

Introduction

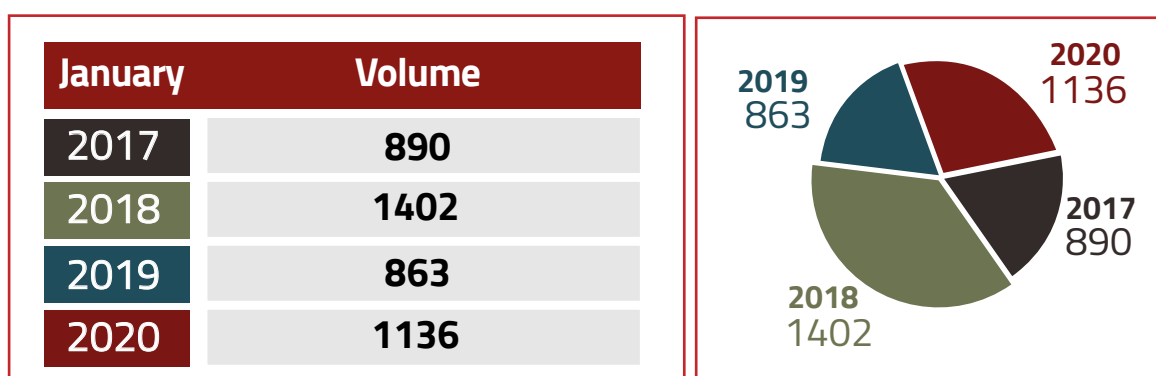
The month of January 2020 has regained its brilliance in terms of the dynamics of social protest movements, despite the political situation in the country, which is marked by the presence of an interim government awaiting the formation of a new government that continues since the general elections held in the last months of September and October.

In figures, January 2020 saw a 31% increase in the number of demonstrations compared to January 2019, when 863 protests were recorded.

This increase is undoubtedly proof of the extent of the social scolding that the country is experiencing due to the deadlock in various areas, for two reasons. The first is the depth of the economic and social crisis, the complexity of which is increasing year by year in the absence of a serious program to reduce it and find solutions. The second reason is that the delay in the constitution of the government, which has caused a delay in the regularization of the situations as well as the application of the signed agreements, has led their social authors to protest and express a state of annoyance following this long wait.

The mapping of the demonstrations, their forms and the methods adopted by the demonstrators to express their demands indicates the state of desperation to redress the situation that has become a daily routine for citizens in various spheres. The best evidence is the transformation of educational institutions, hospitals and public roads into theatres of protest and demand for basic rights such as the provision of drinking water, improvement of infrastructure and the provision of basic services.

Protest movements in January



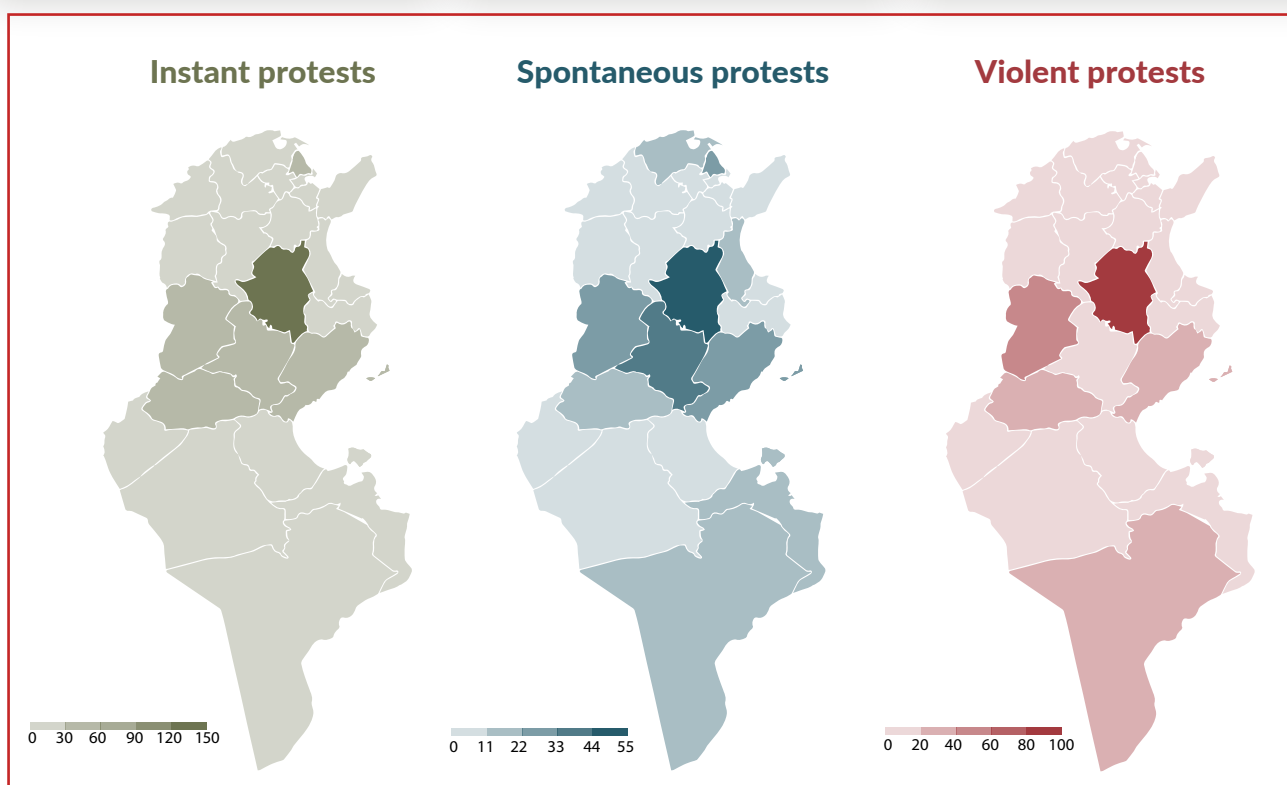
The number of demonstrations recorded by the monitoring unit of the Tunisian Social Observatory during the month of January 2020 reached 1136 demonstrations, 28% of which were of a violent nature.

