

N° 91

REPORT 20 APRIL 21

841

**collective
protests**

14

**cases of suicide and
attempted suicide**

307

Migrants



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**FRIEDRICH
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Soyons les forces du changement

Introduction

The impotence of the political elite in power in Tunisia was not limited to the lack of a clear program and vision to solve the accumulated economic and social crisis and save millions of Tunisians from hunger, but also included the inability of the government, as well as its parliamentary belt, to respond to the appeals of citizens to deal with the epidemic in this emergency health setting. Thus, the Tunisian was caught between two perils: the threat of hunger and the hazard of the pandemic.

Both risks are the logical product of failed economic and social choices and of a political crisis that has begun to destroy everyone's hope. The marginalized, the holders of legitimate demands and the precarious circles of the unemployed, the victims of precarious employment and the economically and socially disadvantaged, especially women who suffer from economic violence, lack of equal opportunities and economic empowerment, are perhaps the most affected social strata.

Meanwhile, the impotence of the political elite is increasing the magnitude of the crisis that the country is experiencing and pushing it towards a new scenario of predictable social explosion despite the uncertainty of its exact timing. Among the characteristics of this deficiency is the inability of the government to impose preventive measures and actions that maintain the epidemiological situation in a stable state, which would help to relieve the pressure on hospital facilities.

A crisis of confidence in the state

Throughout the month of April 2021, there has been a striking divergence between the government's rhetoric regarding a difficult third wave of the Covid virus and the behavior of the citizens.

The government announces its intentions but is unable to implement them effectively in reality. This reflects an intractable situation that begins with a crisis of confidence and ends with a social explosion.

The month of April 2021 recorded 55,751 newly infected people, 4.69% of whom were taken care of in hospital facilities, while the rest of the infected were abandoned to the oxygen speculators. Although the rate of coverage seems low, the percentage of residents in hospitals and private clinics has increased by 116%, which means that these facilities have been operating beyond their capacity throughout this month without the government managing to put in place preventive measures that people would comply and relieve, to some extent, the pressure on health institutions and the medical and paramedical staff and avoid, thus, the near depletion of oxygen stocks at the hospital Habib Bourguiba of Sfax, threatening the lives of dozens of Covid patients.

The month of April 2021 also recorded an increase in the number of patients requiring intensive care by about 59% and an increase in the percentage of those requiring artificial respiration by 50%, while the number of new Corona virus deaths reached 2020 victims.

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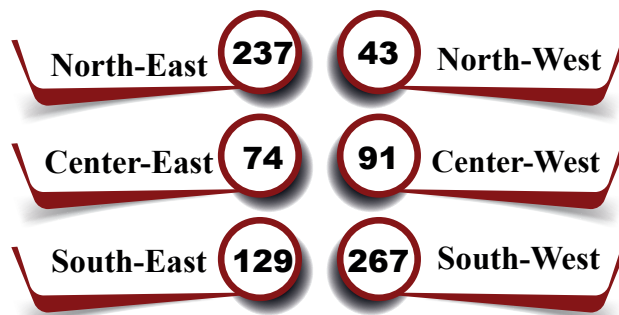
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The March Protests

The month of April recorded a decrease in protest actions, by around 26% compared to March 2021 (841 protests, compared to 1138 protests recorded in March). On the other hand, it registered a record increase of 230% compared to the same month of April last year 2020. This figure is an indicator of the deteriorating social situation in which the epidemic has imposed new challenges and new pressures, whether in terms of stability of the economic growth rate below zero or in terms of job losses, which are estimated according to official sources to be approximately 400 000 jobs.

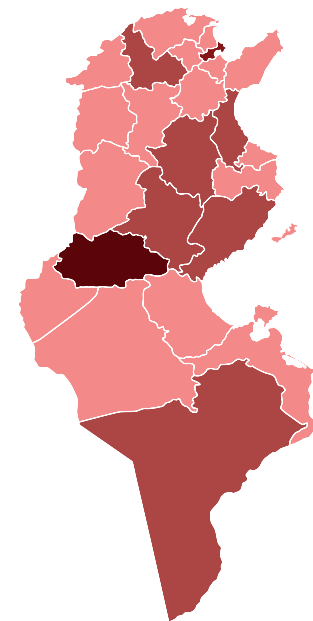
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In the face of this situation, the political climate does not provide any horizon for resolving the crisis, given the current political conflict between the institutions in power.

