

## Introduction

The social movements recorded in the month of February and the lack of response by authorities shows that the quality of life in Tunisia is decreasing in many regions.

This status quo is complicating the daily life of citizens and deteriorating the economic, social, environmental and health conditions, as well as fundamental rights, like access to drinking water, transportation, education and security.


In this uncertain context, we do not foresee any signs of improvement or solutions to the economic and social crisis. There has not been an evolution on economic and social levels in February. The crisis threatening social stability almost aggravated had there not been an increase in salaries in the public sector; this prevented a two-day strike in the public sector.

This increase in salaries was followed by the Central Bank's concerns surrounding the increase of the inflation rate because of an increase of consumption index. The final decision was to increase the key rate by 100 points, which aggravated the situation of people with debts towards the bank. The crisis in the real estate sector might see more complications because of the new key rate. In February, there has not been a positive indicator of improvement of the current economic or social levels. This might be a concern in the month of May, which is also the month of Ramadan this year.

There were many social problems after the mediation of a coranic school in Regueb and the arrest of the owner of the camp and the psychological assistance of all 42 children who were part of the camp to receive extremist lessons and physical training. Social and economic indicators in February were negative.

## The nature of protest movements in January 2019

In the month of February 2019, the social movement mapping remained the same; the Kairouan governorate remains at the top of the list because of the lack of effort demonstrated by the state to improve the conditions of people living in the region. There are many crises in the Kairouan governorate, like the lack of drinking water, the deterioration of the



environmental situation with the damage caused by sewage pipes that flood the streets, the collapsing of roofs during school hours in the Bouhajla delegation. This same delegation has a total lack of school transportation and deterioration in the health sector.

The threat of theft causes an upheaval in the region and the increase in forms of social protest movements asking for a global reform and proper crisis management is increasing because of the lack of reaction from authorities in the region.


The mapping confirms that employment is still the main claim in the Gafsa governorate and the phosphate crisis is still unresolved because of the incapacity of authorities to properly assert the workers' claims and restore relations between the companies and the environment

According to the current mapping, there is a new social movement structure taking place, in which the movement is more than just a form of protest, but also follows up on the evolution of such movement and the demands. In February, a protest movement took place in the form of social media mobilization with a popular hashtag "Jendouba veut un développement reel" (Jendouba wants a real development), which eventually led to a sit-in in front of the governorate office, weekly protests on Wednesdays and the planning of a day for organized research for a common methodology to align different demands of protesters around the same common goal.

This experience may very well be developed in more detail in the upcoming months. The mapping also shows that the port crisis might cause stirring in the upcoming months; there has already been protests by seamen to demand better port management. The month of February was marked by a recurrence of protests in the port of Telbouba (Monastir) and Zarzis.

The protest movement structure analysis also shows regional authorities are incapable of answering the citizens' demands. At El Hajjel, Bir Chalouf (Nabeul governorate), locals protested because the local authorities did not meet their demands for waste containers. Also, in Maamoura, local authorities did not answer citizens' demands to reduce the terrible odors caused by the sewage system.

An elder man living in the cemetery eating and surviving off of worms and cockroaches is just an example of the decrease in the quality of life for the elders and the lack of support in the Nabeul governorate and other regions in this social and economic crisis in the country.



