

Numéro 64

avec
les chiffres
de 2018

Rapport du mois de Décembre 2018

des mouvements sociaux, suicides et violences

832 protestations collectives et **35** cas de suicide et de tentative de suicide

The Decembre Issue **NOW** available in **English** inside

Introduction


The Observatoire Social Tunisien has noticed, following daily newspapers, web media, audiovisual material, that educational, environmental and economic priorities seem to be the initial motives for frustration in the country. The decision to boycott exams in the first semester by the Fédération de l'Enseignement Secondaire was the spark for many protest movements in regions of Tunisia. The students and parents refused the decision and demanded for regular exam schedules. This refusal escalated to acts of violence against educational establishments, in particular a case where stones and eggs were thrown on the walls of schools and colleges.

Other protests demanded job openings and the control of some professional statuses. For example, construction workers wanted regulations surrounding their work. There were also sit-ins by the applicants of open competition job offers in the phosphate mines of Meknassi to activate the project on standby since 2016. They decided, at the end of December, to organize a protest demonstration to the Capital to meet the Minister of Industry and other concerned parties to obtain clear answers on the prospects of this project and its implementation as soon as possible.

The mapping of protest movements during the month of December 2018 reveals that the top regions remain Kairouan, Sidi Bouzid, Kasserine, Gafsa, Sfax and Sousse.

In the first days of December, in the Kasserine governorate, Abderrazek (a journalist) immolated himself in a public space after being fed up with his precarious socio-economic conditions. He also wrote a letter which explained the motives for his actions. The event sparked riots and clashes with law enforcement officers in many regions of Kasserine.

Other regions had their share of riots, for exemple in La Cité Ettadhmen in the capital or the Jebeniana region in Sfax. These riots took place after a young smuggler was killed during a police pursuit. These protest movements were considered by many observers of premises for a very eventful January coming up.




Many of these observers consider the month of January as the month of protests, but the mapping established by the Observatoire Social Tunisien show that protests are recurrent during the whole year and the month of January does not necessarily record an extreme amount of protests when compared with other months.

There was a noted increase in women participating in the protests in December as well as feminine protests; for exemple the sit-in in Om Larayess. 11 women organized a sit-in that lasted an entire month to demand better jobs and social conditions, considering their children are unemployed university graduates since 2012. Among these women, a mother of four children attempted to commit suicide after her son died of malnutrition.

In the Kairouan governorate, there is a sit-in of two graduates (Samia and Karima Msabih) who demand job offers.

Furthermore, the lack of services and maintenance in public institutions in many regions were the focal point for many protests during the year, like in the Syouda region after a power shortage that lasted four days.



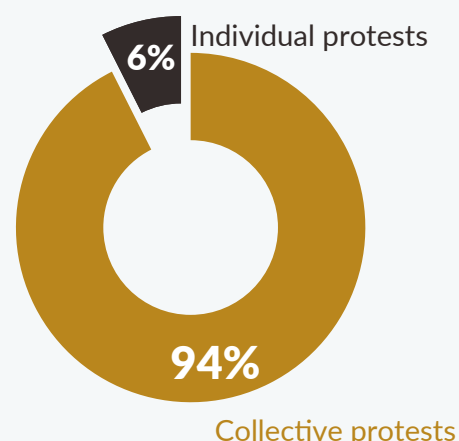
The nature of protest movements in December 2018

In the month of December, 867 movements were observed under protest forms and 4% of protests were acts and attempts of suicide.

In addition, the Kairouan governorate recorded the most social protest movements, with 119 during the month, which is an average of 3.8 a day. The Kasserine governorate followed up with 116, the Gafsa governorate with 87, the Sfax governorate with 81 and the Sidi Bouzid governorate with 76. It is interesting to note that the Zaghuan governorate recorded 24 protest movements in December, considering it was not a region with many protests in the previous month.

Individual and collective protest movements

Volume	
Individual protests	35
Collective protests	832
Total protest movements	867