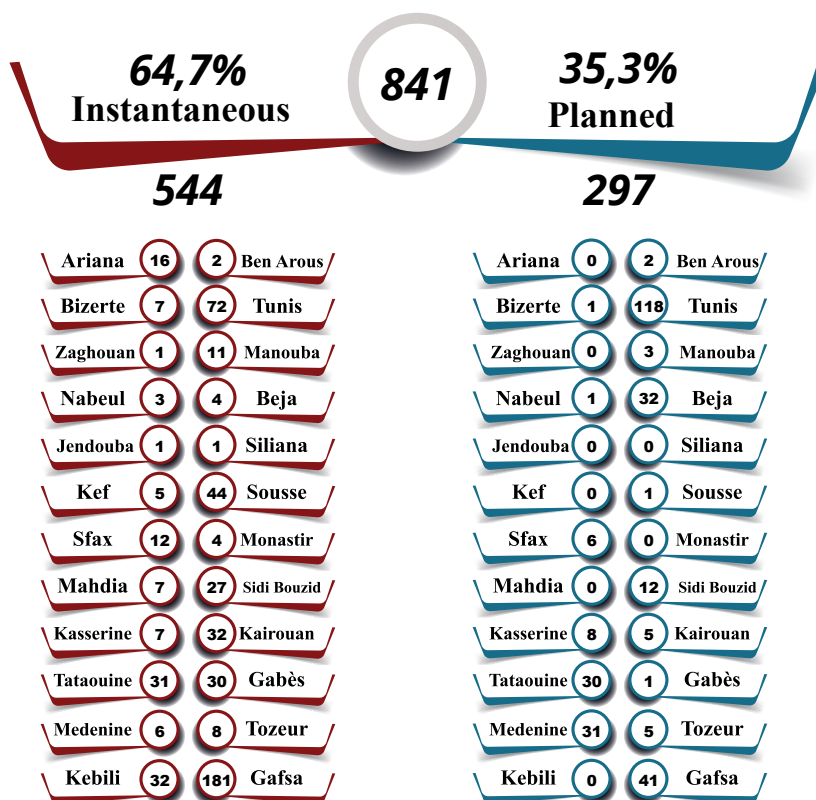
April 2021 witnessed 841 protests, about one-third of which took place in the Northeast and Western regions. Protest movements in these regions increased by 19% compared to March 2021. Meanwhile, the level of protest movements in the Southeast and West regions, decreased by about 27% compared to March 2021 and despite this decrease, these regions still represent the focal area of the protest as their percentage of protests during April was about 47% of the total recorded protests.

The governorate of Gafsa is at the forefront of the most protesting regions with 222 demonstrations, followed by the governorate of Tunis with 190 demonstrations. The rest of the protests were distributed in almost equal numbers in the rest of the regions as follows: 61 protests in Tataouine and an average of 35 demonstrations in Beja, Sidi-Bouزيد, Gabès, Kebili, Medenine and Kairouan.

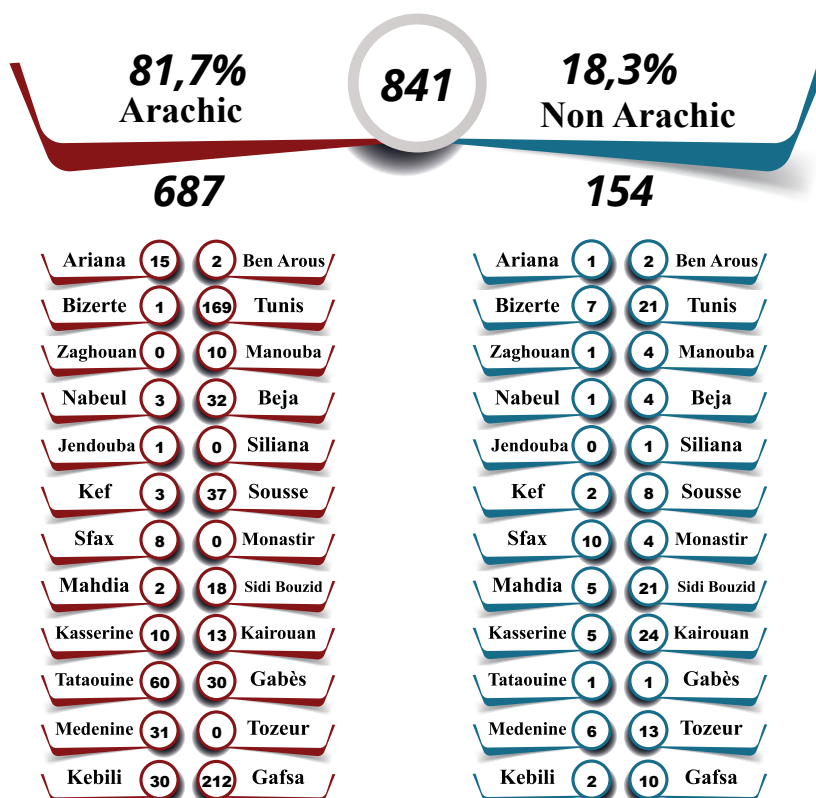


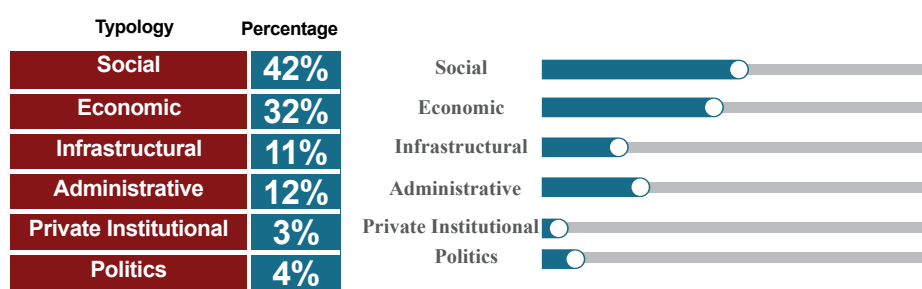
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During this month of April, the tendency of social demonstrations to violence and anarchy increased by about 2.8%. The rate of anarchic demonstrations is estimated at 81.7% of the total number of April demonstrations. With the exception of the governorates of Bizerte, Sfax, Mahdia, Siliana, Monastir, Sidi Bouzid and Kairouan, in which the non-anarchic character of the demonstrations prevailed, the protest movements in the remaining areas had a violent tendency, particularly in the governorates of Tunis, Gafsa, Tataouine, Kebili, Medenine and Gabès. The rate of anarchic or violent demonstrations in the governorate of Gafsa reached 95% and 96.7% in the governorates of Gabès and Ariana and amounted to about 100% in Jendouba.