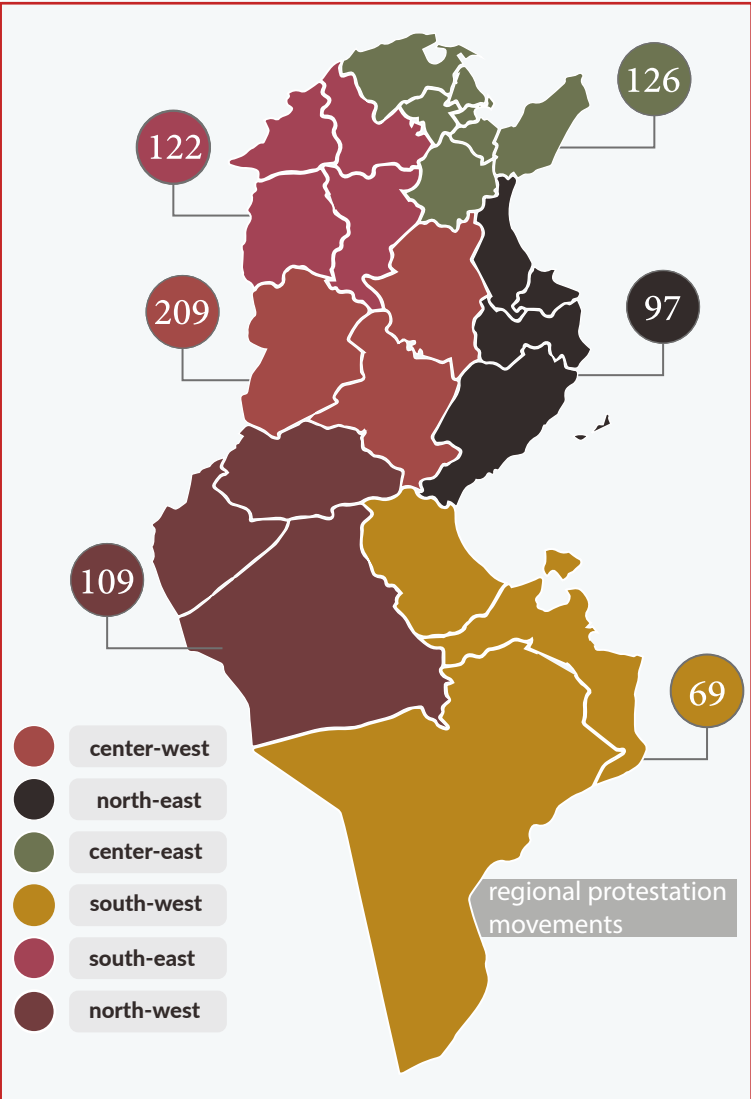
# Individual and collective protest movements by gouvernorate

Gouvernorate	Volume		
Bizerte	16	Monastir	22
Tunis	27	Mahdia	26
Ariana	0	Sfax	22
Manouba	5	Kairouan	113
Ben Arous	0	Kasserine	38
Zaghouan	6	Sidi Bouzid	58
Nabeul	72	Gabes	1
Jendouba	60	Medenine	42
Beja	5	Tataouine	26
Kef	24	Gafsa	97
Seliana	33	Tozeur	12
Sousse	27	Kebili	0
		Total	732

In addition, authorities have been proven inadequate to find solutions for the taxi sector; the main problem being poor infrastructures (stations and roads).

The mapping indicates that the hospital in the Sidi Bouzid region and the government place in la Kasbah are the main stage for protests grouping multiple problems all around the country. Security and citizen relations need to be revised. A protest movement in Foussana reported brutal measures employed by civil security employees and a protest movement in the El Aouemrya region, Chebika (Kairouan governorate) was organized because of the suspecting circumstances around the death of a young man from the region.

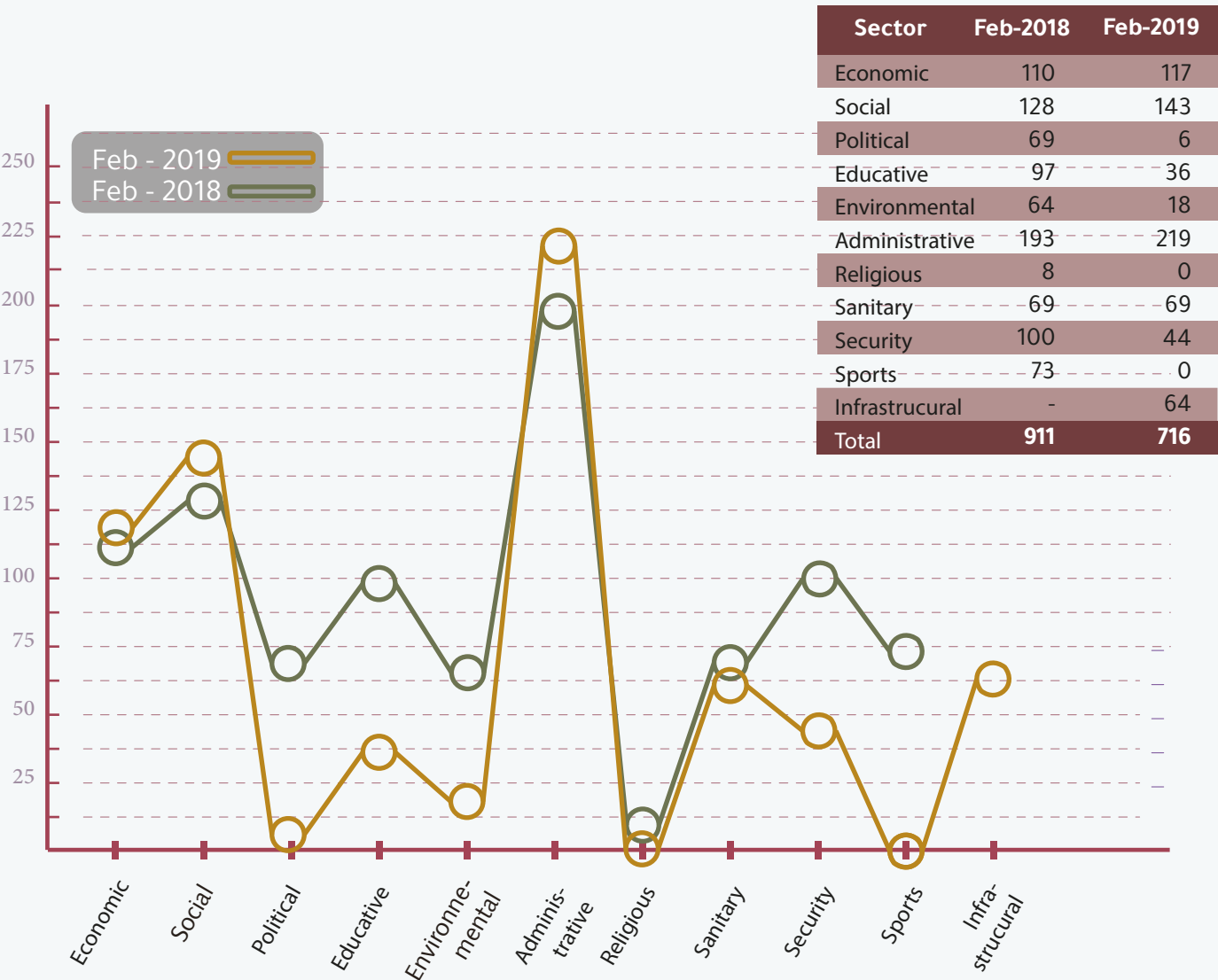
732 protest movements were recorded in the month of February, with an average of 26 protests per day.