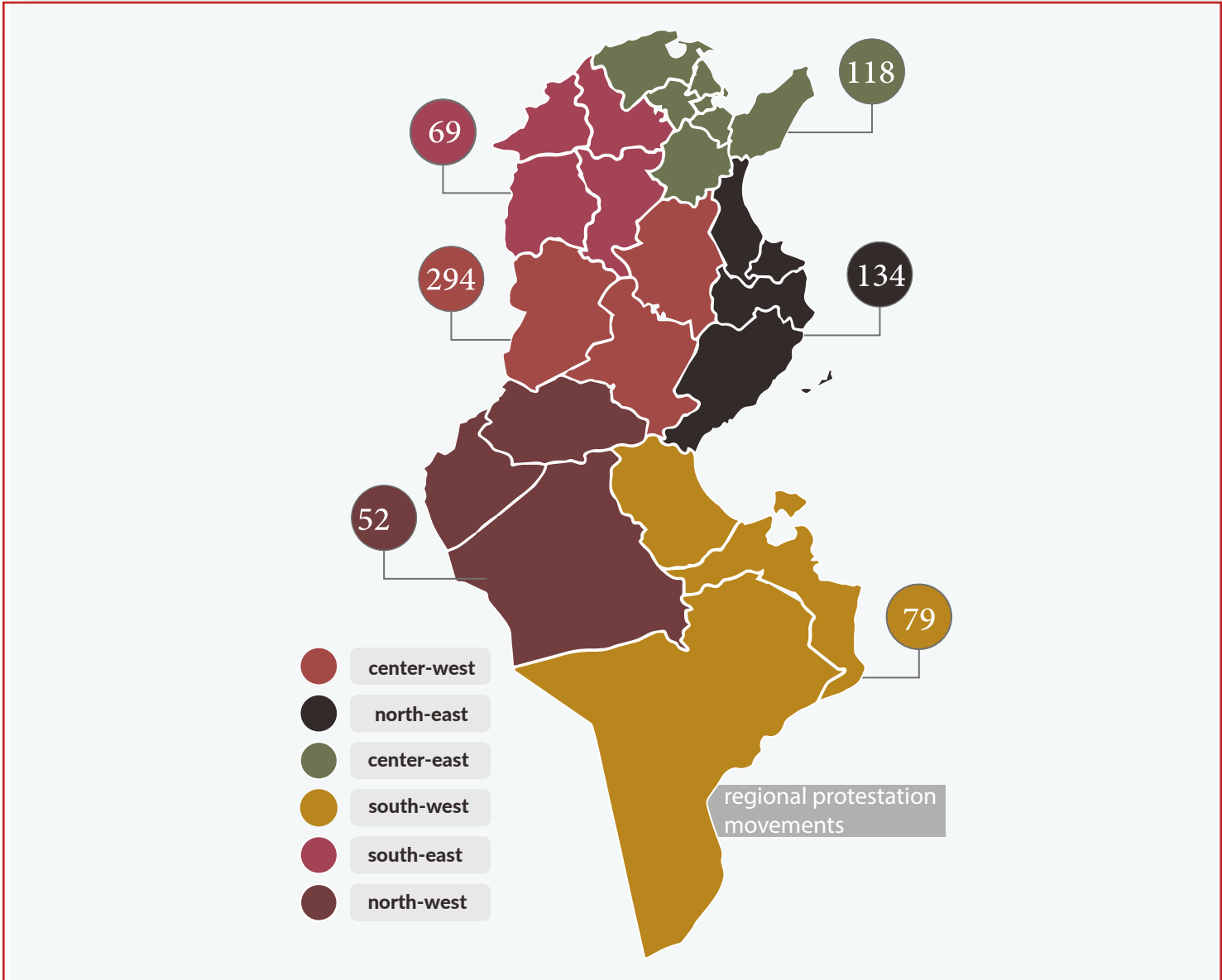


Most of the protest movements in the many regions were socio-economic. They were calls for change for better employment, better social conditions. Better public services and to reject the boycott of the exams in education institutions.

The Tunis governorate recorded 55 protests, most of them being political, like the gathering for compensation for victims of violations that the old regime was refused by the Instance de Vérité et Dignité during or the gathering against racial discrimination after the assassination of the president of the Association for Ivorians in Tunisia in Dar Fidal, in the Ariana governorate.

Individual and collective protest movements by gouvernorate

Gouvernorat	Volume		
Bizerte	4	Monastir	0
Tunis	59	Mahdia	0
Ariana	22	Sfax	82
Manouba	21	Kairouan	126
Ben Arous	7	Kasserine	121
Zaghouan	24	Sidi Bouzid	77
Nabeul	33	Gabes	22
Jendouba	30	Medenine	24
Beja	9	Tataouine	20
Kef	9	Gafsa	97
Seliana	23	Tozeur	7
Sousse	38	Kebili	12
		Total	867



collective protest movements

Nature of collective social movements

239

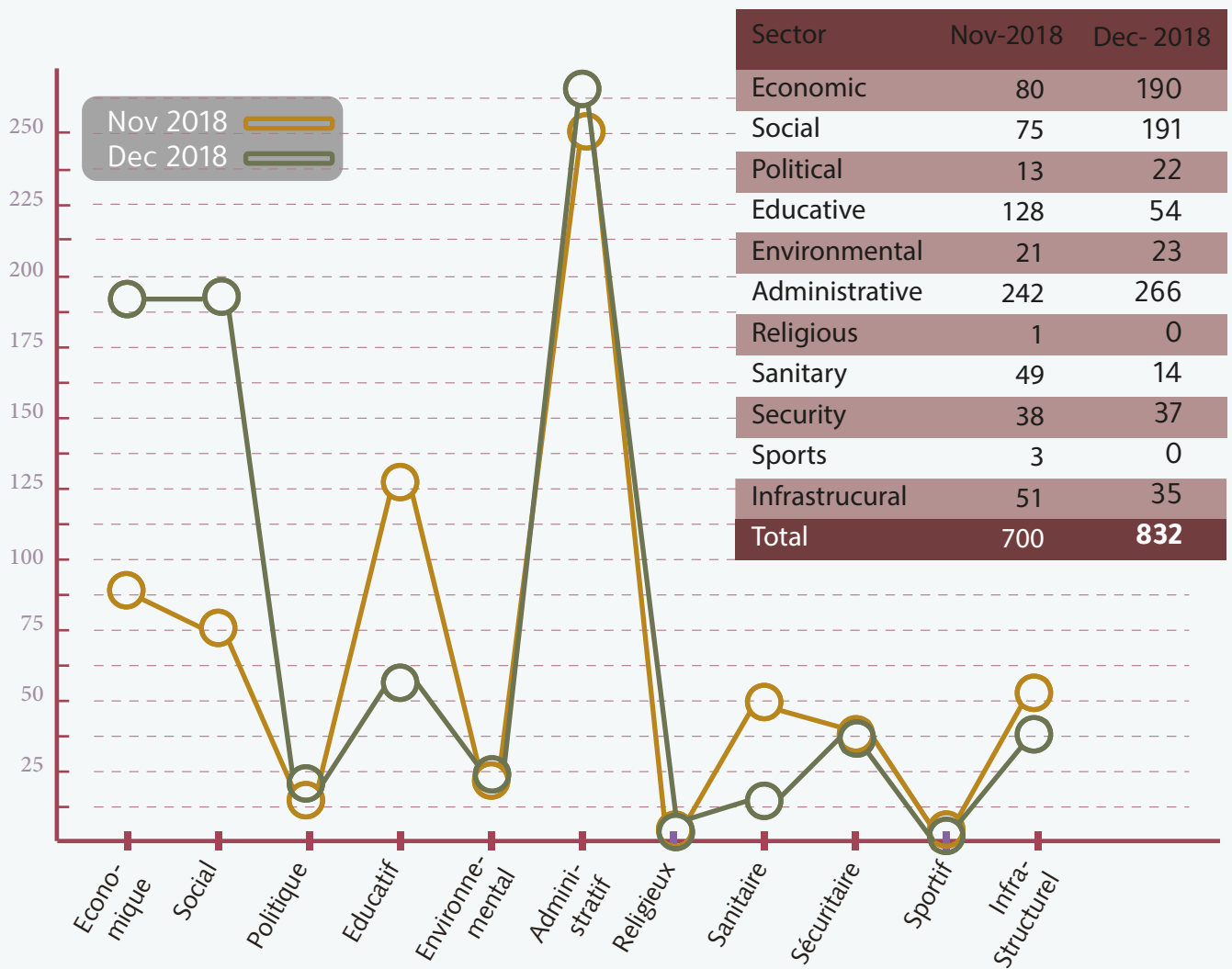
instant protests

365

spontaneous
protests

228

violent protests



Forms of protests

media calls , social media, road blocking,Burnt tires	☆☆☆	parents, habitants, Les diplgraduates, workers, unemployed	☆☆☆
sit-ins, Clashes with the security,Boycott of exams	☆☆☆	medical and paramedical staff, employees, workers, les activistes	☆☆☆
Threats of suicide, Hunger strikes, Assault of administrative institutions ,Threats of resignation, strikes ,Closure of professional permises	☆☆	taxi drivers ,security agents ,agricultors	☆☆
Pétitions of protests: Attacks on security centers , Prevent train traffic	☆	journalists, fishermen, martyrs families	☆