Nature of collective social movements (January 2020)



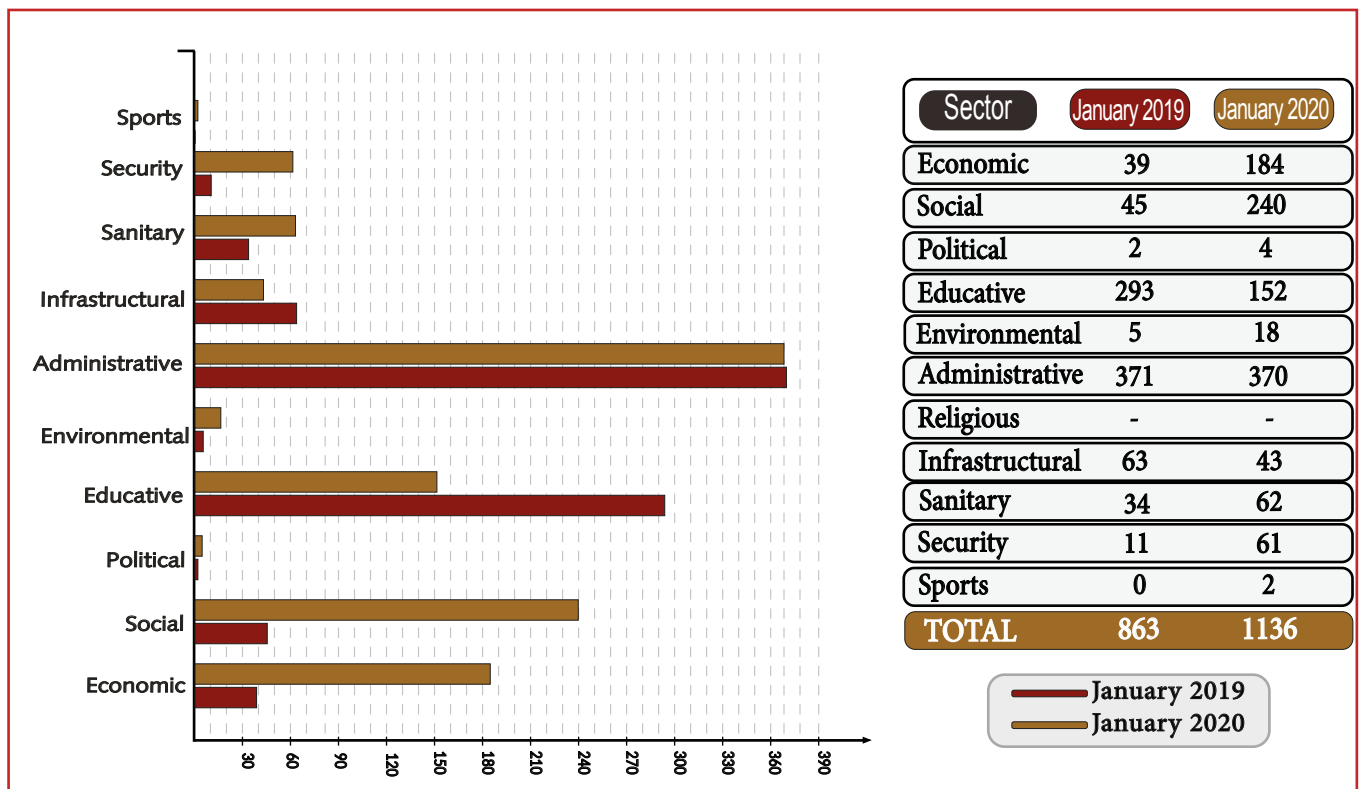
Geographical distribution of protests

Instant protests				Spontaneous protests				Violent protests			
Bizerte	15	Monastir	0	Bizerte	13	Monastir	0	Bizerte	6	Monastir	0
Tunis	33	Mahdia	12	Tunis	30	Mahdia	10	Tunis	12	Mahdia	4
Ariana	0	Sfax	52	Ariana	0	Sfax	25	Ariana	0	Sfax	34
Manouba	7	Kairouan	145	Manouba	0	Kairouan	51	Manouba	2	Kairouan	88
Ben Arous	2	Kasserine	52	Ben Arous	2	Kasserine	23	Ben Arous	0	Kasserine	55
Zaghuan	0	Sidi Bouzid	39	Zaghuan	0	Sidi Bouzid	43	Zaghuan	0	Sidi Bouzid	19
Nabeul	11	Gabes	3	Nabeul	8	Gabes	3	Nabeul	9	Gabes	0
Jendouba	8	Medenine	10	Jendouba	5	Medenine	14	Jendouba	0	Medenine	11
Beja	6	Tataouine	13	Beja	6	Tataouine	19	Beja	0	Tataouine	25
Kef	7	Gafsa	38	Kef	3	Gafsa	20	Kef	8	Gafsa	23
Seliana	9	Tozeur	12	Seliana	6	Tozeur	9	Seliana	0	Tozeur	12
Sousse	18	Kebili	6	Sousse	17	Kebili	4	Sousse	13	Kebili	6



Demands related to the economic and social context were at the forefront of the slogans chanted by the demonstrators with about 37% of all the protests recorded. These demands include: demands for drinking water, student transportation, protection of educational institutions against various types of violence, regularization of the professional status of teachers and substitute teachers, regularization of the status of health workers, improvement of the conditions of urban construction workers, employment and regional development, implementation of previous agreements on recruitment, organization of competitive examinations and review of the results of some of the previous competitive examinations, in addition to improving living conditions by developing residential areas and connecting houses to electricity and water networks.