There were 113 protests in Kairouan, followed by 97 protests in Gafsa and the Nabeul governorate with 72. These three governorates represent about 39% of the total protests in Tunisia in the month of February 2019. The Jendouba and Sidi Bouzid governorates had a total of 118 protests (60 and 58 respectively), which count for about 16% of the total amount of protests. The percentage of protests recorded in the other governorates converged to about 11.8 protest a day. Collective social protest movements represent 98% of all movements. Most protest movements were spontaneous (345) and violent protests were the least, with 144.

collective protest movements

Nature of collective social movements



## Forms of protests

Social media, protests	☆☆☆
Media calls, sit-ins, road blocks, blocking administrative spaces, burnt tires	☆☆☆
Peaceful protests, strikes, march towards the capital	☆☆
Hunger strikes, petitions, administrative headquarters, civil disobedience, sewing mouths as a form of protest	☆

## actors initiating the social movements

Citizens, activists	☆☆☆
Employees, workers, unemployed, unemployed graduates, doctors, paramedical staff	☆☆☆
Precarious workers, parents, security, agriculturalists	☆☆
Collective taxi drivers, fishermen	☆

## Spaces of protests

Roads, public spaces, administrative headquarters	☆☆☆
Professional spaces, governorates, SONEDE, STEG	☆☆☆
Educational institutions, municipalities, delegations, bureaux, government organizations, hospitals	☆☆
Ministers, head of government	☆

## subjects of protests

Ministry, head of government, governmental organizations	☆☆☆
Governorates, SONEDE,	☆☆☆
Educational institutions, municipalities, delegations, hospitals	☆☆
Judiciary authorities, security authorities	☆

## Types of protests by sector

instant protests	Sector	Economic	Social	Political	Educative	Environmental	Administrative	Infrastructural	Sanitary	Security	Sports
	Volume	50	61	3	18	11	102	39	40	21	0
spontaneous protests	Sector	Economic	Social	Political	Educative	Environmental	Administrative	Infrastructural	Sanitary	Security	Sports
	Volume	43	47	2	13	4	75	8	21	14	0
violent protests	Sector	Economic	Social	Political	Educative	Environmental	Administrative	Infrastructural	Sanitary	Security	Sports
	Volume	24	35	1	5	3	42	17	8	9	0

## Geographical distribution of protests

### Instant protests

Bizerte	8	Monastir	8
Tunis	13	Mahdia	6
Ariana	0	Sfax	9
Manouba	2	Kairouan	65
Ben Arous	0	Kasserine	14
Zaghouan	3	Sidi Bouzid	27
Nabeul	53	Gabes	0
Jendouba	32	Medenine	20
Beja	2	Tataouine	10
Kef	10	Gafsa	35
Seliana	12	Tozeur	2
Sousse	14	Kebili	0