actors initiating the social movements

Spaces of protests

Roads	☆☆☆	S.O.N.E.D.E	☆☆☆
Administrative head quarter ,PProfessional spaces , hospitals, educational institutions	☆☆☆	ministers educational institutions, hospitals	☆☆☆
the seats of gouvernorates, municipal intions, seats of delegatins	☆☆	gouvernorates , municipal interests,the prsidence du gouvernement, security authorities, organisations nationales	☆☆
Judicial institutions ,ministries headquarters , national organizations	☆	Judiciary authorities, press Institutions	☆

subjects of protests

Types of protests by sector

instant protests	Sector	Economic	Social	Political	Educative	Environmental	Administrative	Infrastructural	Sanitary	Security	Sports
	Volume	48	46	5	20	13	75	14	7	11	0
spontaneous protests	Sector	Economic	Social	Political	Educative	Environmental	Administrative	Infrastructural	Sanitary	Security	Sports
	Volume	80	86	12	21	9	116	16	6	19	
violent protests	Sector	Economic	Social	Political	Educative	Environmental	Administrative	Infrastructural	Sanitary	Security	Sports
	Volume	62	59	5	13	1	75	5	1	7	0

Geographical distribution of protests

Instant protests

Bizerte	2	Monastir	0
Tunis	13	Mahdia	0
Ariana	6	Sfax	30
Manouba	6	Kairouan	29
Ben Arous	0	Kasserine	36
Zaghouan	7	Sidi Bouzid	9
Nabeul	15	Gabes	8
Jendouba	15	Medenine	4
Beja	4	Tataouine	7
Kef	4	Gafsa	21
Seliana	2	Tozeur	7
Sousse	8	Kebili	6

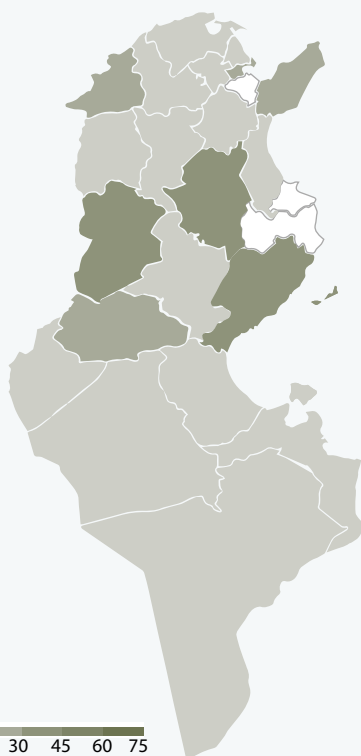
Spontaneous protests

Bizerte	2	Monastir	0
Tunis	37	Mahdia	0
Ariana	8	Sfax	35
Manouba	6	Kairouan	52
Ben Arous	4	Kasserine	46
Zaghouan	11	Sidi Bouzid	35
Nabeul	13	Gabes	11
Jendouba	10	Medenine	9
Beja	3	Tataouine	10
Kef	4	Gafsa	38
Seliana	11	Tozeur	0
Sousse	14	Kebili	6

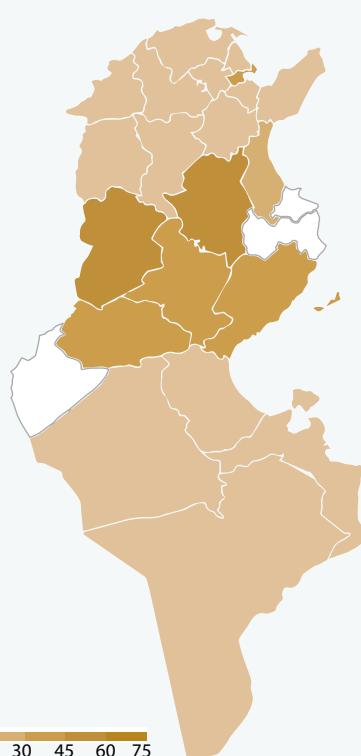
Violent protests

Bizerte	0	Monastir	0
Tunis	5	Mahdia	0
Ariana	8	Sfax	0
Manouba	9	Kairouan	0
Ben Arous	2	Kasserine	0
Zaghouan	6	Sidi Bouzid	0
Nabeul	5	Gabes	0
Jendouba	4	Medenine	0
Beja	1	Tataouine	0
Kef	0	Gafsa	0
Seliana	9	Tozeur	0
Sousse	14	Kebili	0

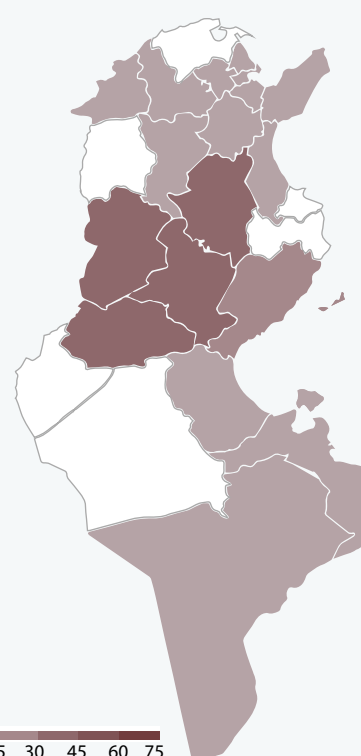
Instant protests



Spontaneous protests



Violent protests



protest movements in 2018

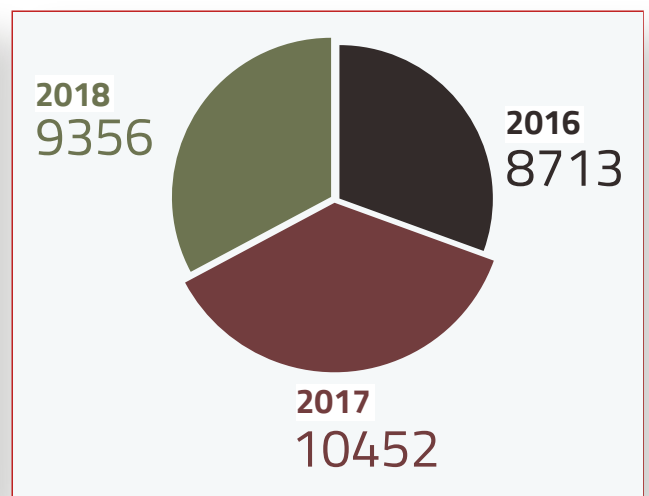
Another year in the records similar to the previous years (there were 10 452 movements in 2017 and 8 713 movements in 2016). These observations assert the government's incapacity to implement economic and social policies to mediate the demands that the Tunisian population has been asking for the past eight years.