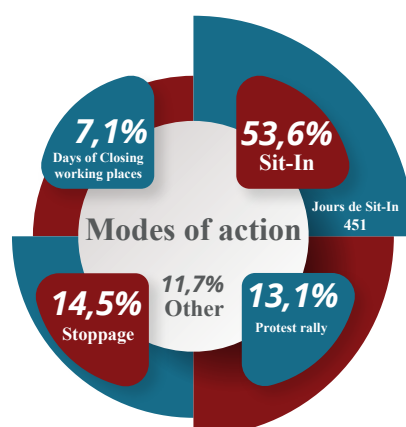




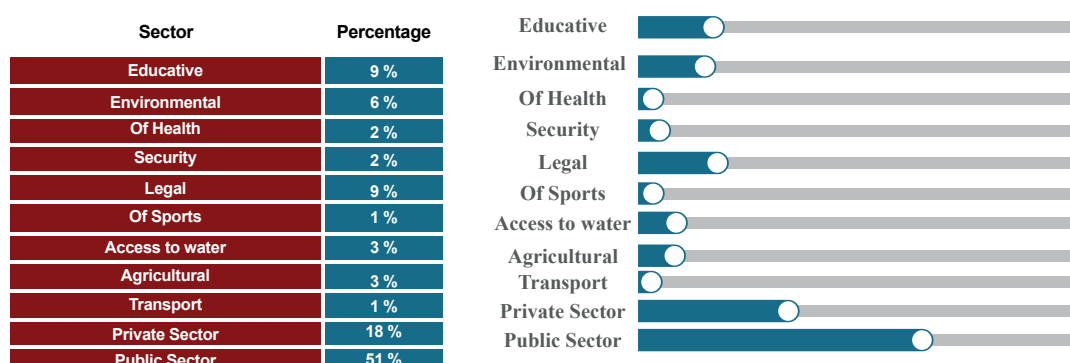
Claims and forms of protest

Economic and social claims are still at the forefront of the issues that drive people to engage in various forms of protest and they were the main motive for 74% of the movements recorded throughout the month of April 2021, followed by protests against administrative services with 12% and protests against the obsolescence of the infrastructure with 11%.

The sit-in represented the most important means of protest with a rate of 53.6%. The number of the sit-ins observed during the month of April reached 451 days distributed on 21 sit-ins. Strikes came second with 14.5%, followed by demonstrations with 13% and the blocking of workplaces with 7%.



51% of the demonstrations in April 2021 involved the public sector, followed by the education sector with 9%, the environmental sector with 6%, drinking water supply with 3%, and others.



As for the actors, the unemployed, whether graduates or not, demonstrated at a rate of 24%, followed by employees (18%), then workers (16%), and journalists, traders, farmers, guards, activists, students, security personnel, doctors and others, to varying degrees.

As for the demands, they mainly revolved around the right to employment (34%), the improvement of working conditions (23%), the right to development (16%), the right to water, the right to administrative services, access to basic supplies and other demands.

The professional premises and roads were the most important spaces of protest with 18%, followed by educational institutions with 12% then the headquarters of institutions (governorates, ministries and the headquarters of the Phosphates Gafsa Company with 8%), production headquarters and media, not forgetting the prisons (1%) and security centers and hospitals. The central authorities were the first targets of the protesters' demands, followed by regional authorities, private institutions, governors and ministries, and the Presidency of the Republic, which was at the bottom of the order with 1%.

The initiating social actors movements	
Employees	18 %
workers	16 %
Unemployed	16%
Youth	12%
teachers	11 %
other Citizens	10 %
Unemployed graduated people	8 %
inhabitants	5%
Journalists	5 %
Drivers	4 %

Protest spaces	
Work spaces	18 %
Roads	18%
Educational institutions	12%
Governorate headquarters	11 %
Headquarters of Delegations	8 %
Ministry headquarters	8 %
CPG	8 %
Production headq	8 %
Administrative headquarters	5 %
Medias	5 %