### Spontaneous protests

Bizerte	8	Monastir	10
Tunis	13	Mahdia	9
Ariana	0	Sfax	6
Manouba	2	Kairouan	29
Ben Arous	0	Kasserine	10
Zaghouan	3	Sidi Bouzid	27
Nabeul	8	Gabes	0
Jendouba	13	Medenine	20
Beja	2	Tataouine	5
Kef	10	Gafsa	31
Seliana	14	Tozeur	3
Sousse	4	Kebili	0

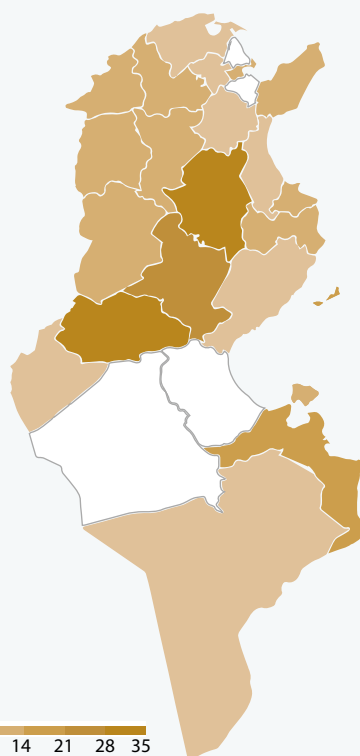
### Violent protests

Bizerte	0	Monastir	3
Tunis	0	Mahdia	9
Ariana	0	Sfax	7
Manouba	0	Kairouan	16
Ben Arous	0	Kasserine	14
Zaghouan	0	Sidi Bouzid	4
Nabeul	10	Gabes	0
Jendouba	14	Medenine	2
Beja	0	Tataouine	10
Kef	4	Gafsa	29
Seliana	7	Tozeur	7
Sousse	8	Kebili	0

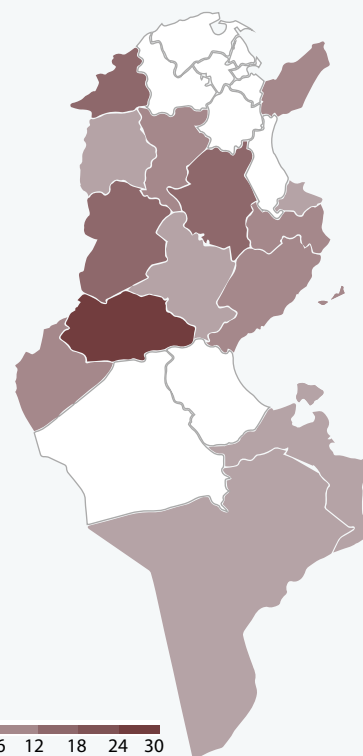
### Instant protests



### Spontaneous protests



### Violent protests



## Acts and attempts of suicide in January 2019

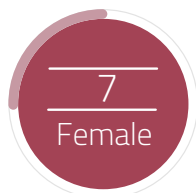
16 acts of suicide were recorded, with 56% committed by men and 44% by women between 16 and 35 years of age.

Four cases of suicide were recorded for the 15 and under age group. The proportion of suicides in the 26 to 35-year-old age group is very high for men (4:1 for men). This age group is considered to be the beginning of the professional careers for people. The economic crisis and the deterioration of social conditions have direct impacts on the psychology of victims of suicide in this age group.

The 26 to 35-year-old age group were the most vulnerable to suicides in the month of February (31%), followed by the 15 and under age group (25%) and 36 to 45-year-old age group (19%).

No cases of suicide were recorded for the 60 and over age group.

