

**N°112**



# REPORT **January**2023

**520**



Collective protests

**20**



Cases of suicide  
and attempted suicide

**341**



Migrants

**Forum Tunisien pour les Droits Economiques et Sociaux**



Adresse: 2, Avenue de France Imm Ibn Khaldoun (National),  
2ème étage Apt325-Tunis Bab Bhar 1000



(00216) 71 325 129



(00216) 71 325 128



contact@ftdes.net

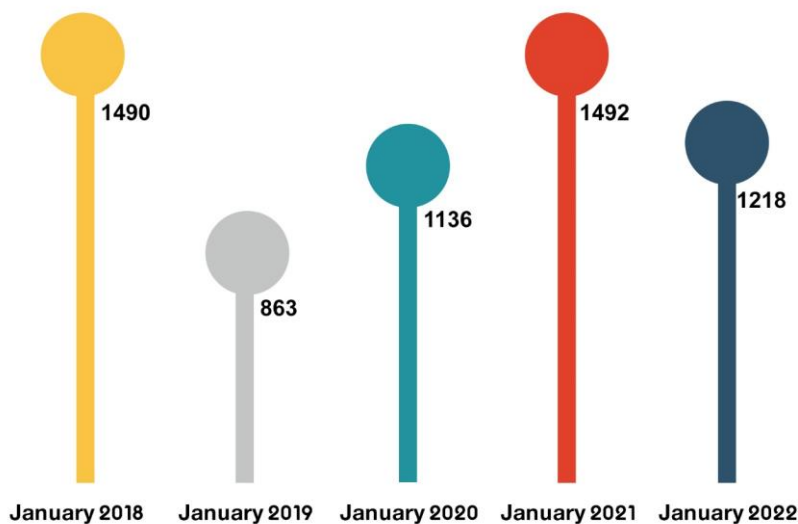


# January 2023 report on migration and social movements



## Introduction:

As expected, January 2023 was different from the months of January we have experienced the last five years in terms of the number of protest movements that often reflect the level of anger and social tension felt towards the violation of a number of economic, social, political and other rights... January 2023, has only witnessed 520 protest movements, which is the lowest number since 2018. The figures of the protest movements observed in January during the last five years are as follows:



In fact, this decline does not mean that the demands of citizens have been met since the same reasons that led the demonstrators to express their anger, to claim employment and development, improvement of basic services, end the collapse of purchasing power and others, still persist and are rooted in the tragic daily life of Tunisia and its people.

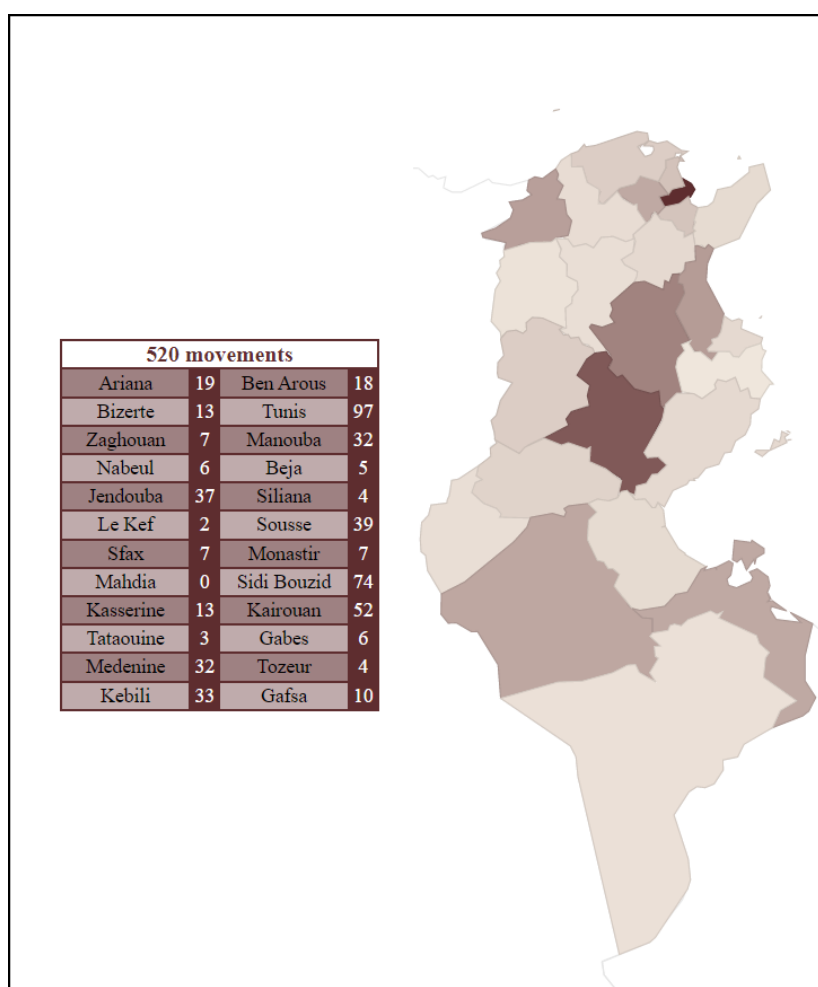
This decline rather reflects the lack of perspective and the general disappointment felt by the citizens which has curbed the expression of this tremendous fury.