Irregular Migration during April 2021

COMPARATIVE DATA DURING THE SAME PERIOD 2018-2019-2020-2021



The month of April 2021 was characterized by predominantly unstable climatic factors and consequently Italy recorded the arrival of migrants on 11 days of the month, resulting in a total number of irregular arrivals in Italy since the beginning of the year reaching 9,013 irregular migrants, of which 1,385 were Tunisian migrants, i.e. 15%. The number of Tunisian migrants arriving in Italy during the month of April 2021 reached 307, while Tunisian authorities thwarted 42 crossing operations and intercepted 409 migrants. Since the beginning of 2021, the number of intercepted crossing operations has reached 195, an increase of 242% compared to the same period in 2020. The Tunisian authorities have also prevented 3027 migrants from reaching the Italian coast since the beginning of the year, representing an increase of 170%. Certainly, the number of arrivals has increased with respect to the Tunisians compared to the years 2020 and 2019, but it has decreased by 27% compared to 2018.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF ARRIVALS ON THE ITALIAN COASTS ACCORDING TO MONTHS DURING 2021

	NON-ACCOMPANIED MINORS	ACCOMPANIED MINORS	FEMALES	MALES	THE ARRIVALS
January	13	0	5	66	84
FEBRUARY	107	12	16	525	660
MARCH	52	4	9	279	334
April	17	3	7	280	307
Total	189	19	37	1150	1385

The total number of Tunisian minors arriving in Italy irregularly was 208, which is 16.8% of the total number of minors arriving in Italy of different nationalities. The participation of minors and women in recent years reflects a gradual shift from a migration project to a family project and highlights the weakness of social protection and educational institutions in the environment of these vulnerable groups.

The Intercepted Operations by region

	Jendouba	Bizert	Tunis	Nabeul	Sousse	Monastir	Mahdia	Sfax	Gabes	Medenine
January	*	5,8%	17,6%	11,7%	5,8%	*	17,6%	41,1%	*	*
FEBRUARY	*	3,3%	13,3%	18,3%	5%	6,6%	25%	26,6%	1,6%	3,3%
MARCH	*	*	5,1%	20,51%	7,6%	2,5%	12,8%	52,2%	*	*
April	*	3%	15,1%	12,12%	6%	9%	*	51,5%	*	3%
Total	*	2,7%	11,4%	16,81%	6%	4%	15,5%	40,5%	0,6%	2%

* The presence of this mark does not mean that these areas are not witnessing crossings but that the official data published in the notifications did not include intercepted crossings in these areas.

Many factors affect the intercepted crossing operations and their geographical distribution, such as the proximity of the Italian coasts, the activity of smuggling networks and the density of those who wish to migrate. All these factors are collectively concentrated in the governorate of Sfax, which makes it the governorate that encompasses 40.5% of the total intercepted crossing operations.

The migrants' distribution by nationality

	Other nationalities	Tunisians
January	83,2%	16,8%
FEBRUARY	54,9%	45,1%
MARCH	53,3%	46,6%
April	53,2%	46,8%
Total	61,15%	38,85%

The temporality of irregular migration has imposed the massive participation of sub-Saharan migrants because of their vulnerability and the difficulty of their integration into Tunisian society due to legal and administrative obstacles and the extent of violations that make the migration project their top priority. Irregular migration networks are fueled by the difficult situation of sub-Saharan migrants. They have intensified their activities to become the source of human tragedies that have escalated during this year. The victims of these tragedies were mainly sub-Saharan migrants.

	Maritime	Terrestrial
January	23,5%	76,5%
FEBRUARY	70%	30%
MARCH	17,9%	82,1%
April	30,3%	69,7%
Total	35,5%	64,5%

The Tunisian security authorities, both land and sea, have registered a record number of intercepted crossing operations and they are increasing every month thanks to European technical and logistical assistance and because of the difficult political, economic and social pressures that Tunisia is under, which places it in a vulnerable position vis-à-vis the European partner. The security measures taken under the so-called fight against irregular migration affect the freedom of movement of Tunisians in their country of origin and the freedom of movement of migrants within the country, so that the island of Kerkenna has become a fortress difficult to access to non-natives to the island, except for those who have an appearance of material well-being.