### Suicides and attempts of suicide by gender



### Suicides and suicide attempts by age group



under  
15 years

4



between 16 &  
25 years

2



between 26 &  
35 years

5



between 36 &  
45 years

3



between 46 &  
60 years

2

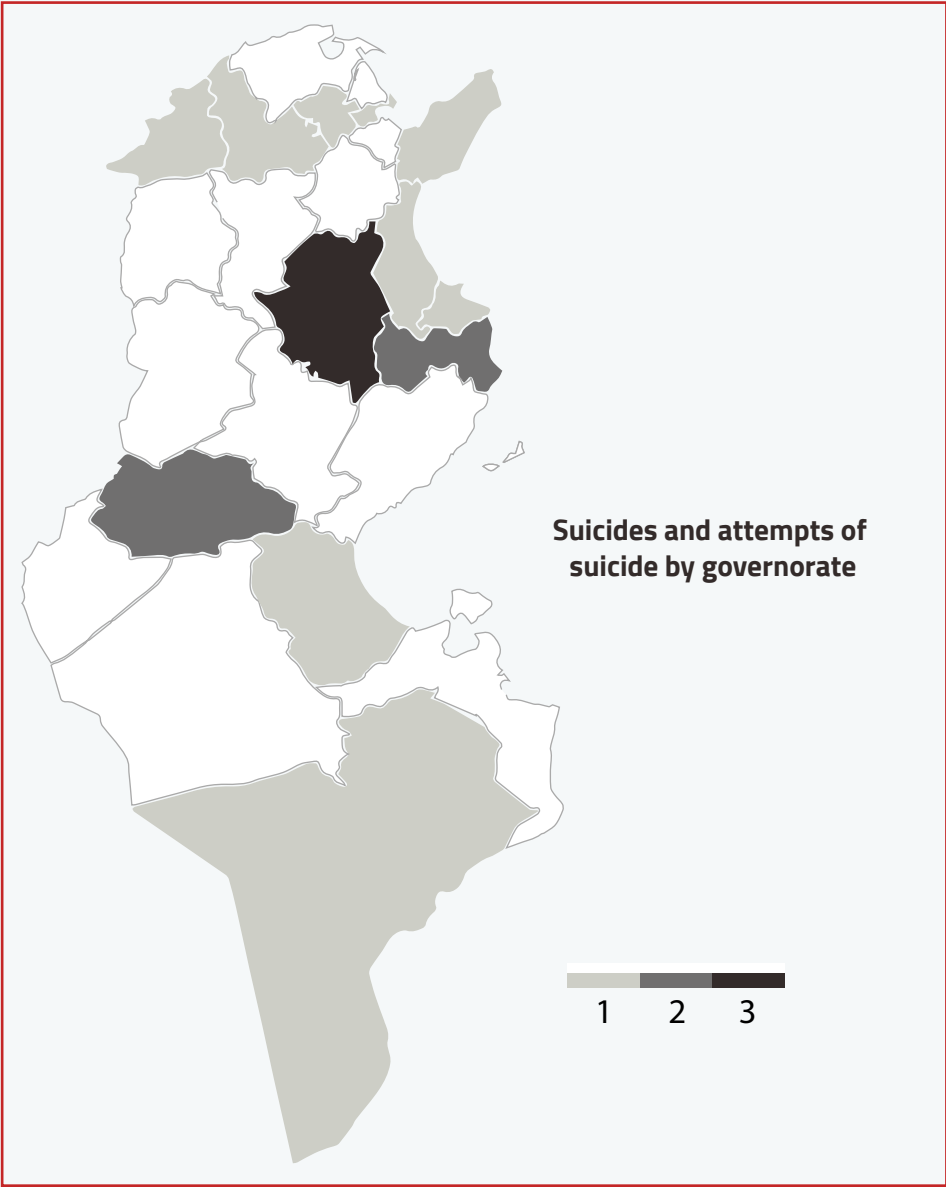


over 60  
years

0

# Suicides and attempts of suicide by governorate

Governorate	Bizerte	Tunis	Ariana	Manouba	Ben Arous	Zaghouan	Nabeul	Jendouba	Beja
Volume	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1
Governorate	Le kef	Seliana	Sousse	Monastir	Mahdia	Sfax	Kairouan	Kasserine	Sidi Bouzid
Volume	0	0	1	1	2	0	3	0	0
Governorate	Gabes	Medenine	Tataouine	Gafsa	Tozeur	Kebili			
Volume	1	0	1	2	0	0			