Thus, the record of January 2023 reflected the extent of the general feeling of disappointment and despair, despite all the negative social and economic

indicators of this month, and despite its coincidence with the 12th anniversary of the collapse of the Ben Ali regime following the social protests that invaded the country in late 2010 and early 2011. This weariness that is felt, is rooted in the absence of the President of the Republic and his government and its inability to react positively with the demands of the demonstrators, especially since the official rhetoric adopted is based on the stigmatization of social movements that he considers a form of conspiracy. Citing here the example of the movement of the inhabitants of Zarzis who lost their children during an irregular migration journey last September.

## Geospatial distribution of movements:

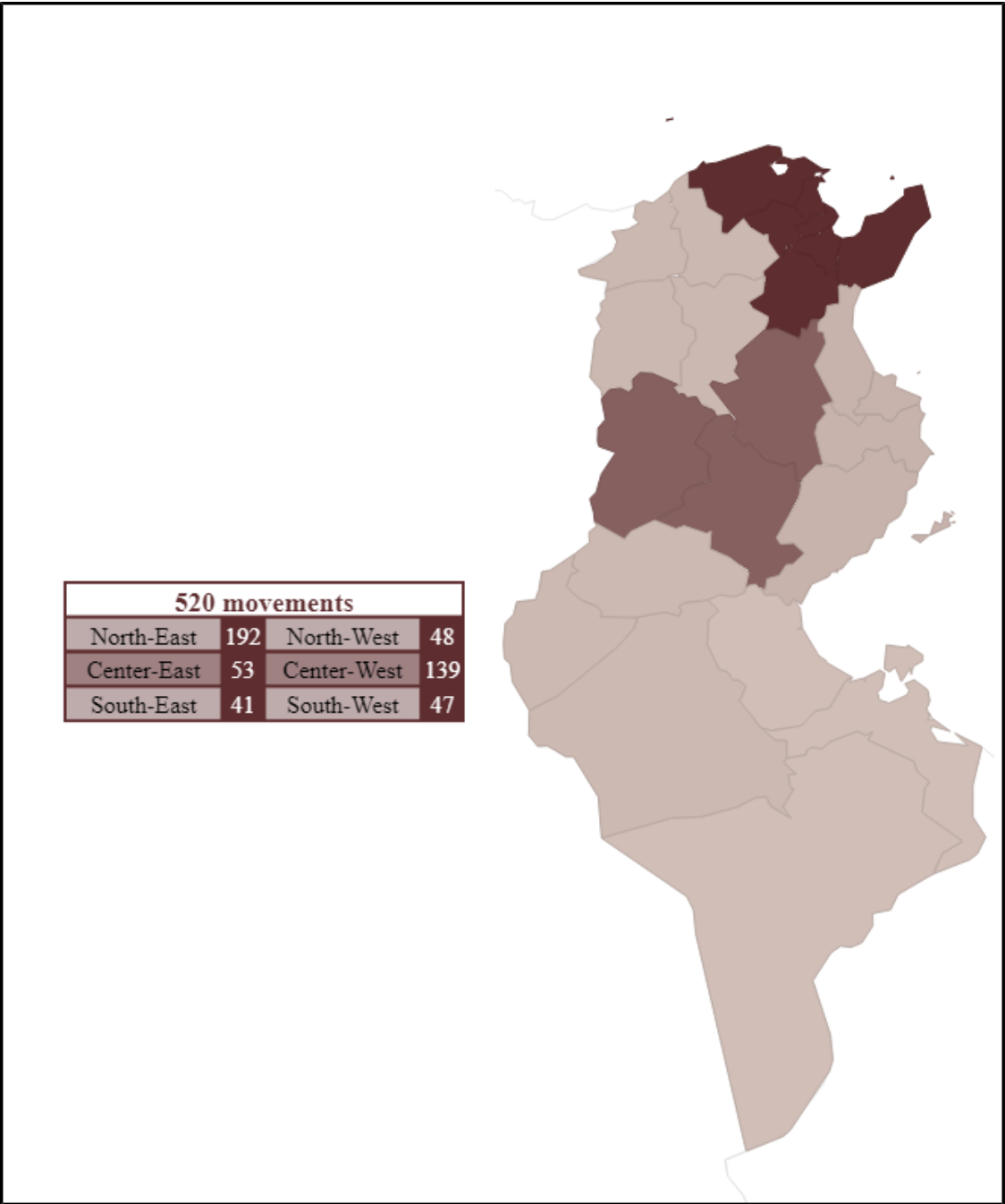
Greater Tunis has known the largest number of protests during the month of January, with 97 movements observed, followed by the governorates of Sidi Bouzid and Kairouan with 74 and 52 movements of protest. The movements that occurred in Sousse, Jendouba, Kebili, Medenine and Manouba are around 30 movements.