Distribution of protest movements by sectors



The second most important demand in terms of recurrence of protesters was protests concerning the quality of administrative services, which accounted for 32% of all registered protests. The largest demands involved the slowness of the services of the electricity and gas company "STEG" in coping with sudden power failures due to incidents in many areas. As an example: the collision of a public works truck with a main column supplying electricity to a village in the governorate of Kairouan caused a power cut for more than a week in that village, leading to a wave of protests by the inhabitants.

Schools have once again been at the heart of protest movements with teachers, substitute teachers and professors protesting by refusing to teach in an attempt to address their professional situations. These acts have prompted parents to protest against their children's deprivation of their right to access to education.

A particular form of protest has also spread, increasing month by month, and consists in depriving children from attending school by their parents because of the state of the infrastructure, the lack of transportation and the deteriorating conditions of educational institutions or the rejection of the teaching staff or the headmaster. This type of protest has developed to serve other purposes. In some cases their children pupils are used to make demands that do not directly concern education, such as family living conditions, lack of drinking water, and so the pupils have become hostages of their guardians during demonstrations and human shields to express demands of an economic, social and educational nature.

Instant protests	Sector	Economic	Social	Political	Educative	Environ-mental	Adminis-trative	Religious	Infrastru-ctural	Sanitary	Security	Sports
	January 2019	18	24	0	112	2	147	-	38	17	8	0
Spontaneous protests	Janvier 2020	73	103	2	65	9	164	-	22	31	28	1
	Sector	Economic	Social	Political	Educative	Environ-mental	Adminis-trative	Religious	Infrastru-ctural	Sanitary	Security	Sports
Violent protests	January 2019	14	16	2	103	2	135	-	9	10	1	0
	January 2020	60	70	2	32	6	106	-	10	9	15	1
Instant protests	Sector	Economic	Social	Political	Educative	Environ-mental	Adminis-trative	Religious	Infrastru-ctural	Sanitary	Security	Sports
	January 2019	7	5	0	78	1	89	-	16	7	2	0
Spontaneous protests	January 2020	51	67	0	55	3	100	-	11	22	18	0
	Sector	Economic	Social	Political	Educative	Environ-mental	Adminis-trative	Religious	Infrastru-ctural	Sanitary	Security	Sports
Violent protests	January 2019	7	5	0	78	1	89	-	16	7	2	0
	January 2020	51	67	0	55	3	100	-	11	22	18	0

Among the demands made in January 2020 there were also requests relating to the health and security sectors, including the growing social tension in some villages in the governorate of Kairouan due to the high frequency of cattle thefts. There were also requests mainly for infrastructure improvements, including the improvement of road conditions, the elimination of village isolation, the provision of necessary transport and adequate transport stations, and the provision of water and electricity supply services.

Protest gatherings are still the most frequent form of expression for demonstrators with about 43% of the total demonstrations observed during January 2020, followed by road blockades with 16%, distress calls through the media with 12%, hunger strikes with about 10%, sit-ins (9%) and boycotts of courts with 7%.

























Forms of protests		actors initiating the social movements	
Protest gatherings, Road blocks, Distress calls through the media	★★★★	inhabitants, Teachers, Employees, Workers	★★★★
Strikes, Sit-in, boycotts of courts, Burnt tires	★★★	Parents, Unemployed, Unemployed graduates	★★★
Petitions, Blocking administrative spaces , Forced entry to administrative headquarters	★★	Agricultors, Activists, Precarious workers, Doctors and paramedical staff	★★
Red armband wearing, Mass immigration, Peaceful march	★	Taxi drivers, Collective taxi drivers, Journalists, fishermen	★

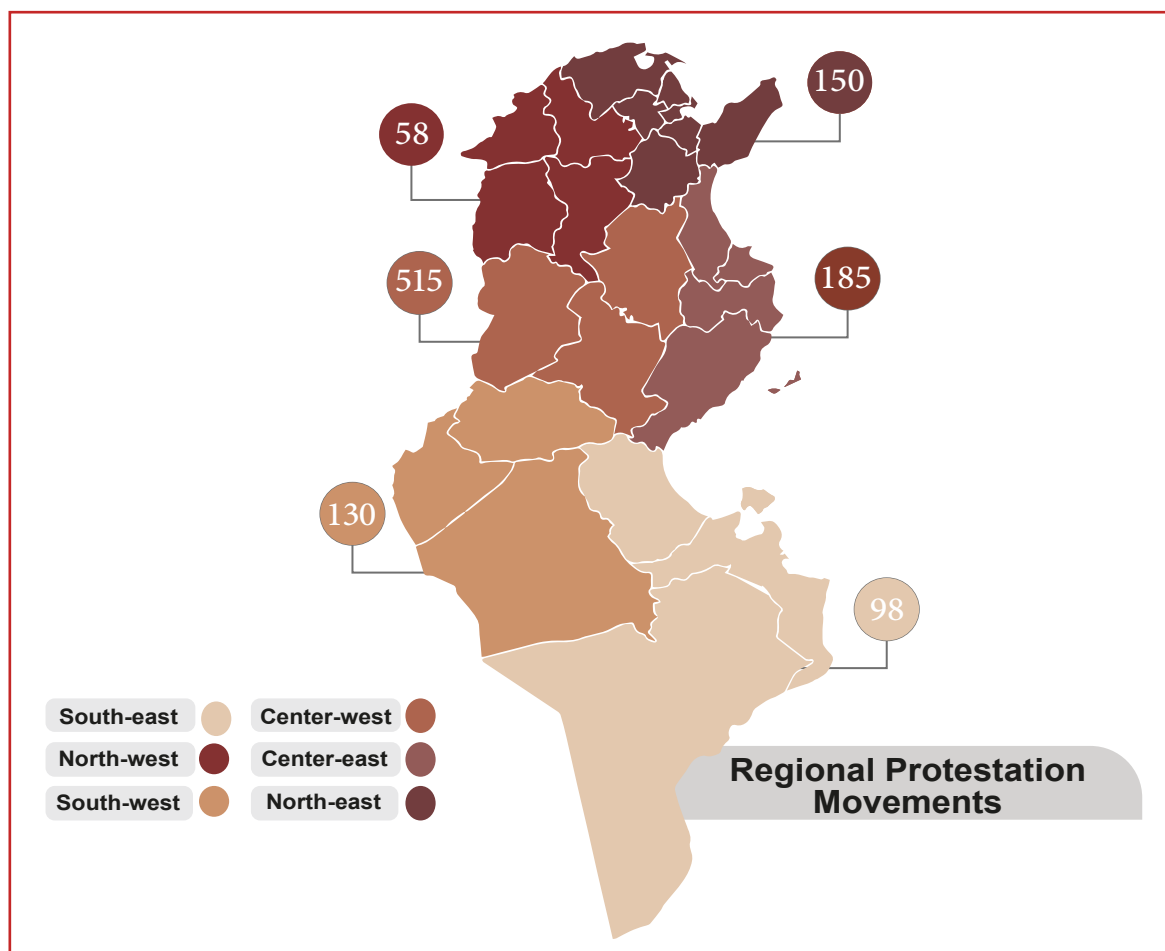
As for the actors involved in these social movements, they include workers (16%), employees (15%), the unemployed (11%), unemployed graduates (8%) but also inhabitants (23%), farmers (6%), teachers (16%) and taxi drivers (3%).