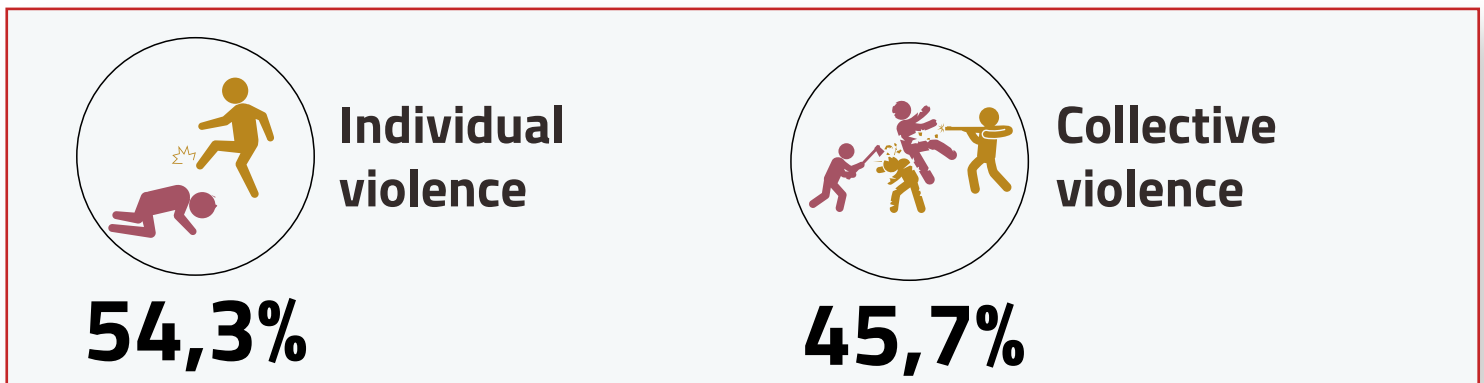




## Violence

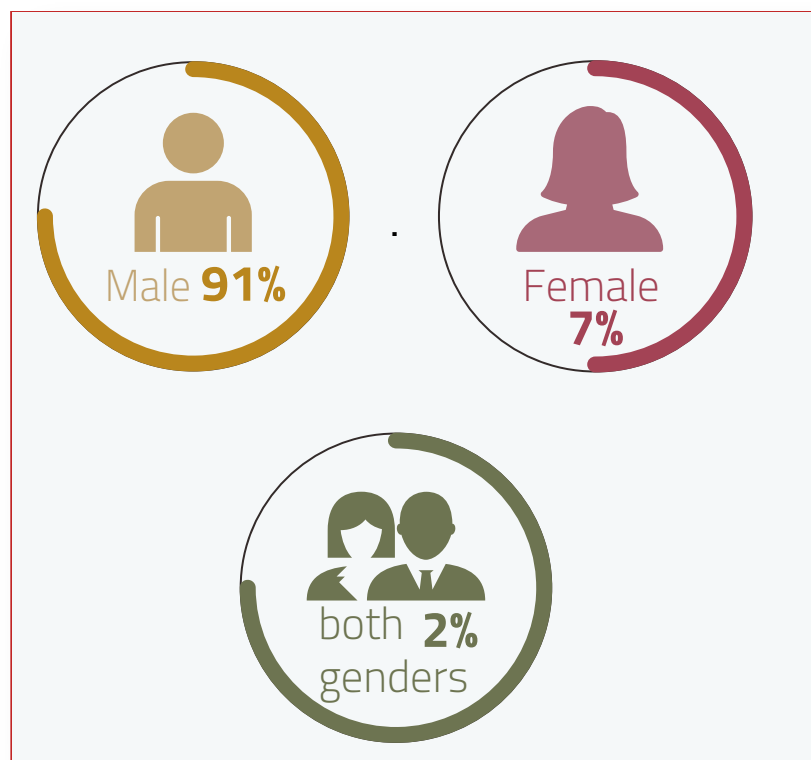
Cases of collective violence registered in February were higher than individual cases of violence. 54.3% of cases registered by the Observatoire Social Tunisien were collective, against 45.7% individual.

### cases of violence



Men committed the highest rate of violence, at 91%, 7% were committed by women and 2% were committed by both genders.