Around 9356 social movements occurred in 2018, which is about 25 social movements a day and the global portrait of the protests were geographically similar to the year before. In the Kairouan governorate, with the most recorded protests in 2018 (1668), followed by the Sidi Bouzid governorate (881), the Gafsa governorate (791), the Tunis governorate (749) and the Kasserine governorate (667).

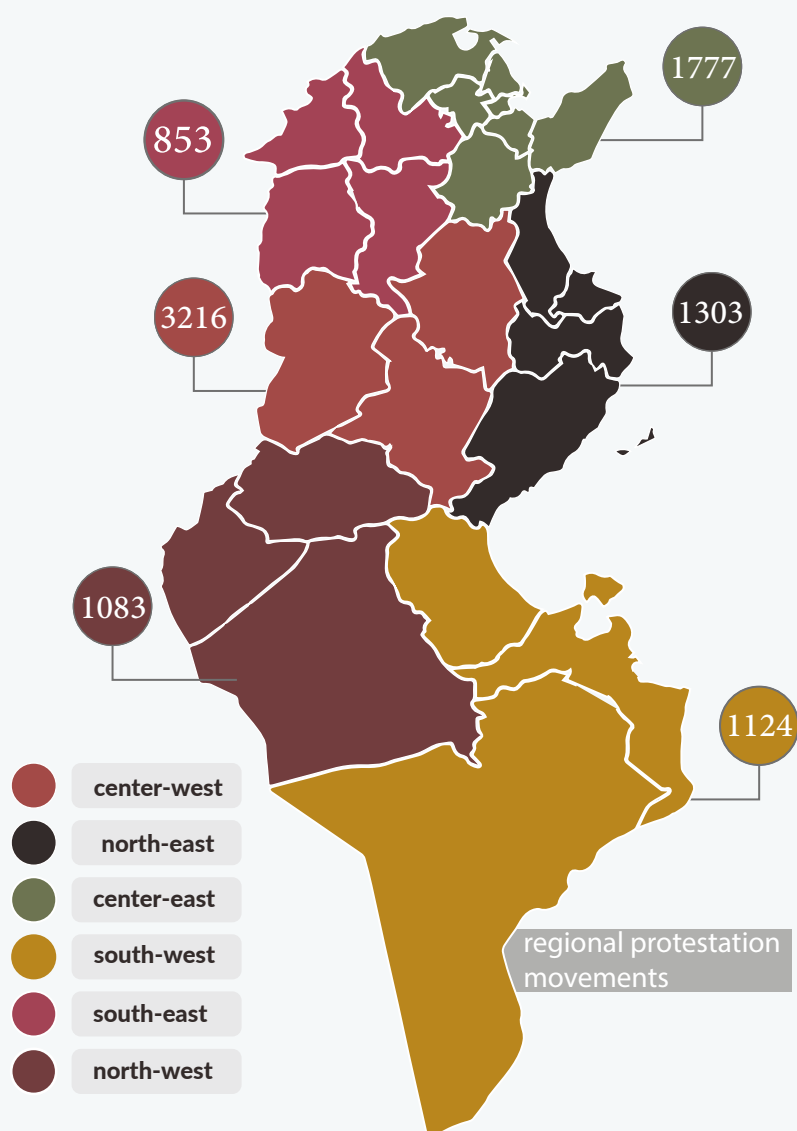
Faced with peaceful walks, road blocking, threats of attempts or acts of individual or collective suicides, the government only responded with enhanced security measures or judicial process as the only response mechanisms.

We notice that even protest movements with clear records, like open competition job applicants at the phosphate mines in Meknassi or the 64 group, the state ignores these demonstrators or legally prosecutes them while they pursue their right to work.

protest mouvements	year
8713	2016
10452	2017
9356	2018



Gouvernorat	Volume		
Bizerte	235	Monastir	129
Tunis	749	Mahdia	175
Ariana	118	Sfax	555
Manouba	155	Kairouan	1668
Ben Arous	123	Kasserine	667
Zaghouan	94	Sidi Bouzid	881
Nabeul	303	Gabes	356
Jendouba	359	Medenine	458
Beja	151	Tataouine	310
Kef	177	Gafsa	791
Seliana	166	Tozeur	161
Sousse	444	Kebili	131
		Total	9356



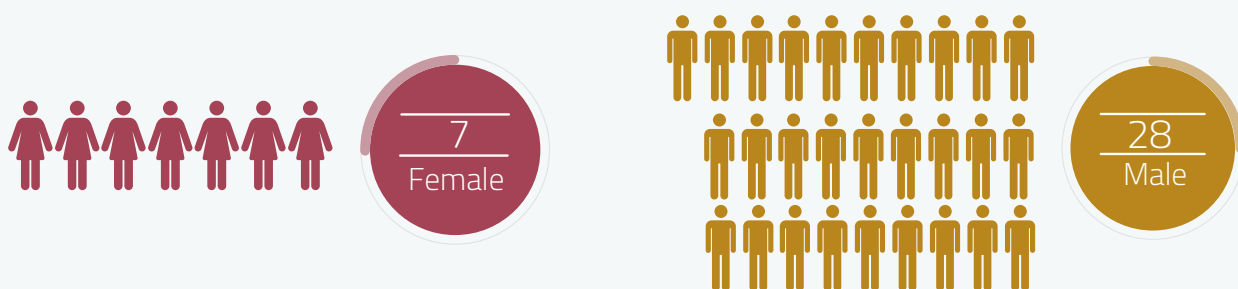
Acts and attempts of suicide in December 2018

There were 35 acts and attempts of suicide (28 being men and 7 being women) in the month of December 2018.