This map indicates that anger is inherent in the different governorates, but its expressions vary from one region to another.

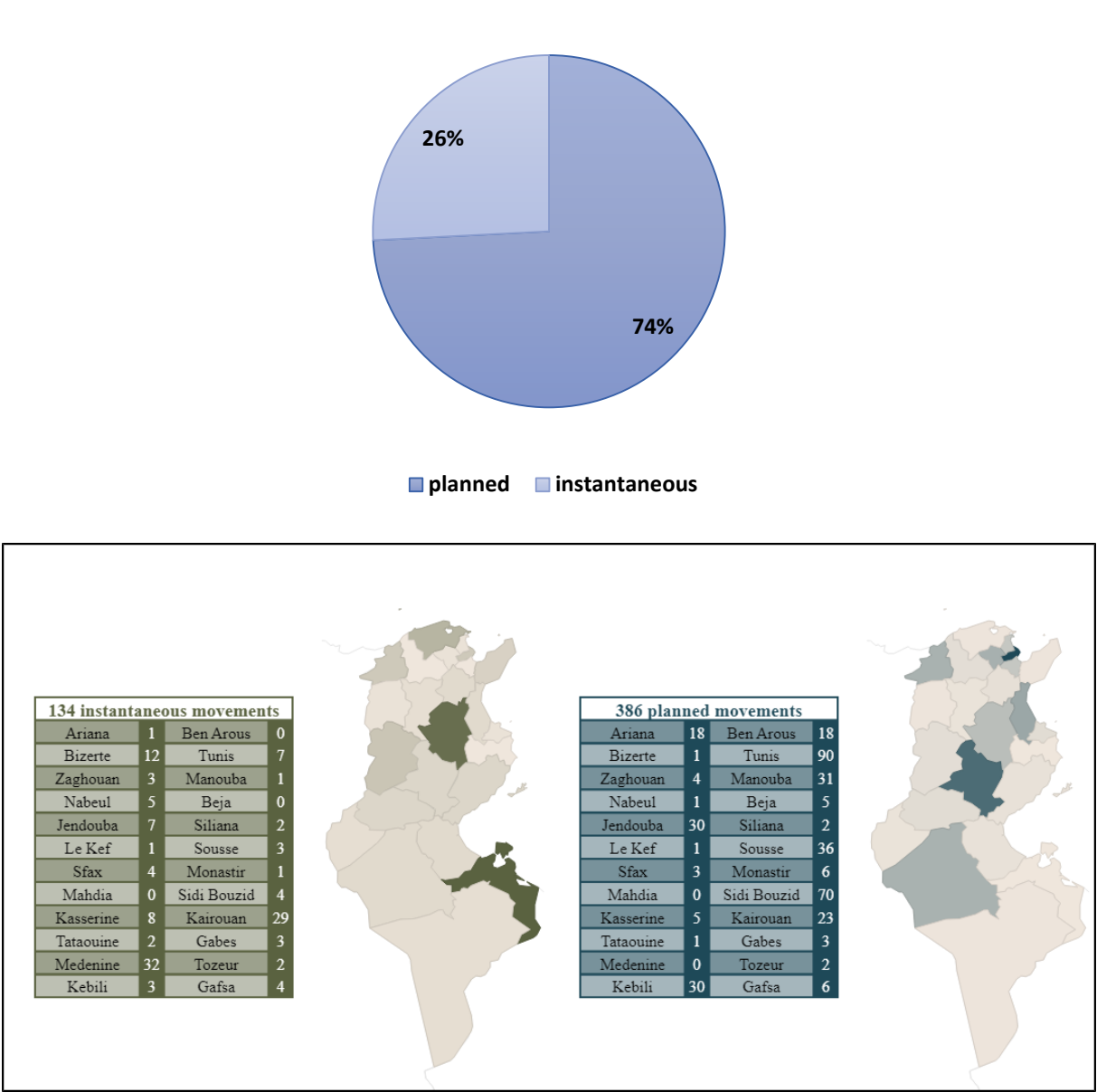
On the regional scene, the northeast leads in terms of number of protest movements, recording 192 movements throughout January in the governorates of Greater Tunis, Nabeul, Bizerte and Zaghouan. The center-west comes second with 139 protest movements observed in the governorates of Kasserine, Sidi Bouzid and Kairouan.