### Agressors by gender

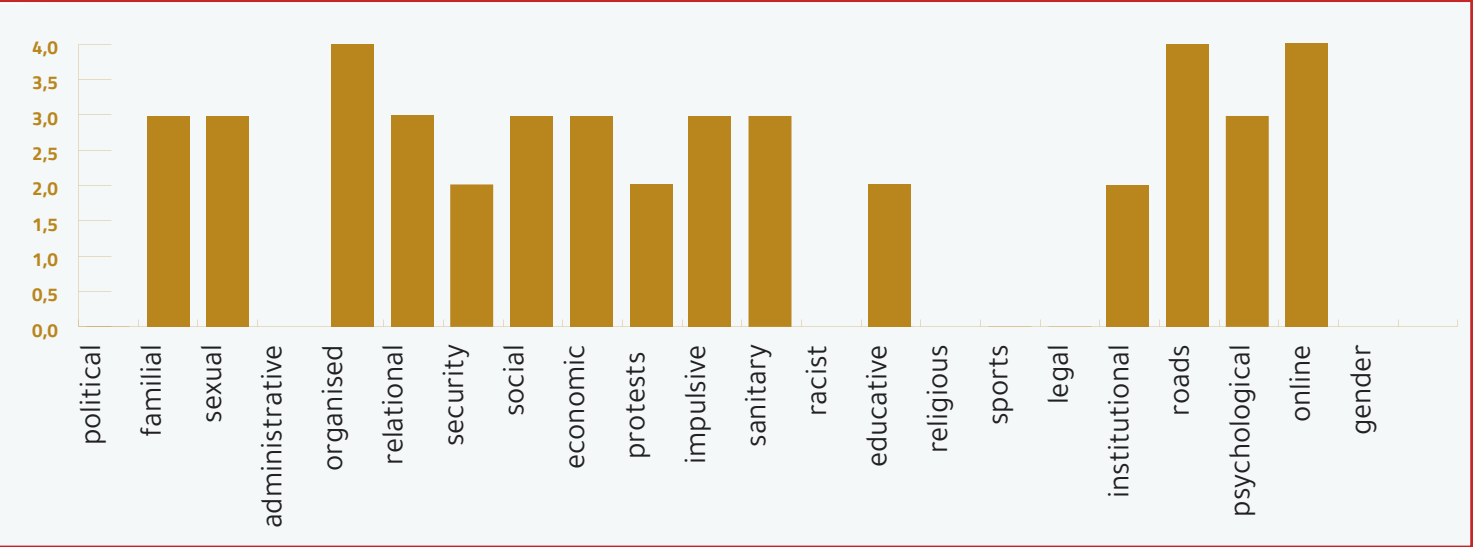


Compared to previous months, there were more cases recorded in February. Forms of violence recorded include theft, robbery, sexual assault and disputes escalating to physical assault and even death.

We can mention the altercation between two young men in the El-Ouelslatiya (Kairouan) region that lead to one of them hitting the other with his car. A security guard of the Kasserine Court was kidnapped to an area outside the city and was stabbed with a knife. A 15-year-old was assaulted in Hammamet who was found bleeding from the head on the side of the road. In the Sidi Bourois delegation (Siliana), a child was assaulted and thrown in the river.

Because the cases registered can usually be registered in many forms of violence, the OST team suggests acts of violence should be regrouped in several categories of forms of violence. An example in Ben Arous can demonstrate this, when a father sexually assaulted his 17-year-old girl. This case can be registered as a criminal violence, as well as domestic abuse. In the Rahima region, in the Hajeb al-Ayoum region (Kairouan governorate), a father demolished two houses of this children with whom he had disputes. In Bizerte, a girl was strangled to death by her sister after an altercation.