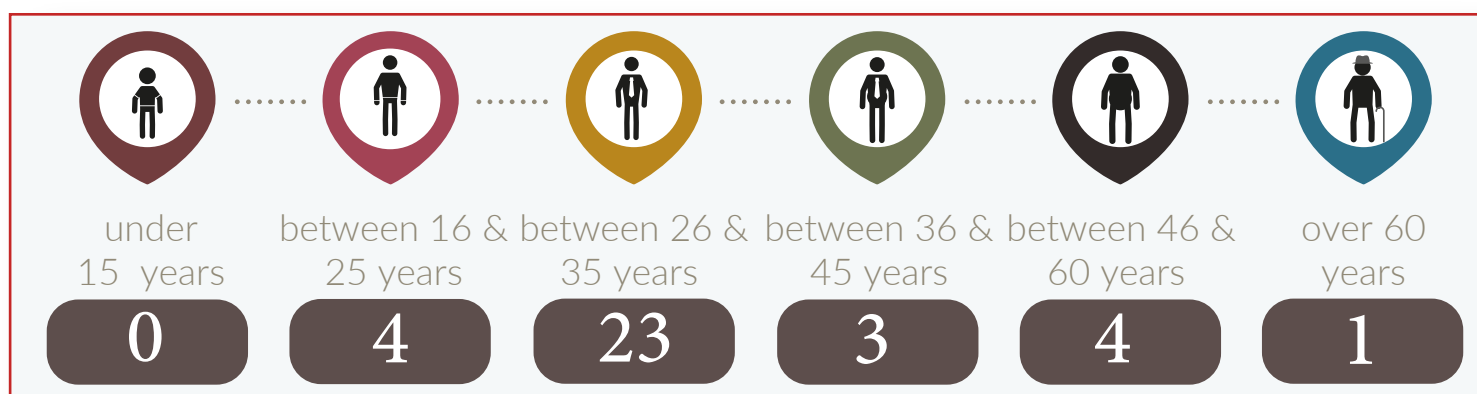
Most of the victims were aged between 16 to 45.

In detail : 11% of them were 16-25 year old, 66% were 26-35 year old, 9% were 36-45 year old and 3% were over 60 years of age.

Suicides and attempts of suicide by gender

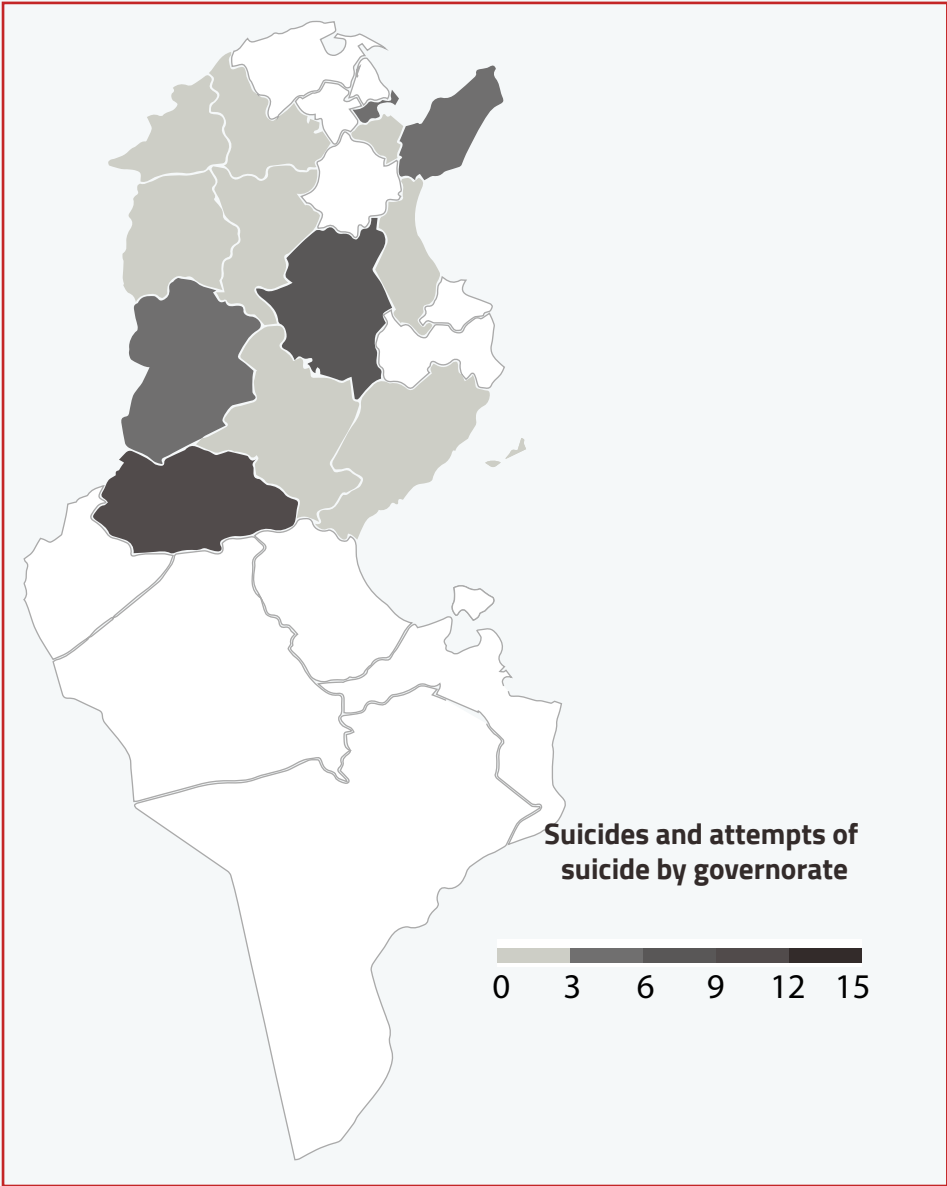


Suicides and suicide attempts by age group



Suicides and attempts of suicide by governorate

Governorate	Bizerte	Tunis	Ariana	Manouba	Ben Arous	Zaghouan	Nabeul	Jendouba	Beja
Volume	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
Governorate	Le kef	Seliana	Sousse	Monastir	Mahdia	Sfax	Kairouan	Kasserine	Sidi Bouzid
Volume	1	1	2	0	0	1	7	5	1
Governorate	Gabes	Medenine	Tataouine	Gafsa	Tozeur	Kebili			
Volume	0	0	0	10	0	0			



