Introduction

The claims during the month of August 2019 did not deviate from the general direction of protest movements in the previous months, nor from the general characteristics of the summer season in previous years. The crisis of thirst, the shortage of drinking water, the problem of controlling water resources have affected the majority of the country’s governorates and especially in rural and remote areas where the government and the authorities concerned are powerless to act.

The nature of protest movements in August 2019

Demands and social movements maintained the same pace during the summer period. As in the months of July and August 2019 recorded 636 protest movements, 97% of which were collective movements and the rest in the form of individual protests, namely suicides and attempts of suicide.

Individual and collective protest movements

These hot months brought the movements to the issue of thirst and touched the various governorates of the Republic and emerged intensely in the regions of Gafsa, Kairouan, Nabeul, Sidi Bouzid, Tataouine and Sfax. The Eid El-Il-Idh'ha period was marked by major interruptions in drinking water for two days and was accompanied by variable movements from one region to another. And while the citizens of Gafsa chose to drop off the sheep’s guts in front of the various S.O.N.E.D.E. offices in protest against these water cuts, others chose to block the road and road traffic between Tunis and Bizerte for half a day and in the absence of any official reaction, a state of rumbling, chaos and anger gradually developed until clashes broke out between road users and demonstrators.
The different regions of Jbel Rihane, Aouled Tllil, and El Bhayrya of the El Ousletya delegation, the regions of Ejmaylya, Khit El Oued and Tarrouz of the El Alaa delegation without forgetting the regions of El Fkih, Ejoueoudya of the Essbikha delegation and the regions of El Hmidette, Abd Echarkya of the delegation from Echbika, governorate of Kairouan, have experienced several protest movements blocking roads in order to claim drinking water, which has undergone several cuts and fluctuations that have accentuated the state of thirst on several occasions.
With regard to the governorate of Gafsa, the movements recorded continued to call for an end to the interruption of drinking water, which is mainly located in the delegations of the Mdhila and Metlaoui mining basin, the El Gtar and Belkhir delegations, as well as in several districts of the city of Gafsa which, given their geographical location in the heights, had been deprived of water occasionally or continuously for many years.

The Gouenmya region, delegation of El Fayedh in the governorate of Sidi Bouzid also recorded protests and roadblocks following the various cuts in drinking water. In the governorate of Tataouine, the Ouled Dabbeb region suffered a water cut that lasted several days. The governorates of Sfax, Nabeul and Seliana also experienced multiple cuts and fluctuations in distribution during the month of August 2019.

The problem of water availability was not limited to domestic supply and drinking water, but also to the agricultural sector, where a number of regions in the governorates of Beja, Jendouba, Kef, Kasserine and Nabeul recorded farmers' movements requiring irrigation water and despite the fact that this year was exceptional in terms of precipitation, the supply problem remained the same without any effective and efficient solution by the supervisory ministry: Agriculture, Fisheries and Water Resources.
In addition, this month was marked by the movements of some farmers claiming the compensation they had been supposed to receive since the beginning of this year in the context of the floods that occurred in several regions in the autumn of 2018.

The team of the Tunisian Social Observatory in the Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights reported that administrative movements related to infrastructure and the distribution of drinking water were ranked first, according to the monitoring sample consisting of all daily and weekly newspapers in Arabic and French, as well as major web-medias. These demands alone monopolized more than a third of the protests recorded during August 2019 (with 251 movements), followed by social and economic movements where this month of August recorded 204 movements. Next come demonstrations related to health services and hospitals, ranked third with 105 protests.
As in previous months and years, the governorate of Kairouan has moved into the highest position of the governorates recording protest movements: 196 movements were recorded, followed in an unusual way by the governorates of Nabeul and Sidi Bouzid with 69 and 67 movements respectively and the governorates of Gafsa and Sfax with 43 social movements. Then come the governorates of Sousse with 35 protests, Tataouine with 31 movements and Tunis with 29 protests.
Most of the movements recorded this August 2019 were of an instantaneous nature since nearly half of the movements registered were in immediate reaction to a given problem compared to 147 spontaneous movements and 150 of a violent nature.

### Nature of collective social movements

- **324 Instant protests**
- **147 Spontaneous protests**
- **150 Violent protests**

### Acts and attempts of suicide in May 2019

In August 2019, there were 15 acts of suicide and attempted suicide, 13% of which were female and 87% male. Two cases of suicide and attempted suicide were recorded among persons over 60 years of age (one male and one female) and four cases among children under 20 years of age, the remaining cases belong to the age group 25 to 50 years.

#### Suicides and attempts of suicide by gender

- **Female**: 2
- **Male**: 13

#### Suicides and suicide attempts by age group

- **under 15 years**: 3
- **between 16 & 25 years**: 1
- **between 26 & 35 years**: 5
- **between 36 & 45 years**: 0
- **between 46 & 60 years**: 4
- **over 60 years**: 2
Suicides and attempts of suicide by governorate

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<th>Governorate</th>
<th>Bizerte</th>
<th>Tunis</th>
<th>Ariana</th>
<th>Manouba</th>
<th>Ben Arous</th>
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<th>Seliana</th>
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<th>Gabes</th>
<th>Medenine</th>
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Suicides and attempts of suicide by governorate
Violence

The residential or housing spaces were the ones that experienced the highest number of acts of violence during the month of August 2019, according to the cases recorded by the monitoring unit of the Tunisian Social Observatory through the work sample.

### cases of violence

- **Individual violence:** 38%
- **Collective violence:** 62%

Violence in these areas represents 28.33% of the 62% of cases of collective violence and 38% of individual violence.

Roads are the second most frequently reported area of violence with 21.7%. The third place is occupied by public spaces (13.3%), followed by public transport (6.7% of the violence observed during the month of August). Next come work and health spaces with 5%, followed by tourism, education and administrative spaces with 3.33%. In the same position are the safety and leisure areas, which account for 1.7% of the acts of violence recorded. Many areas have been the scene of knife attacks and murders during marriages due to disagreements between some of its attendees. Violence has been absent from sports venues due to the decrease in competition during the summer season.
Women accounted for 3.33% of the perpetrators of violence against 95% of men and the rest were committed jointly by women and men.

**Agressors by gender**

Criminal violence was the most significant form of violence observed (55%), followed by relational and social violence (about 8%). Domestic violence has fallen by 3.3% compared to previous months and violence related to demonstrations and to health is approximately unchanged.

**Forms of violence**
The governorate of Tunis ranks first in terms of recorded violence, with 14.3% of the total number of cases of violence recorded during the month of August 2019, followed by the governorates of Kairouan with 16.7%, Nabeul and Sousse with 10% and Monastir with 8%. Then come the governorates of Mahdia, Sfax, Medenine, Gafsa, Ben Arous and Kasserine.

It should be noted that we have not noted any acts of violence in the governorates of Kebili, Tozeur, Tataouine, Jendouba, Ariana, Manouba, Sidi Bouzid, Gabès, Kef and Seliana.

 Violence by governorate
Another month that ends in which the problems of infrastructure, thirst and poor services continue to be, each time government authorities and regional authorities seek to avoid or blame the economic crisis and limited financial resources, without seeking mechanisms to overcome and dismantle them as part of the search for radical and definitive solutions. Perhaps the problem of thirst experienced by the Tunisian for more than five years is a good example.

In addition to what happened to the harvest season during the month of August 2019 regarding harvesting, transport and storage problems; although the Ministry of Agriculture and therefore the National Grain Board were well aware that the harvest was going to be exceptional and would require extraordinary resources and a preventive strategy to optimize its management and conservation so as not to leave it out in the open under the heavy autumn rains.