us, this is really social washing! It's only a small drop in the ocean of homelessness, which affects thousands of people, including isolated women, families and children. We could and should have done so much better! Never again should the Games be organized without considering their impact on social exclusion," declared Paul Alauzy, Health Watch Coordinator at Médecins du Monde and spokesman for the collective.

Social cleansing can no longer be the norm at major international sporting events

To ensure that future editions of the Games take place in a climate that is more respectful of democracy, a number of solutions exist: systematic consultation of the host populations, access to balanced, free and high-quality information, and the organization, well in advance of the Games, of open consultations with civil society players and those primarily concerned.

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Collectif le revers de la médaille

Paris 2024 Olympics: for a positive social legacy

<https://lereversdelamedaille.fr/>

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