Suicides and attempts of suicide in 2018

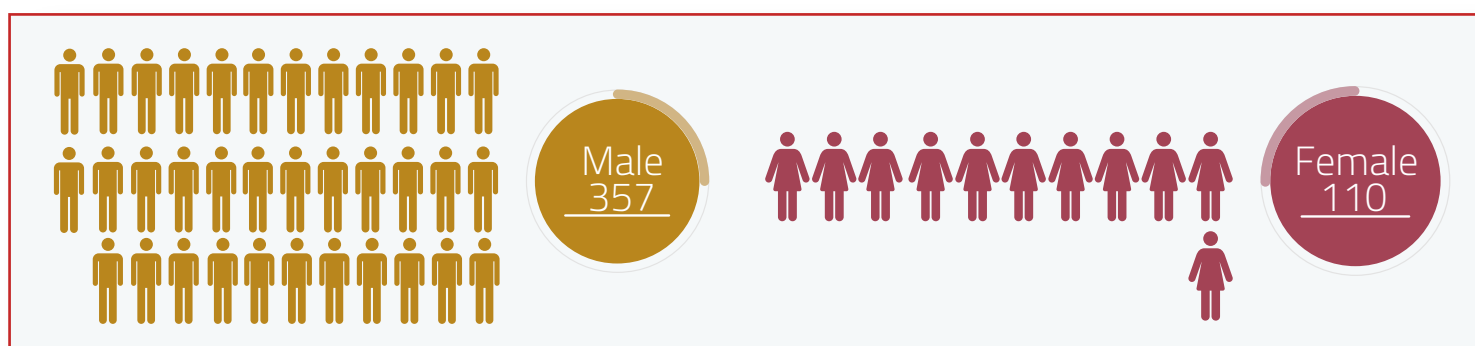
In 2018, 467 acts and attempts of suicide were recorded by the Observatoire Social Tunisien. These actions of desperation were done by people who were frustrated and angry towards the vulnerability and insecurity of their social and economic situations. There were 110 women that attempted or committed suicide, and there were 357 men recorded in that same period of time (which is about 76% of recorded cases being men).

The 16 to 45-year-old age group was the most vulnerable to these actions (76 of recorded cases on a total of 356 victims). More specifically, the 25 to 36-year-old age group recorded 197 suicides and attempts of suicide. There were 42 acts and attempts of suicide committed by children under 15 years-old and 23 cases were recorded among individuals over 60 years of age.

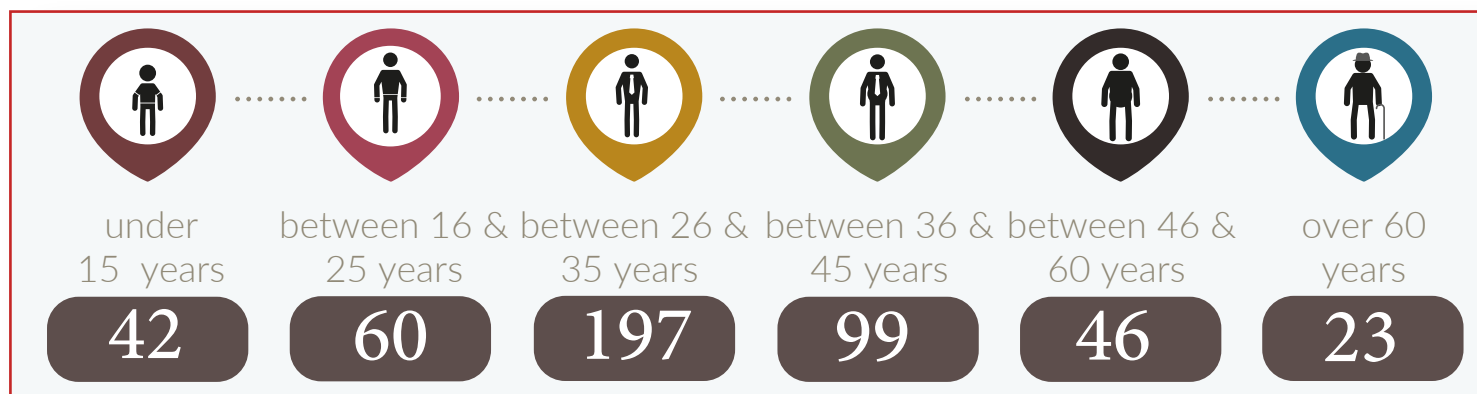
The Gafsa governorate recorded the most cases with 85. Threats of committing suicide was used as a form of protest in this governorate; most of the recorded cases were threats and not actual suicides.

The Kairouan governorate maintained an important amount of acts and attempts registered with 69, followed by the Sidi Bouzid governorate with 41, the Kasserine governorate with 28, the Monastir governorate with 27, the Nabeul governorate with 24. The Tunis governorate with 23 and the Jendouba governorate with 22 acts and attempts of suicide. The Beja and Kebili governorates registered the least amount of acts and attempts of suicide with 3 and 4 respectively.

Suicides and attempts of suicide by gender

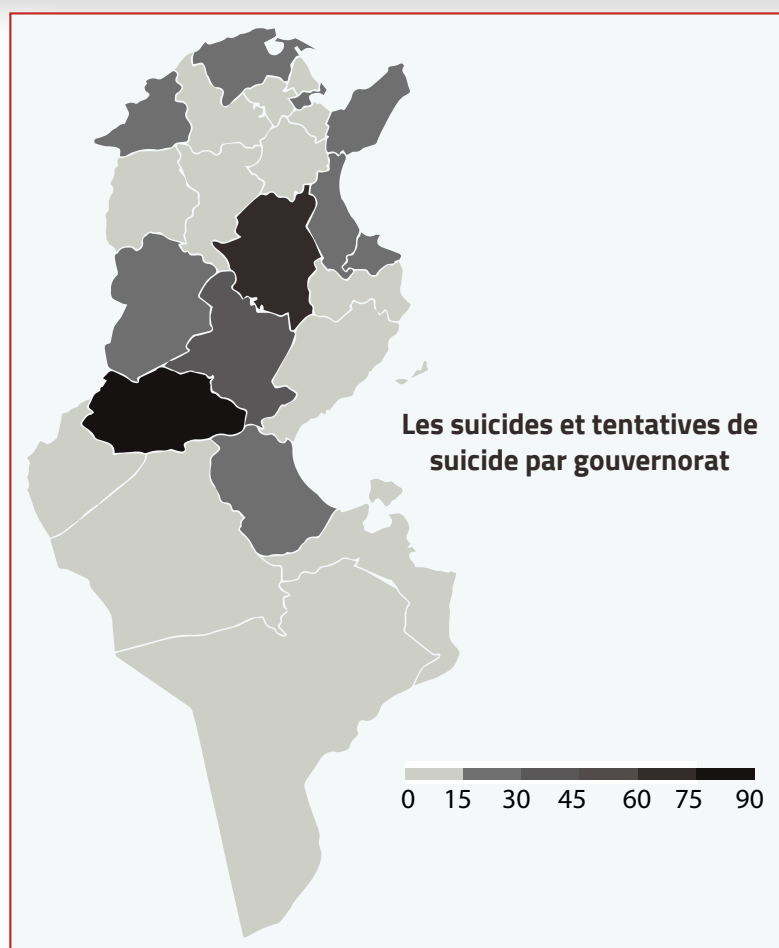


Suicides and suicide attempts by age group



Suicides and suicide attempts by Gouvernorat

Gouvernorat	Bizerte	Tunis	Ariana	Manouba	Ben Arous	Zaghouan	Nabeul	Jendouba	Beja
Volume	15	23	6	4	6	7	24	22	3
Gouvernorat	Le kef	Seliana	Sousse	Monastir	Mahdia	Sfax	Kairouan	Kasserine	Sidi Bouzid
Volume	13	6	16	27	14	12	69	28	41
Gouvernorat	Gabes	Medenine	Tataouine	Gafsa	Tozeur	Kebili			
Volume	17	9	9	85	7	4			



Violence

Criminal violence continues to rise in the month of December 2018, and according to the results of the Observatoire Social Tunisien is the leading type of violence.