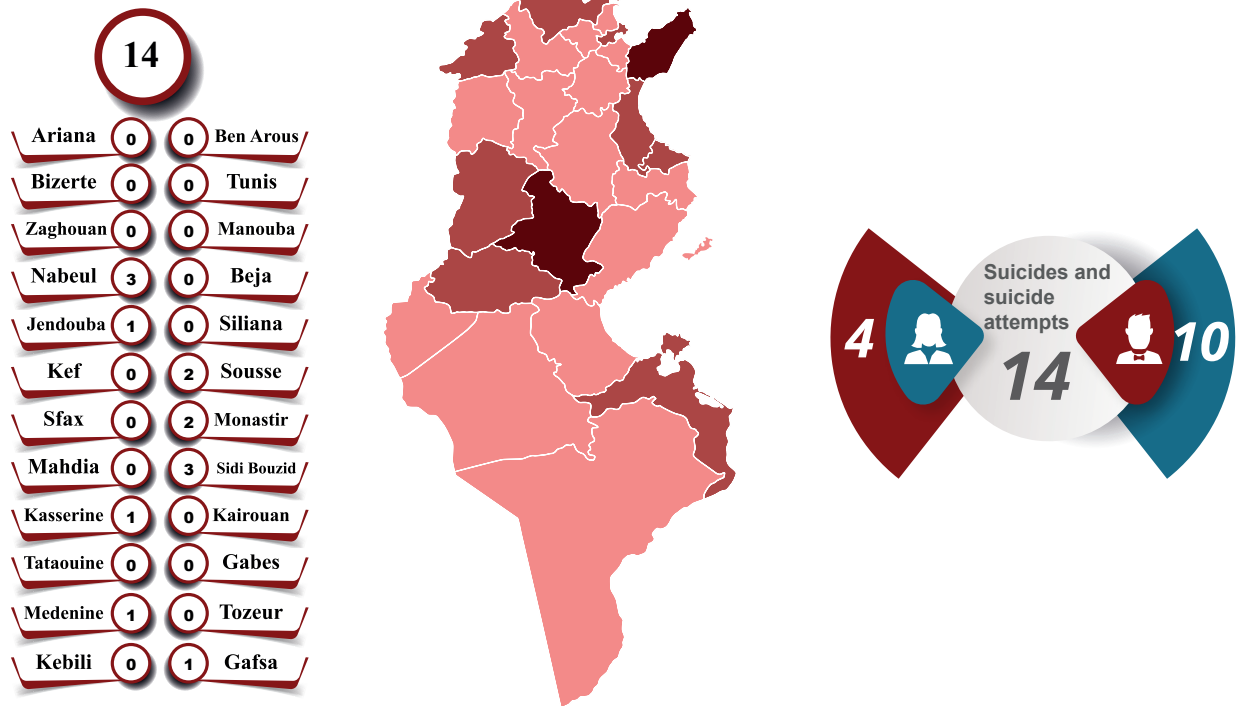
The presence of sub-Saharan migrants in coastal towns and villages has become the subject of intense security monitoring, making their presence suspected of attempting to cross the border until they prove otherwise.

	Number of missing	Number of Victims
January	2	2
FEBRUARY	22	28
MARCH	0	39
April	0	41
Total	24	110

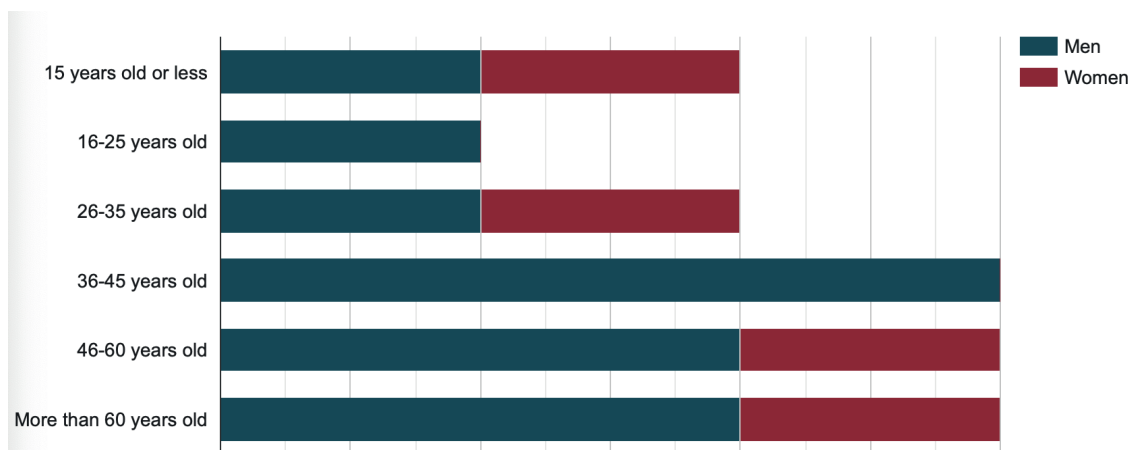
The month of April 2021 witnessed a major humanitarian tragedy on the Tunisian coast, after the sinking of a boat with more than 40 migrants. This human tragedy was accompanied by a silence from Tunisian officials that can be explained, unfortunately, by the fact that the victims are from the southern Sahara. This tragedy highlights the limits of security approaches that have adopted a policy of impunity with the networks of smugglers that develop without real monitoring of their core. The high human cost of this year also confirms the tendency of Euro-Tunisian policies and cooperation to prevention and not to search and rescue. All technical and logistical equipment is devoted to prevention and the necessary search and rescue equipment is totally absent.

Suicide and attempted suicide

It has become difficult to find cases of suicide and attempted suicide in the watch sample we work on. Does this mean that the phenomenon has disappeared or diminished? The answer may be that the phenomenon no longer finds its way into publishing and news, as it did a few years ago.