The most common areas of protest noted in January 2020 were public roads (18%), workplaces (14%), administrative offices (10%), educational areas (12%) and hospitals with approximately 2%.

Spaces of protests		subjects of protests	
Media, Roads, Professional spaces, Administrative headquarters	★★★★	Municipalities, Gouvernorates, Delegations, Educational institutions	★★★★
Delegations, Governorates, Educational institutions	★★★	SONEDE, STEG	★★★
Municipalities, Public spaces, Hospitals	★★	Ministry, Head of government, Hospitals	★★
Judicial institutions, Ministers, The presidential headquarter	★	Judiciary authorities, Presidency of the Republic	★

The mapping of protest movements

Gouvernorate	January 2019	January 2020	Gouvernorate	January 2019	January 2020	Gouvernorate	January 2019	January 2020
 Bizerte	16	34	 Beja	31	12	 Kasserine	56	130
 Tunis	83	75	 Kef	22	18	 Sidi Bouzid	75	101
 Ariana	4	0	 Seliana	17	15	 Gabes	5	6
 Manouba	18	9	 Sousse	48	48	 Medenine	26	35
 Ben Arous	16	4	 Monastir	30	0	 Tataouine	17	57
 Zaghouan	10	0	 Mahdia	12	26	 Gafsa	60	81
 Nabeul	67	28	 Sfax	63	111	 Tozeur	20	33
 Jendouba	67	13	 Kairouan	96	284	 Kebili	14	16

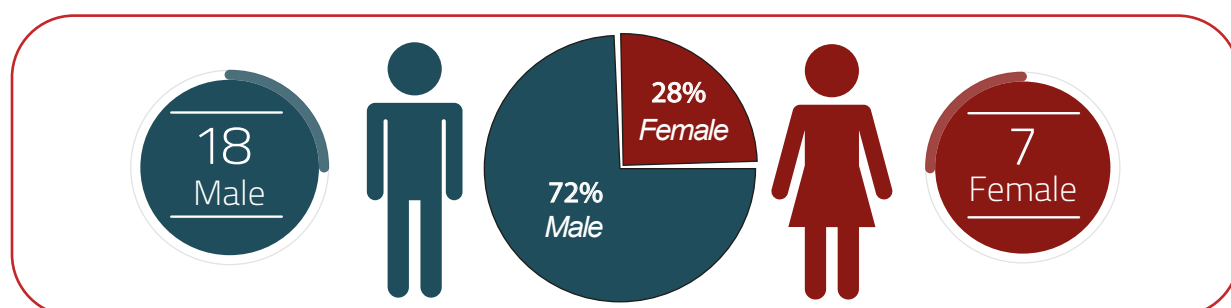


Acts and attempts of suicide

The number of acts of suicide and attempted suicide has not changed between January 2019 and 2020, remaining at 25 recorded cases, but the age and gender configuration has changed.

In January 2019, the percentage of female victims of suicides and attempted suicides was around 16% of recorded cases, this percentage increased in January 2020 to 28%. The number of children increased from 3 to 5 cases.

Suicides and attempts of suicide by gender



The age group most affected by suicide and attempted suicide was the 26-35 age group with approximately 40% of all cases during the month of January 2019. This percentage decreased to 32% in January 2020. In contrast, there was an increase in the proportion of 36-45 year-olds to about 24% of all suicides and attempted suicides.