These violent acts are manifested through sexual aggressions, family violence and domestic violence. As such, the assassination of a 14-year-old boy in Gafsa can be qualified as a criminal act in the form of a sexual aggression, or the death of a young man by alcohol poisoning in Ariana can be classified as an impulsive and domestic form of violence.

Thefts are the most frequent acts of criminal violence registered in the month of December 2018. These actions are usually accompanied by physical aggression that could escalate to the killing of victims.

Otherwise, many thefts took place in many of the regions of the country, but most of them took place in Tunis. The Tunis, Ariana, Ben Arous and Manouba governorates had the most thefts.

In the month of December 2018, 56% of cases were individual acts of violence and 44% were acts of collective violence, with a majority (89%) being committed by males and 5% committed by females. 6% of violent acts were committed by many people, with a mix of males and females.

The most remarkable act of aggression and racism took place in the Aouina region in Tunis, with the death of the president of the Ivorian Community in Tunis.

There were also acts of family violence committed in the month of December. Notably, a case in Oued Ellil, when 28-year-old man killed his mother and three sisters and proceeded to burn them afterwards.

Also, an act of family violence took place in the Manouba governorate when parents burned their 17-year-old daughter after a verbal altercation. In Gromblia, a father shaved the head of his 16-year-old daughter as a form of punishment. In Sidi Bouzid, a 17-year-old girl was sexually assaulted and raped by her 52-year-old father and became pregnant following the incident.

Furthermore, an act of violence in an educational form was recorded in the month of December when the parent of a student assaulted and insulted the staff of the Habib Thameur school in the Nabeul governorate. The Bir

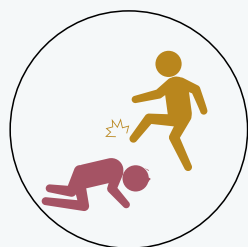
Bouragba college was the target of students throwing stones and eggs on its walls.

Concerning sexual violence, there was a significant rise in the number of cases; they were more frequent every month leading to December.

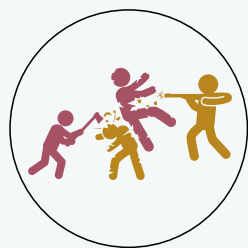
Moreover, in the month of December 2018, there were acts of violence in the form of protests in the region of Tertouba and Thala. There were a series of riots and violence at night registered within the protests.

This month also registered cases of impulsive violence and sanitary, security threat and emotional violence.

cases of violence

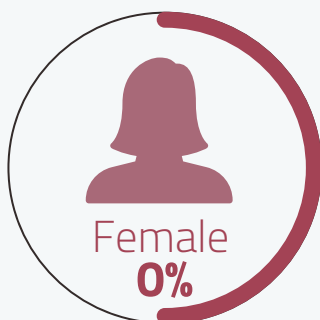
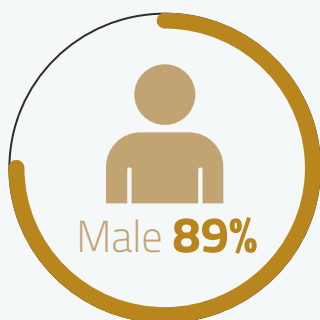