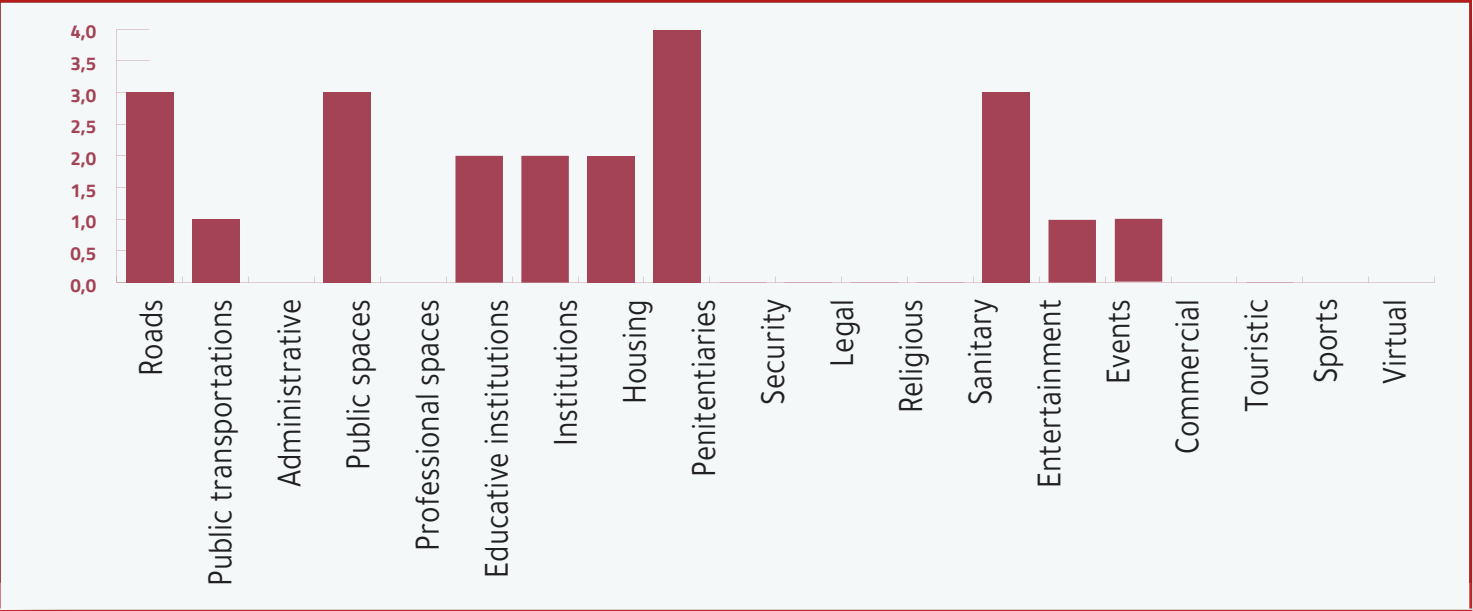
## Forms of violence



Sexual violence and criminal violence can also classify a case in Ben Arous, where a youth under the age of 18 was kidnapped and brutally raped by many perverters. The same circumstances happened in the Hammamet delegation when a girl was kidnapped and raped by a group of young men. There was a return to violence in the education sector in the month of February: a young student with epilepsy was assaulted by the teacher in a

primary school in Raoued. Furthermore, a teacher in Kairouan-South was verbally assaulted by a parent. Finally, in the Menzel Bouzelfa high school (Nabeul), a teacher threatened to assault anyone who would enter the classroom with a knife.

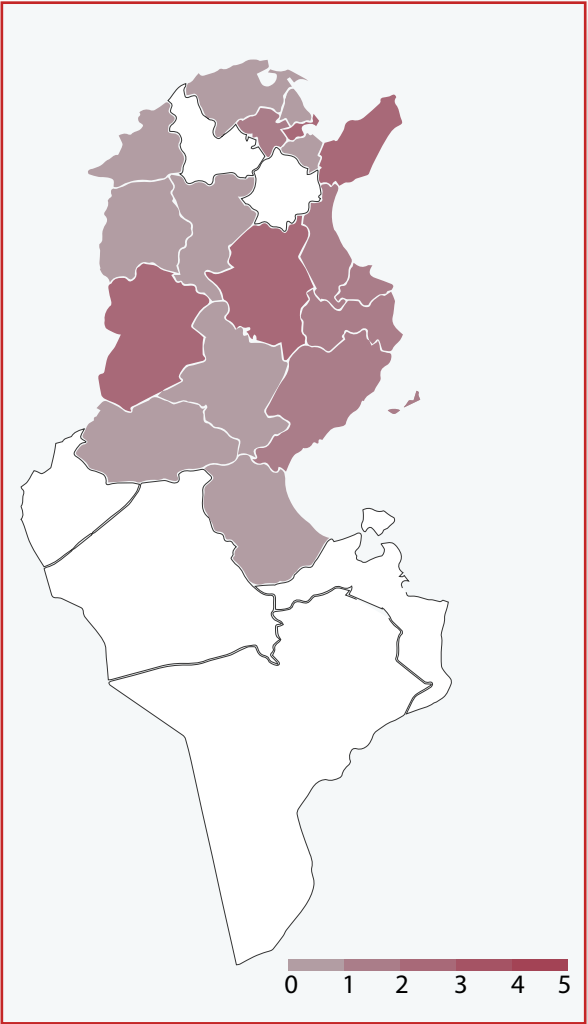
### Intensity of violence by space



Concerning relational violence, a dispute between two youth in the Sidi Omar region (Nabeul) escalated to the death of one of them after their families got involved in the conflict.

Public spaces, like roads, public administrations and transportations are the main areas the registered cases of violence take place in the month of February, followed by private spaces (homes), educational spaces and social media platforms.

### Violence by governorate



## Conclusion

The data collected in February 2019 indicate there was a slight decline in the number of protests compared to February 2018 (there were 975 protest movements and 41 registered cases of acts and attempts of suicide, with a dozen committed by children under the age of 15). Nonetheless, these indicators predict a moving spring, particularly with the inflation and the decrease of purchasing power following the Central Bank's Council decided to raise their key rate by 100 points, going from 6.75% to 7.75% and the Central Bank's declaration that there may be another rise of the key rate. This economic and social climate precedes the month of Ramadan, known for its rise in consumption level in Tunisia. Consequently, the high prices and the low purchasing power will have important consequences on the in the society.