In the rest of the regions the movements were around 47 protest movements which reflects the state of social anger across the country.



These protests were mostly organized, at a rate of 74.2%, while the share of spontaneous protests, i.e. resulting from immediate reactions, reached 25.8%.

These figures vary according to the claims and regions, as more than 90 percent of the movements observed in greater Tunis were organized, while movements in Medenine were 100% spontaneous.

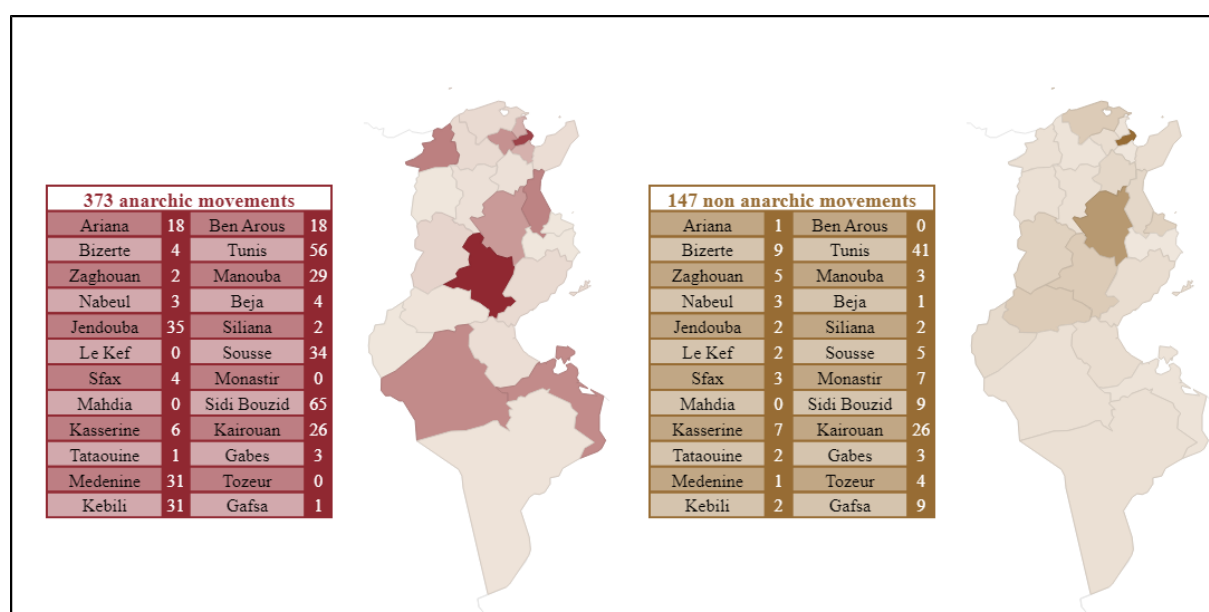
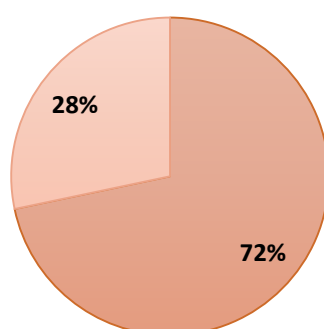


The January demonstrations were marked by anarchic character, at about 71% of the total number observed. The anarchic demonstrations are those that tend to fall into violence by disrupting the daily lives of citizens, the functioning of public institutions or other ...

In recent months, if not years, most of the organized demonstrations observed have been sliding towards anarchy. This is related to the level of interaction with these movements and the recurrent attempts to disperse them by force.

Although the number of anarchic movements in January 2023 has decreased compared to the last months and years, the rate is still significant and requires good management of the social crisis so that congestion and anger do not creep into violent expressions.

■ anarchic ■ non-anarchic



## Actors and demands:

Most of the protest movements, namely 80% are mixed while the movements led exclusively by women represent 1% of the total number of movements observed.



The demands of the protesters were mainly of economic and social origin at 66%. Most of the protests were related to the public sector, with a rate of about 46% followed by those related to the transport and education sectors.