Suicides and suicide attempts by age group

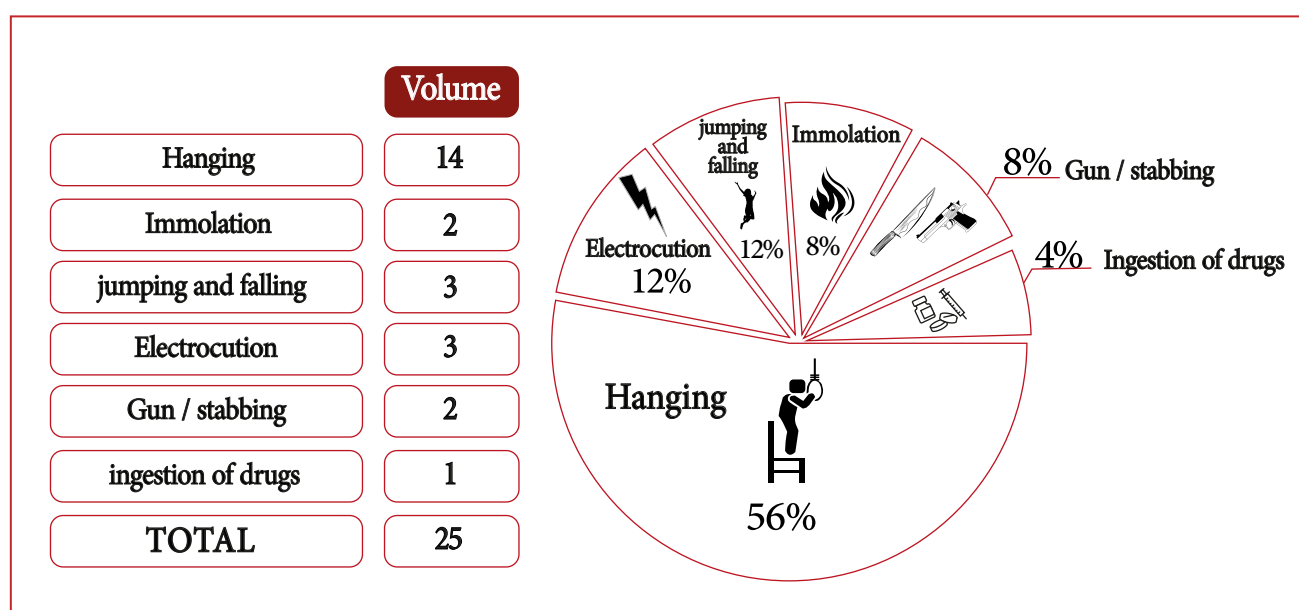
January 2019							
	Under 15 years	16 - 25 years	26 - 35 years	36 - 45 years	46 - 60 years	Over 60 years	TOTAL
Male	3	1	8	5	4	0	21
Female	0	0	2	1	1	0	4
TOTAL	3	1	10	6	5	0	25

January 2020							
	Under 15 years	16 - 25 years	26 - 35 years	36 - 45 years	46 - 60 years	Over 60 years	TOTAL
Male	4	1	5	5	3	0	18
Female	1	1	3	1	1	0	7
TOTAL	5	2	8	6	4	0	25



Hanging was the most common means of suicide (56%), followed by jumping and falling (12%), electrocution (12%), immolation (8%) and, to a lesser degree, stabbing and ingestion of drugs.