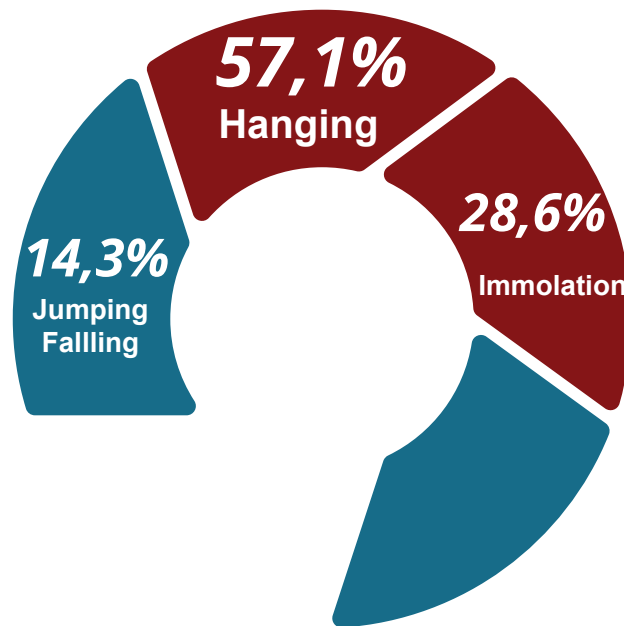
The figures recorded throughout the month of April 2021 indicate that 14 people have committed suicide or attempted suicide. The mapping of these acts has changed, the governorates of Nabeul and Sidi Bouzid being at the head of the regions that have recorded the most act of suicide and attempted suicide with three cases respectively, followed by the governorates of Sousse and Monastir with two suicides and attempted suicides each, while the rest of the cases were distributed at the rate of one act of suicide and attempted suicide in each of the governorates of Medenine, Kasserine, Gafsa and Jendouba.



	15 years old or less	16-25 years old	26-35 years old	36-45 years old	46-60 years old	More than 60 years old
Men	1	1	1	3	2	2
Women	1	0	1	0	1	1
TOTAL	2	1	2	3	3	3

In terms of gender distribution, men represented 71.4% of all victims of suicide and attempted suicide and the age group 36-60 years was the most affected by this social fact. Three people over 60 years of age, including one woman and two children, were also noted among the victims of suicide and attempted suicide.

Suicide by hanging was the most common means of suicide and attempted suicide, with a rate of 57.1%. This was followed by immolation with 28.6%, then jumping or rushing with 14.3%.



April 2021 Violence Report

The economic, social and political factors and the particular evolution of the health situation during the month of April 2021 have been a double catalyst for the level of violence in general and a reason for the formation of a general explosive atmosphere that produces crime in all its forms.

On the health front, the country has experienced a third wave of spread of the Covid 19 virus, characterized by an increase in the number of infections and deaths, accompanied by poor management of vaccinations and a state of ambiguity and inconsistency in the government's communication policy regarding the pandemic.

Politically, with the month of April, the rhetoric of violence, hatred and incitement between political parties and by a number of members of the Assembly of People's Representatives continued and intensified by the wave of leaks, rumors, culture of impunity and the weakness of the state vis-à-vis influential groups.

On the social and economic front, the government approved an extension of the curfew coinciding with the advent of the month of Ramadan accompanied by the increase in expenses and the cost of living. This situation has aggravated the economic crisis and its social repercussions and all this in the absence of exceptional measures of accompaniment or support to previously vulnerable groups, on the contrary, the government has recorded a new increase in fuel prices and the beginning of the start of the policy of gradual lifting of subsidies.

These complex elements, combined together, constituted a motive and an essential component of a general climate of tension and dominated by an underlying state of anger, dissatisfaction and distrust. The results quickly surfaced at the events of April and manifested themselves in a general trend of crime and violence in its various forms:

- Impulsive violence that has manifested itself in the form of disputes between neighborhoods, as in the delegation of Sers in the governorate of Kef where there was a death, in the neighborhood of Ibn Khaldoun where a young person lost his eye and Sfax where a dispute between two people in a queue in front of a bakery resulted in the death of an elderly person after being struck by a punch. In Manouba, a quarrel between two neighbors led one of them to shoot his neighbor with a shotgun. In Sousse, an altercation between two people led to the cutting of a finger of one of them.

- Road violence, as this month of April 2021 has witnessed a series of fatal road accidents, the most notable of which was perhaps the death of a mother in front of her two sons.

- Security violence, this month has been a fertile ground for violations and operations of defamation and disrespect for the rights and freedoms of individual Tunisians by the security organ of the state since security agents have closed a number of cafes in the Capital by evicting their customers during Ramadan, forcibly entered a cafe licensed to operate in the governorate of Sfax and deliberately defamed those who were there with the reprimand of its owner.

- Cyber violence: in addition to what social networking sites have recorded in terms of exchange of insults and defamation and what they witness periodically in terms of rivalry and discord between politicians in which everyone attaches importance to the number of followers only, far from everything that is values and ethics .

The month of April saw the emergence of a new element, which were the Ramadan TV series including scenes of violence and distortion of all the educational and community awareness roles that cinema tries to establish.

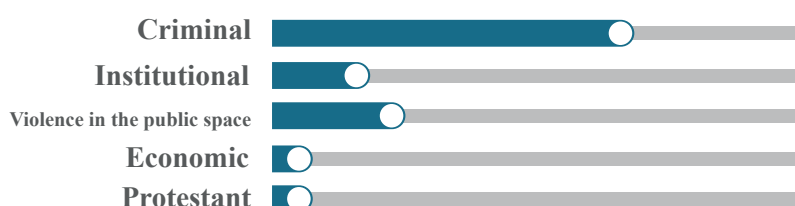
- Criminal violence varied in its forms during the month of April 2021 and in most cases took on a general trend towards the extreme, far from restraint or rationality. For example, the quarrel that was recorded between two families in the Jebel Jalloud area quickly evolved into a fierce battle that continued for 5 consecutive days and resulted in injuries of varying severity and material damage to houses and vehicles. As for Beb El-Khadhra, there was a horrible incident of assault with a knife by a husband against his wife in the middle of the market and in the eyes of everyone and in the governorate of Kasserine two brothers killed their uncle following a family dispute.