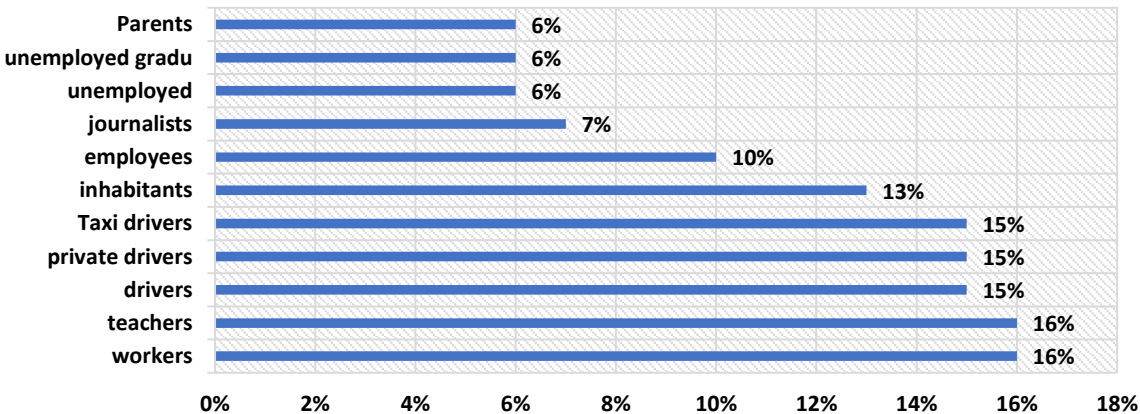
Specifically, the rights of workers and the settlement of labor situations topped the ranking of claims raised throughout January, with a rate of 61%.

This indicator shows the magnitude of the economic and social crisis in the country, which threatens the rights of workers, including the right to remuneration, the risk of closure and the deepening of job insecurity in the absence of regularizations.

Throughout January, the demonstrators also raised slogans demanding the right to water, the right to employment, the right to basic services such as sanitation, the improvement of transportation and infrastructure services, demands related to education, the environment, and the provision of basic commodities as well as other demands expressed throughout the post-revolutionary years.

The actors of these movements are workers, educational managers, drivers of public and private transport, civil servants, journalists, unemployed people, activists, students, prisoners, construction workers and farmers; in varying proportions.