56% Individual violence

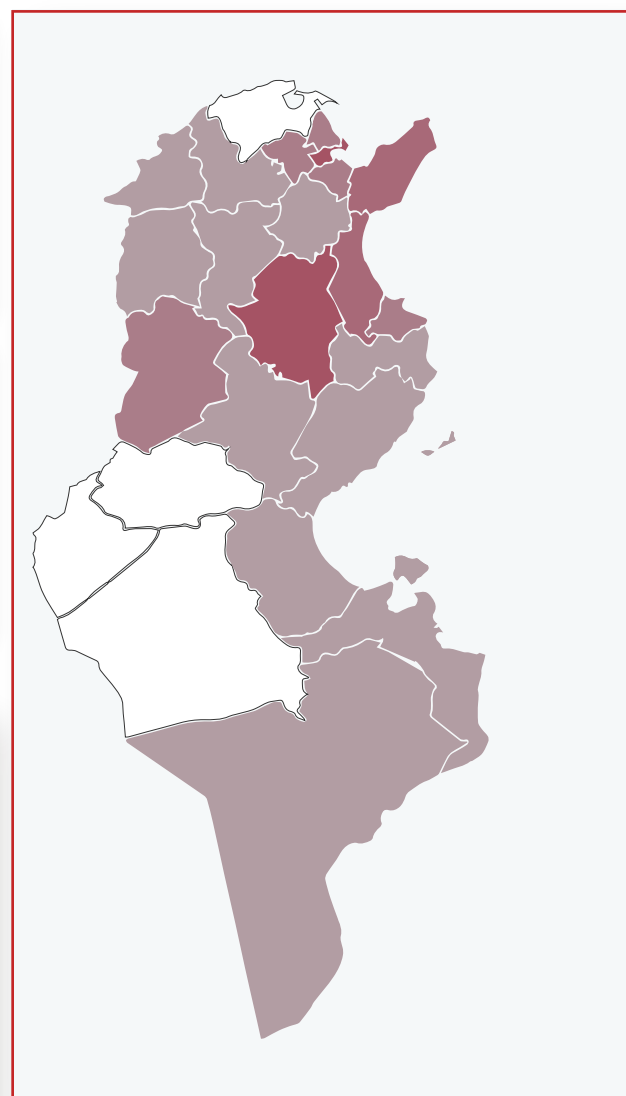


44% Collective violence

Agressors by gender

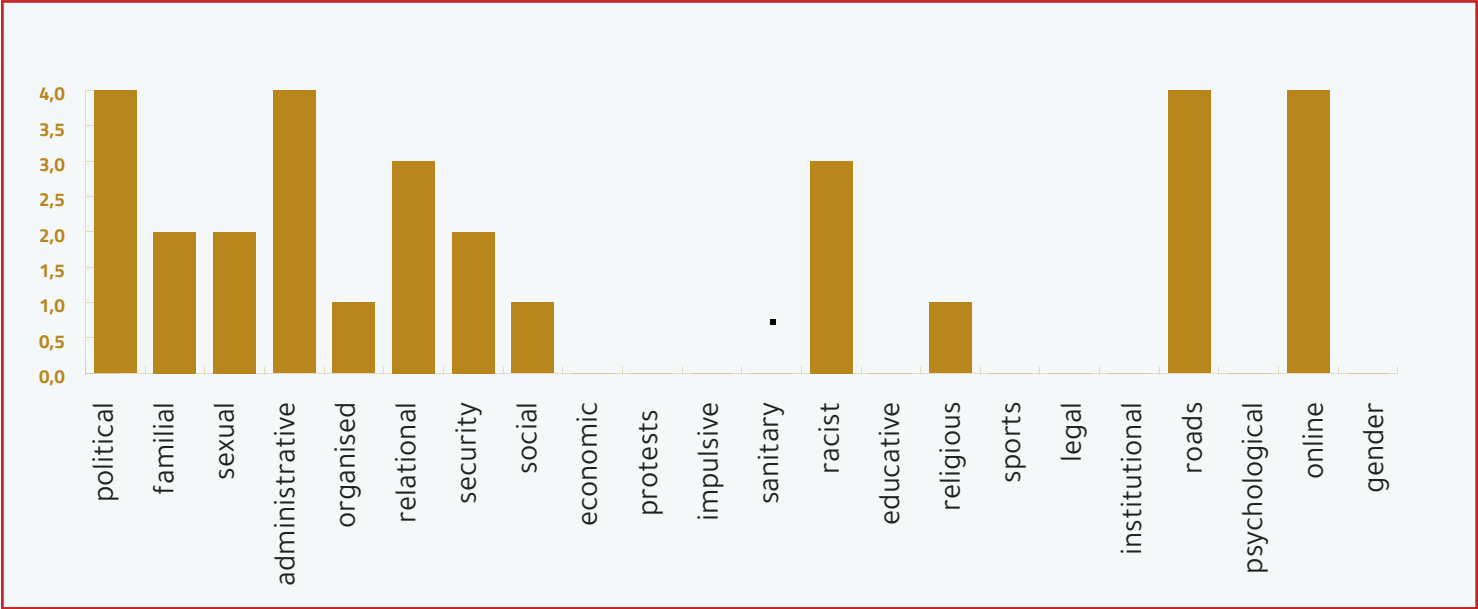


Violences by governorate

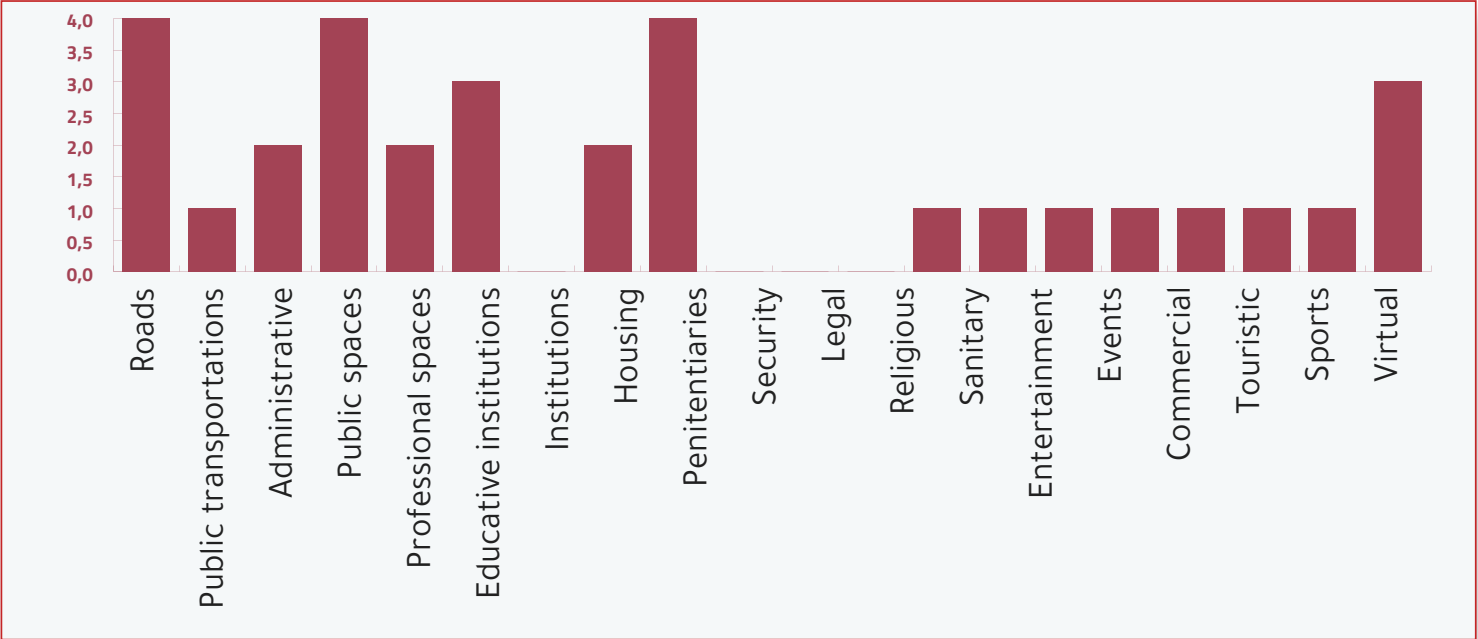




Forms of violence



Intensity of violence by space



Conclusion

The protests that took place in November and in December are similar in terms of results (economic and social context).

Indeed, the institutional education is still the turning point for waves of protests because of the disagreement between the Minister of education and the Fédération de l'Enseignement secondaire. Unemployment is still another major reason for protest and threats of suicide because of the lack of job offers. This lack of job offers is due to the deterioration of the economic situation and the difficulties surrounding the recruitment processes in the public function. The protest movements, the social tensions, the dissatisfaction and the popular discontent are the results of a situation that has not changed in the country. However, there are positive prospects for change, as 2019 is an election year during which the social and economic demands should be the focus points in most of the political campaigns at the legislative and presidential level.