- Violence against children and women, the most important being an incident of sexual assault by an adult on a 14 year old girl in the governorate of Nabeul and the assault of another girl of the same age by three young men in the same region . One of the health establishments experienced an incident of harassment by a guard against one of the workers without forgetting the harassment of a 15 year old girl by the principal of the educational institution she attends.

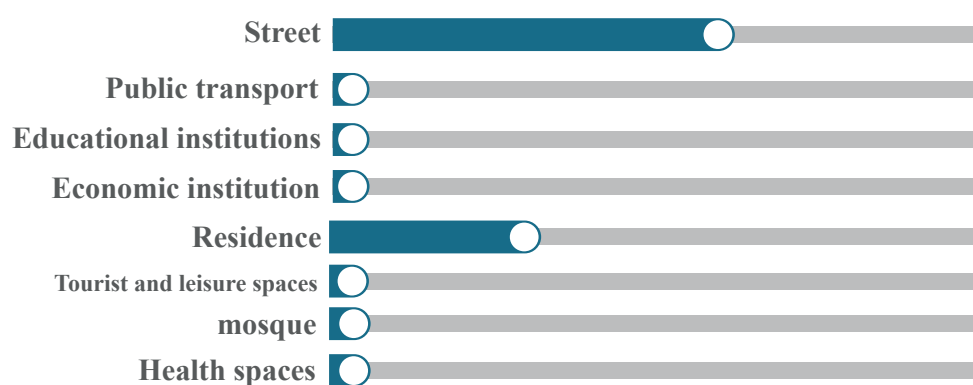
The month also witnessed an act of mistreatment and abuse on an autistic child in a care center, where educators deliberately tied to a heater which caused second degree burns...

In terms of figures, criminal violence occupies the first place in the results of the monitoring team of the Tunisian Social Observatory; it represented 78.6% of the total, followed by violence in public spaces to the tune of 9.5%, and institutional violence with 7.1%.

SECTEUR	POURCENTAGE
Criminal	78,6%
Institutional	7,1%
Violence in the public space	9,5%
Economic	2,4%
Protestant	2,4%

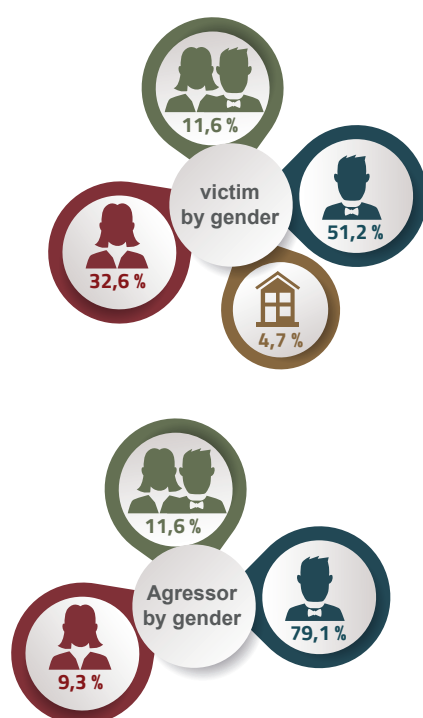


As in previous months, the street ranked first among the spaces witnessing violent incidents during the month of April 2021, it recorded 42.9% of the total number of violence, followed by the family space, which is the residence, witnessed 26.2% of violent incidents recorded during this month. The rest of the acts of violence is distributed among educational institutions (9.5%), economic production institutions (7.1%) and administrative headquarters (4.8%).

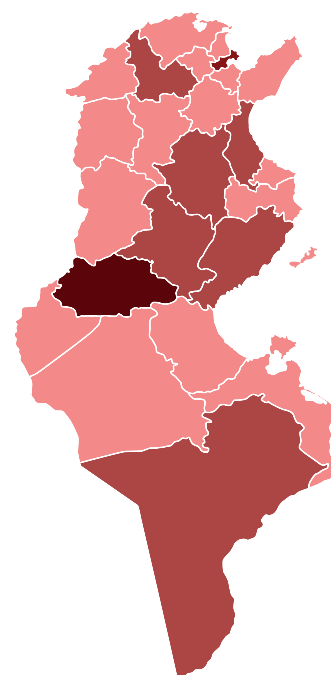


ESPACE	POURCENTAGE
Street	42,9%
Public transport	2,4%
Educational institutions	9,5%
Governmental space	4,8%
Economic institution	7,1%
Residence	26,2%
Tourist and leisure spaces	2,4%
mosque	2,4%
Health spaces	2,4%

The governorate of Tunis again ranks first in incidents of violence recorded during the month of April 2021, when it recorded a rate of 24% alone, or about a quarter of the total number of violent incidents recorded, followed in equal proportions by the governorates of Sfax and Sidi Bouzid, which each recorded a rate of 9.5% of the total comes the governorate of Kasserine, with a rate of 7.1% and the governorates of Kairouan, Sousse Ariana, Bizerte, Nabeul, Mahdia, Manouba and Monastir, with respective rates of violence amounting to 4.8% of the total for the month.