Actors

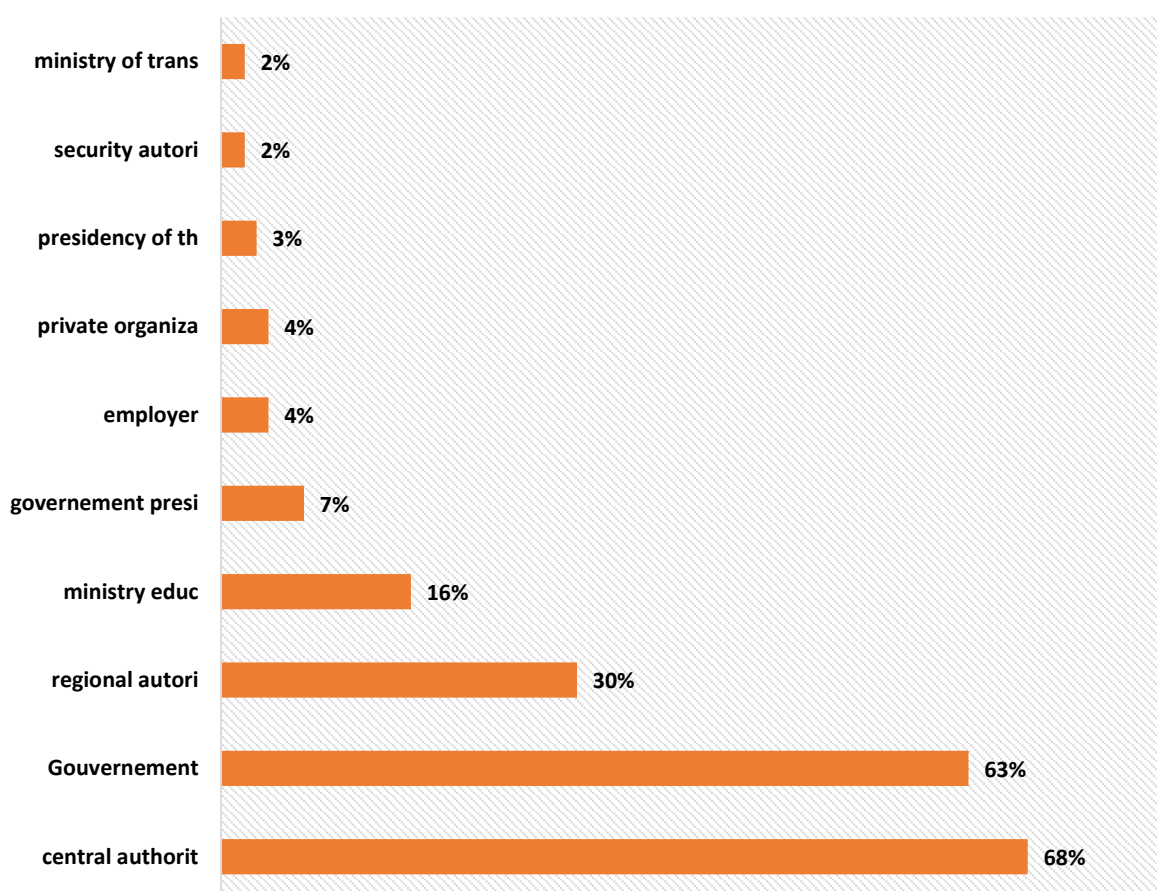




# Forms and Spaces of protests

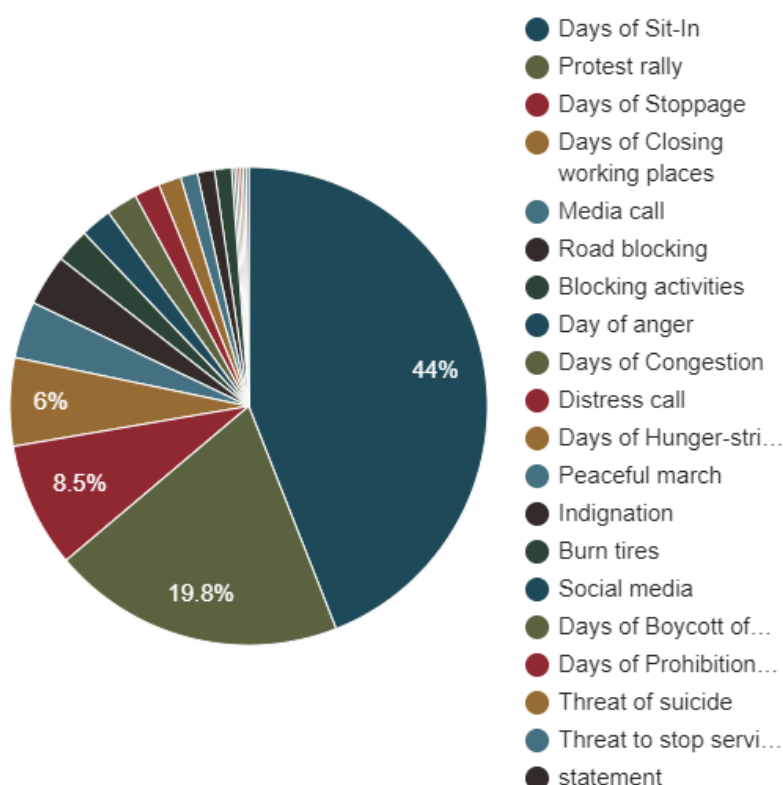
40% of the total number of protests observed took place in the streets, 16% in workplaces and 7% in public spaces. The rest of the common spaces have seen protests in varying proportions, namely the headquarters of administrations and media, prisons, etc. ...

## Targets



The actors of these movements targeted mainly the central authorities represented by the government; whether it is the presidency of the government targeted by 68% of the movements observed, or the ministries by 63% or the presidency of the republic, target of 3% of the movements observed.

The Ministry of Education experienced the largest share of protests (16%) due to the persistence of the crisis of substitute teachers and the crisis of the education system in general with no prospect of reform, including infrastructure, violence, and other persistent problems in the system.



## Conclusion:

In conclusion, the month of January 2023 was different, but it was an ambiguous introduction to a difficult year on all levels and in various areas. The absence of protest does not mean the absence of a major, silent anger that is about to explode and that will take the form of different expressions in the days to come, especially as living conditions continue to deteriorate sharply and the structural crises of the production systems persist and the circle of social vulnerability widens.