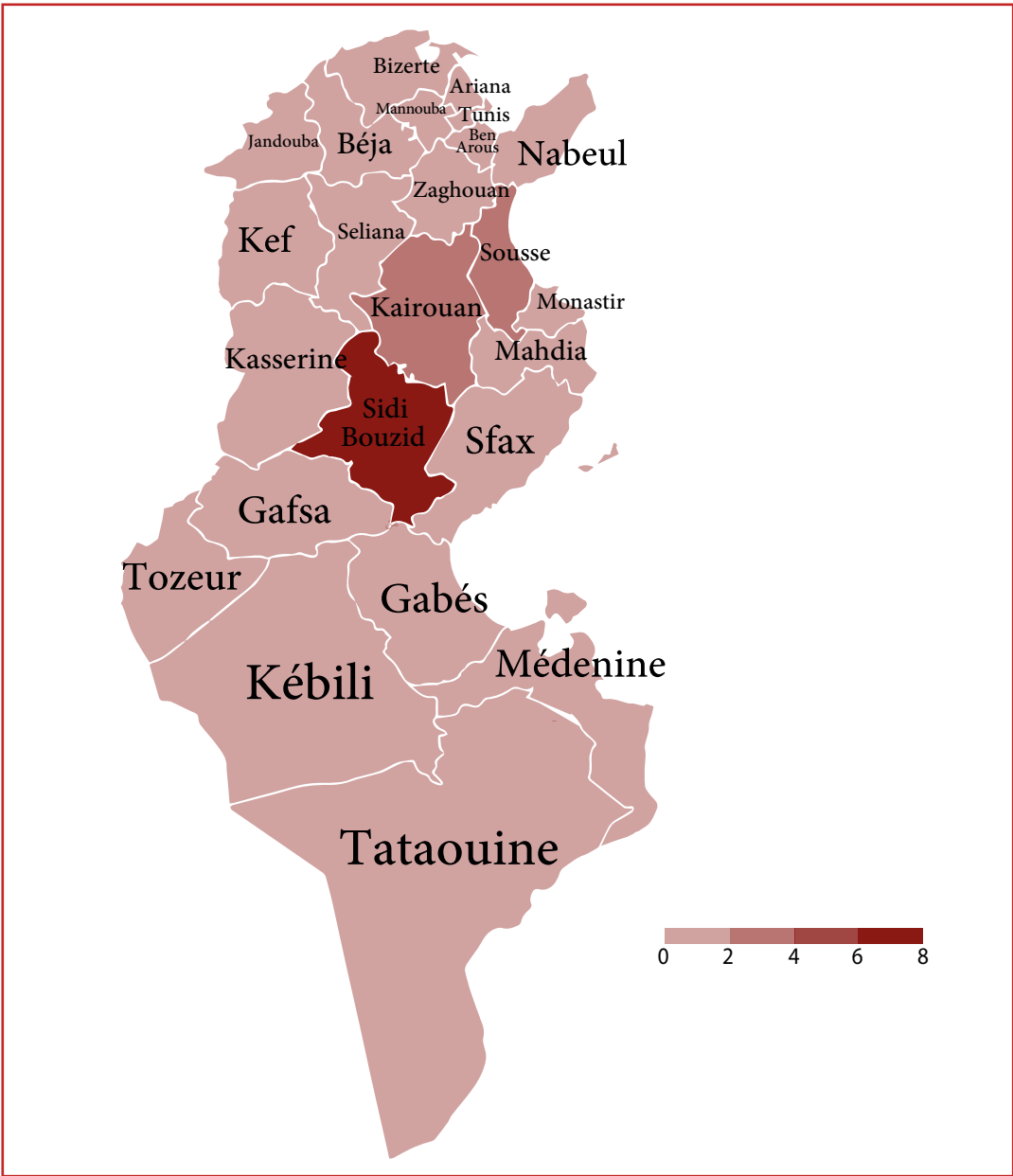
means of suicide



Eleven governorates were the site of cases of suicide and attempted suicide throughout the month of January 2020, namely Kairouan, Sidi Bouzid, Sousse, Nabeul, Zaghouan, Jendouba, Mahdia, Sfax, Monastir, Tunisia and Bizerte, with discrepancies in the number of cases recorded with 8 cases in Sidi Bouzid, 4 in Kairouan, 3 in Sousse and 2 in Nabeul and Zaghouan and 1 case in the rest of the governorates.

Suicides and attempts of suicide by governorate

Governorate	Bizerte	Tunis	Ariana	Manouba	Ben Arous	Zaghuan	Nabeul	Jendouba
Volume	1	1	0	0	0	0	2	1
Governorate	Beja	Le Kef	Seliana	Sousse	Monastir	Mahdia	Sfax	Kairouan
Volume	0	0	0	3	1	1	1	4
Governorate	Kasserine	Sidi bouzid	Gabes	Medenine	Tataouine	Gafsa	Tozeur	Kebili
Volume	0	8	0	0	0	2	0	0



Violence

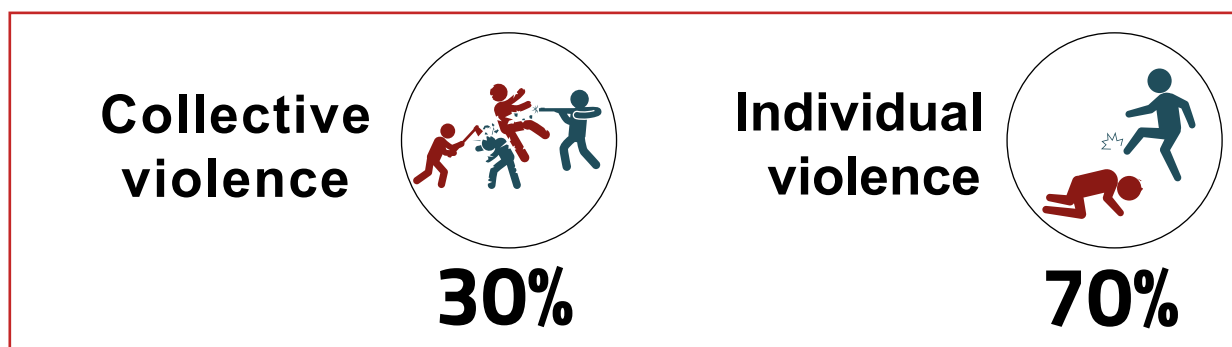
The violence noted in public spaces intensified in January 2020 in its criminal form, namely robberies, which represented the most frequent type in the survey sample of the Tunisian Social Observatory team that included all daily and weekly newspapers, websites, audio-visuals and the most important social networks.

During the month of January, incidents of violence increased in educational spaces, which accounted for approximately 22% of the total amount of violence observed. Schools, colleges, high schools and their surroundings were areas of fighting, harassment and verbal violence against students, educators and semi-educational staff....

At the same time, there were incidents of sexual harassment and violence by educational officials, which led to the suspension of classes and protests in one of the capital's schools for more than a week.

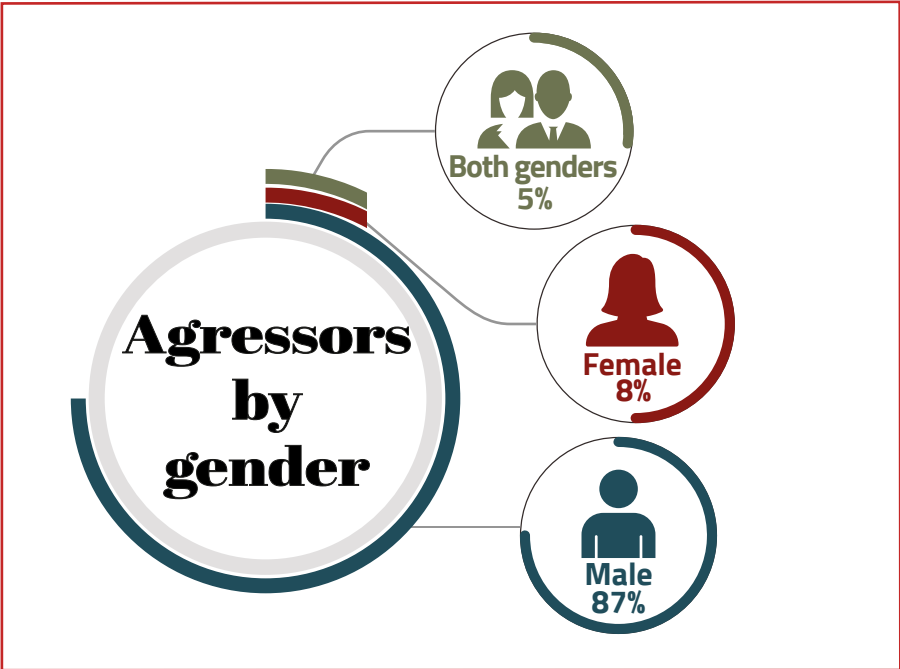
These facts have, in part, reflected the problems related to the way in which our schools, colleges and high schools operate and have highlighted the slow interaction of the supervising ministry (Ministry of Education) in responding to this type of aggression to which the student may be exposed. For example, the intervention of the Minister of Education with the suspicion of harassment on the part of a general supervisor in one of the colleges in the governorate of Gafsa took more than two months. The suspect was not arrested until after the problem had been reported more than once by the audio and printed media.

cases of violence



According to the results of the watch carried out throughout the month of January, the level of individual violence was the highest, exceeding 70% of cases against 30% of collective violence.