Ariana	4,8%	0%	Ben Arous
Bizerte	4,8%	24%	Tunis
Zaghuan	2,4%	4,8%	Manouba
Nabeul	4,8%	0%	Beja
Jendouba	0%	2,4%	Siliana
Kef	4,8%	4,8%	Sousse
Sfax	9,5%	4,8%	Monastir
Mahdia	4,8%	9,5%	Sidi Bouzid
Kasserine	7,1%	4,8%	Kairouan
Tataouine	0%	0%	Gabès
Medenine	0%	0%	Tozeur
Kebili	0%	2,4%	Gafsa



Given the absence of any clear vision of the government's general policies regarding the pandemic and its social and economic implications, in light of the difficulty of seeing signs of a resolution to the political crisis in which the country has been living for more than 3 months and with the continuation of the policy of impunity and the widening of the gap between the citizenry and decision-makers and the high level of mistrust, in general, the coming period will be an ideal framework to feed any behavior based on individualism, which would further double the level of economic violence (robberies, hold-ups, etc.. ..)



The lack of clarity in the school calendar, the extension of school vacations and keeping children at home are among the factors that will also double the level of violence.

Conclusion

In the end and with the spread of the Corona epidemic, the tragic scene in which the country lives due to the global and complex crisis is almost complete. The management of the Covid crisis represents the mercy bullet fired at a political system that proved to be devoid of vision to address the economic and social conditions and meet the demand for social justice and which constitute the most important gains of the 2011 revolution. The crisis of Covid with its third wave will perhaps be the trigger of an expected social explosion, especially given the considerable increase in the number of victims of Covid as well as the difficulty of obtaining an opportunity for analysis and another for vaccination.

NOUVELLE MÉTHODOLOGIE DE CALCUL SCIENTIFIQUE :

À partir du mois de Mars, l'Observatoire Social Tunisien du Forum tunisien des droits économiques a adopté une nouvelle méthodologie de calcul scientifique dont voici les bases :

Définitions :

Mouvements instantanés: caractérisés par la surprise et la vitesse de mouvement résultant de la colère de la foule et de la gronde qu'elle génère mais sont limités dans le temps et l'espace. Ce type de mouvement cherche à mobiliser l'attention et la mobilisation sociale et se caractérise par leur nature pacifique, Cependant, ces mouvements varient dans les paramètres de développement de la protestation, y compris le recours à la violence.

Mouvements planifiés : mouvements qui étaient essentiellement instantanés mais qui ont évolué et développé des mécanismes d'action dans le temps et l'espace et ont pu acquérir la capacité d'organisation et de préparation d'une et chercher à développer des contre-mobilisation mais restent essentiellement pacifiques.

Ils se distinguent par leurs moyens organisationnels et leur capacité à assurer son action continue et la mobilisation pour les mêmes raisons.

Mouvements anarchiques (violents) : ce sont des mouvements qui font de la contre-violence l'un de leurs mécanismes d'action et sont souvent des réactions directes employant tous les moyens pour la confrontation et l'atteinte de leurs objectifs mais ils manquent souvent d'éléments d'organisation, de programme et de moyens clairs.

La méthodologie de Calcul :

L'unicité d'un mouvement est définie par un mode d'action, un lieu et une journée.

Une protestation se déroulant dans plusieurs lieux sera comptabilisée comme étant plusieurs mouvements.

Un mouvement ayant lieu sur plusieurs jours sera comptabilisé chaque jour.

Une protestation utilisant différentes modes d'action sera comptabilisée une fois pour chaque action.

Méthodologie de veille de la migration non réglementaire

- Les opérations d'interception : la veille repose sur les rapports du Ministère de l'Intérieur et les déclarations du porte-parole de la Garde Nationale dans les divers médias. Dans la plupart des cas, ils n'incluent pas de données détaillées (genre, tranches d'âge, pays d'origine des migrants ...)
- Les arrivées sur les côtes européennes : Plusieurs structures émettent des données numériques sur les arrivées en Europe, comme le Haut-Commissariat pour les réfugiés, l'Organisation Internationale pour les migrations, les Ministères de l'Intérieur des pays européens et l'Agence Européenne de Surveillance des côtes.
Les chiffres présentés restent approximatifs et nécessitent une mise à jour continue selon les données publiées par les structures officielles et civiles qui peuvent être édités dans des rapports ultérieurs mais qui fournissent une lecture de l'évolution et du changement de la dynamique de la migration non-réglementaire.
- Les chiffres invisibles : ce sont le nombre de migrants qui atteignent les côtes européennes sans passer par les autorités locales ou les structures internationales et ne se retrouve pas dans un recensement. Ce sont des chiffres importants et qui diffèrent selon les tactiques des réseaux des passeurs de migrants. Il comprend également des opérations de départ depuis les côtes tunisiennes qui réussissent à échapper au contrôle sécuritaire strict ou celles dont le passage est intercepté sans émettre de rapports ou sans les annoncer.