# Irregular Migration in January 2023

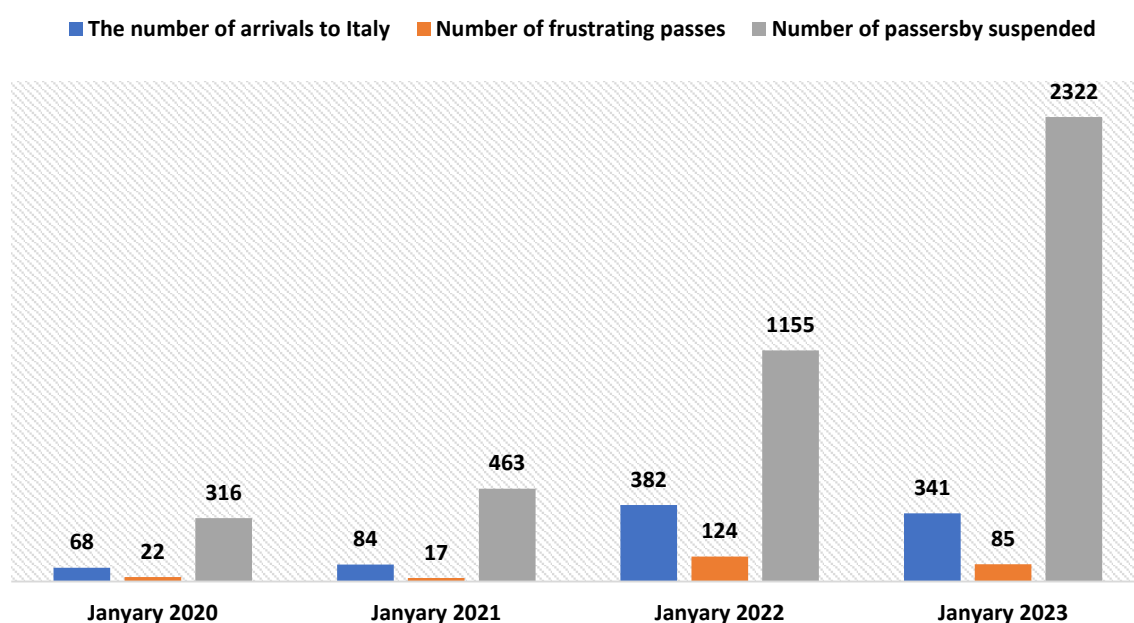


Even though the climatic factors do not seem to be favorable during the month of January for irregular migration, this proves to be an appropriate time for many people who wish to migrate. Statistics confirm that the beginning of the year 2023 is not at all reassuring, especially when contemplating the number of tragedies observed. The number of victims and missing persons is over 28. A frightening figure that indicates that 2023 will be a tragic year that requires the adoption of a new approach by the Tunisian state away from the existing security approach .

341 migrants of Tunisian nationality arrived in Italy, of which 75% were men, 2.34% women and 11.14% minors. The Tunisian nationality comes then in fifth place in terms of number of arrivals in Italy, with 6% of the total number of arrivals recorded.

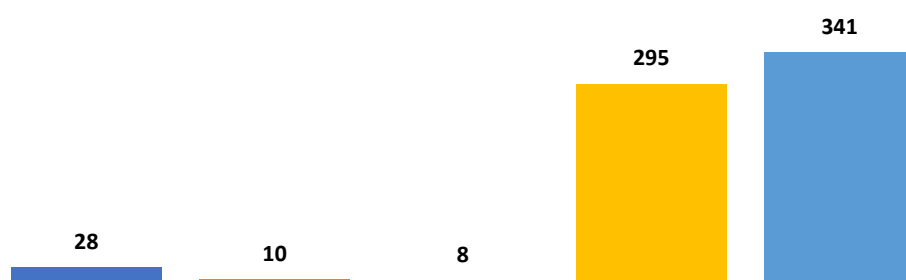
85 operations were intercepted of which 88.24% by sea and 11.72% by land, and the most striking figure this month, would be that of the number of migrants intercepted from the Tunisian coast which reached 2322 or an increase of 101.3% compared to the same period in 2022.