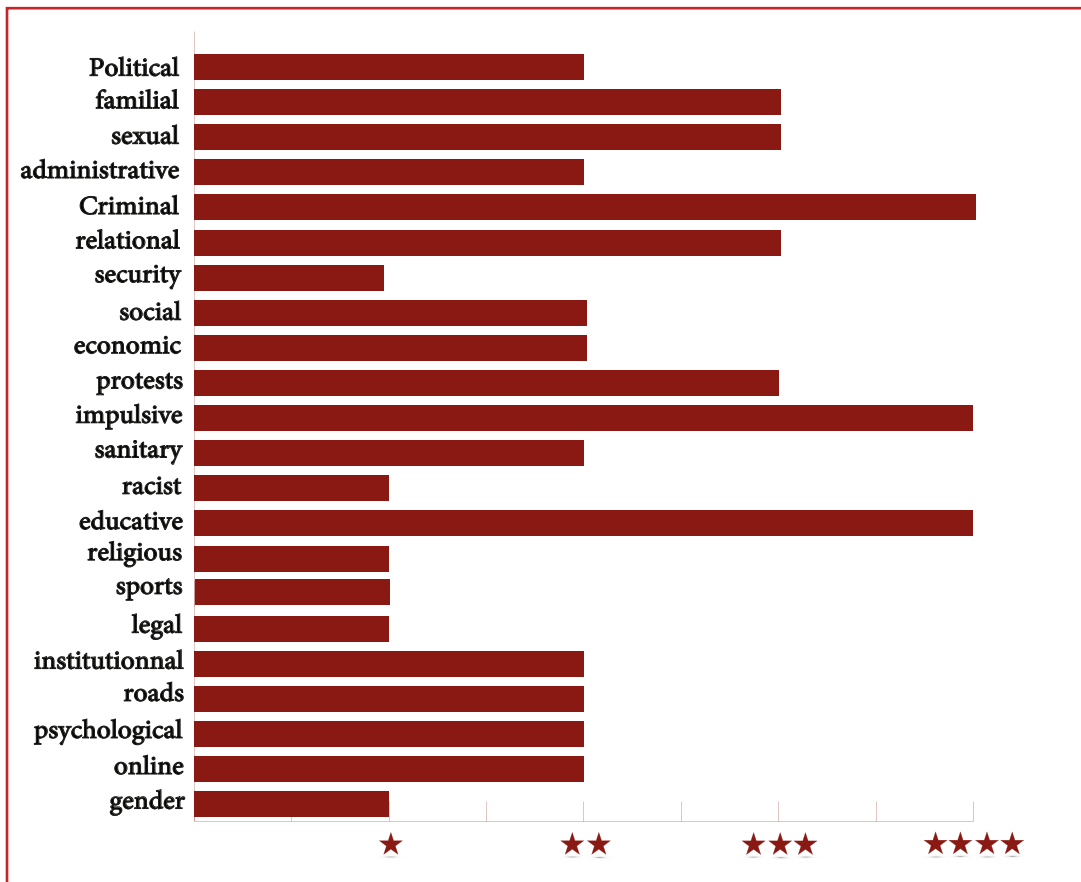
As in previous months, men were the most involved in violent incidents of all kinds, accounting for 87% of the perpetrators recorded, compared with 8% of women, and the rest of the acts recorded were of a mixed nature.



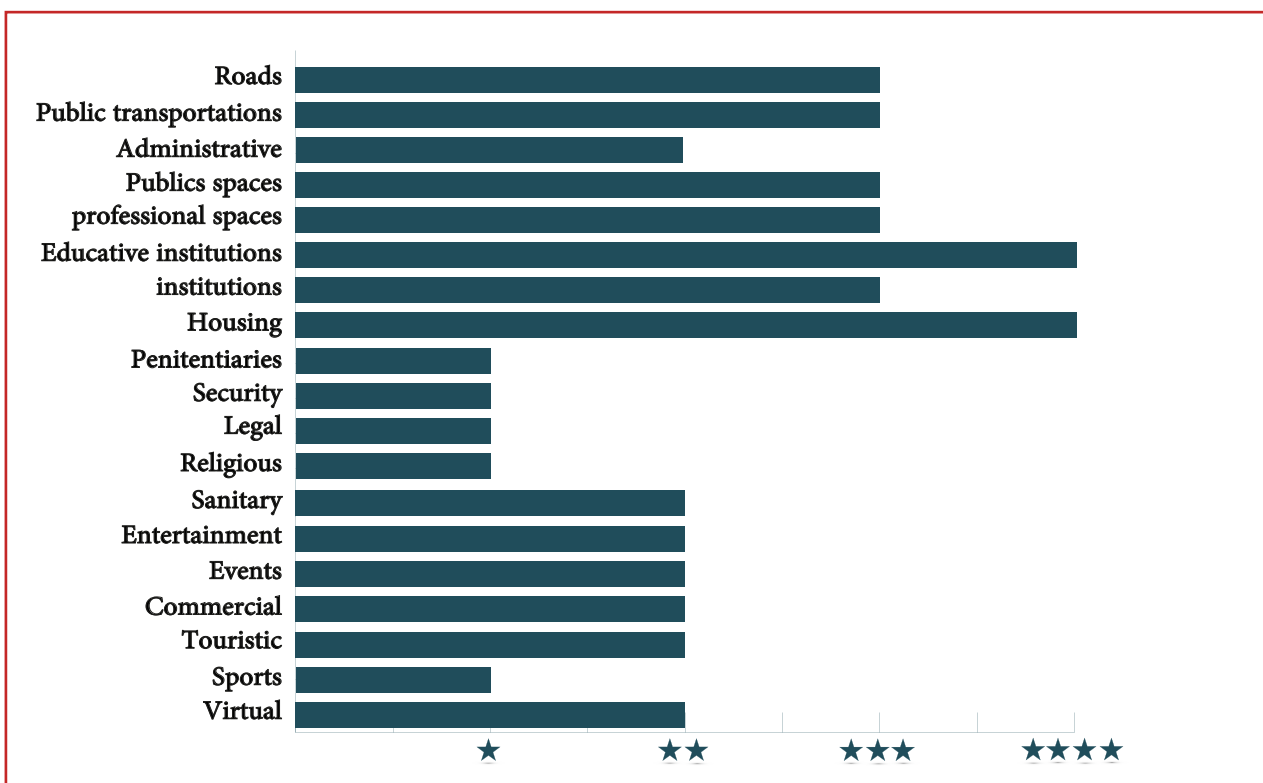
Exceptionally, violence in its impulsive form rose to occupy the first place in the order of forms of violence observed during the month of January, it accounted for 38% of violence recorded, followed by violence of a criminal nature, with 33% while violence of a sexual nature occupies the third place with 18% of reported incidents. The monthly trend of sexual violence continues with an increase in sexual assaults against children and minors under 18 years of age.

Relational and family violence comes at a later level, collectively accounting for about 36% of the violent incidents observed in January.

Forms of violence



Intensity of violence by space



The results of the watch showed that the family residential space is the most common setting for the different types of violent incidents, with 29% of the violence recorded during the month, followed by the educational space, the public space and roads with a proportion of about 22%.

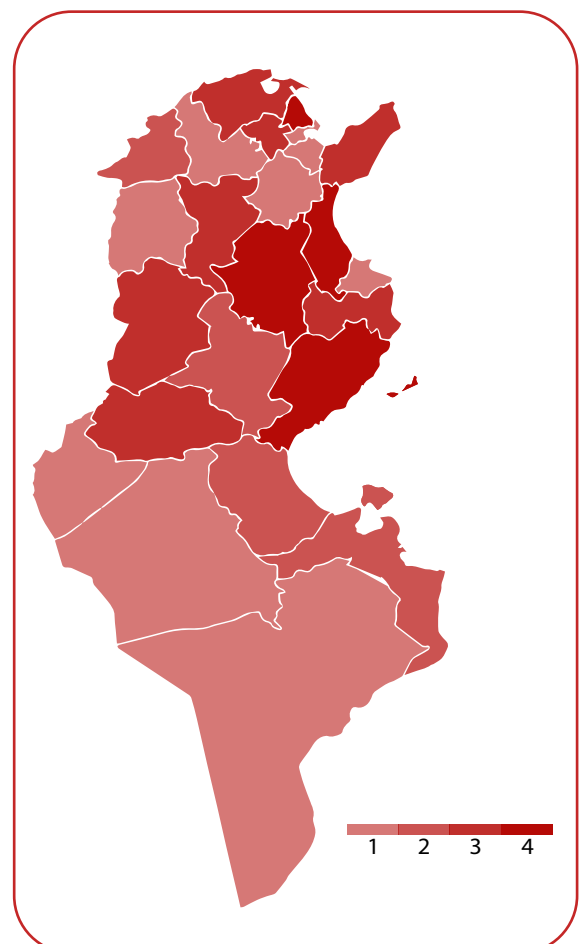
Moreover, the work space is one of the spaces that has experienced an increase in the forms and incidents of violence, accounting for about 9% of the violence observed.

It is important to note that, in response to the protests and denunciations generated by the phenomenon of robberies on social networks and via the audio-visual and written media, the official authorities represented by the Ministry of the Interior attempted to reduce the scale of the problem by stating in a communiqué that the level of robberies has not increased recently but remains, statistically, at the same level as in previous years. In an effort to respond to the citizen's anger and dissatisfaction, the Ministry of the Interior has initiated security campaigns in railway stations, markets, on the roads and in popular and densely populated neighborhoods.

Intensity of violence by space

A reading of the cartography of violence at the national level shows that the majority of the governorates of the Republic are affected by the phenomenon of violence in its various forms, but to varying degrees.

As the previous monthly reports of the Tunisian Social Observatory as well as its annual report show, the governorates of Kairouan, Tunis, Sfax and Sousse (the big cities) are the most concerned regions by the phenomenon of violence since they collectively monopolize nearly half of the violent incidents recorded in January 2020.





Conclusion

There is no doubt that January 2020 was an eventful start to the first year of a new five-year post-general election period that has not yet resulted in the creation of a government, just as it has produced features of political instability that can lead to premature parliamentary elections.

Meanwhile, we are witnessing increasing expectations to improve living conditions and provide economic and human rights, which are, since 2011, confronted by conflicts between political parties on the issue of identity and freedoms, so that the discussion slips from the main slogan of the protest movements that the country experienced in December 2010 and January 2011 "bread, freedom and national dignity" to find itself confined in a conflict over freedom, in the absence of any government program to meet the requirement of "bread and dignity" which translates as the need for economic and social rights.

From this perspective, the unpretentious celebration in different regions on the ninth anniversary of the revolution on January 14, 2020, may indicate that people feel that the revolution has not fulfilled its main demands and has not met their expectations of improving living conditions and achieving social justice.