## Comparison In the same period during the years 2019–2020–2021 – 2022

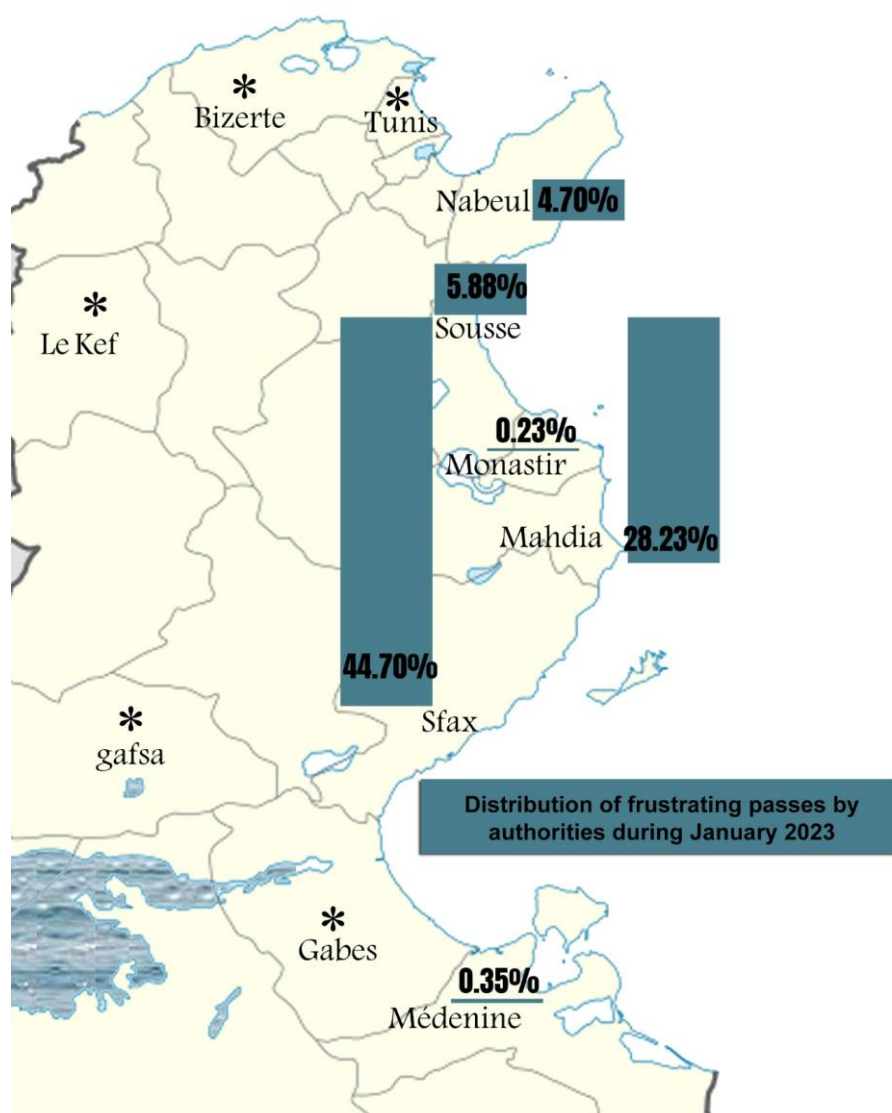


## Distribution of arrivals to Italy by months during 2023

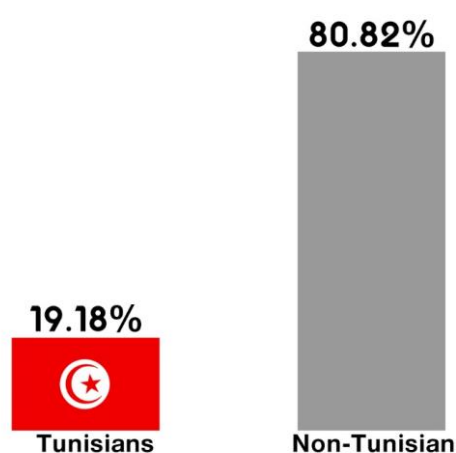
■ Unaccompanied and separated children ■ Accompanied children ■ Women ■ Men ■ number of arrivals



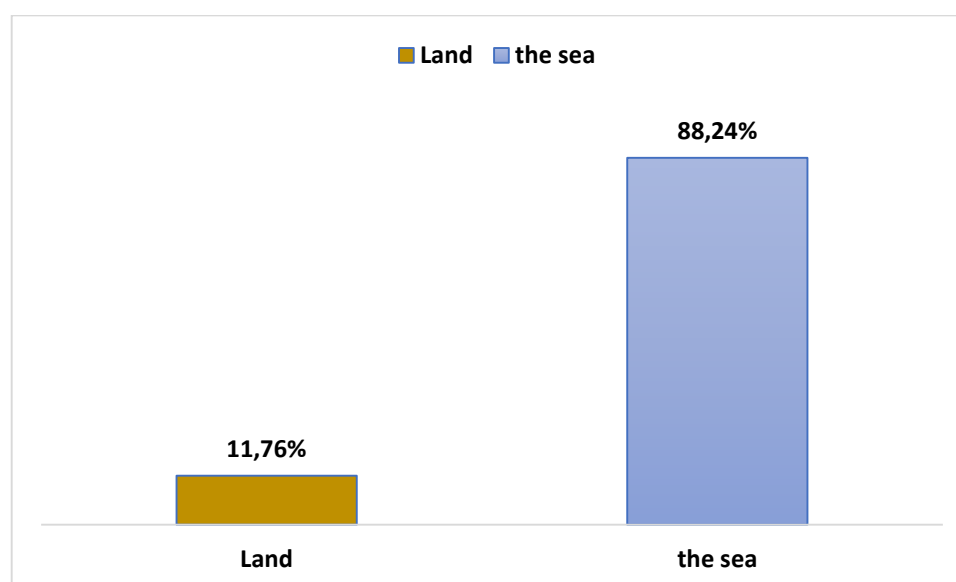
## Distribution of frustrating passes by authorities during January 2023



## Distribution of passers-by by nationalities During January 2023



## Distribution of frustrating passes during 2023



## The tragedies of irregular migration on the Tunisian coasts during 2023

The month	The number of victims and missing
January	<b>28</b>

The number of dead and missing on the Tunisian coast during 2022	The number of dead and missing in the Central Mediterranean Basin during 2022
<b>28</b>	<b>65</b>

## violence January 2023

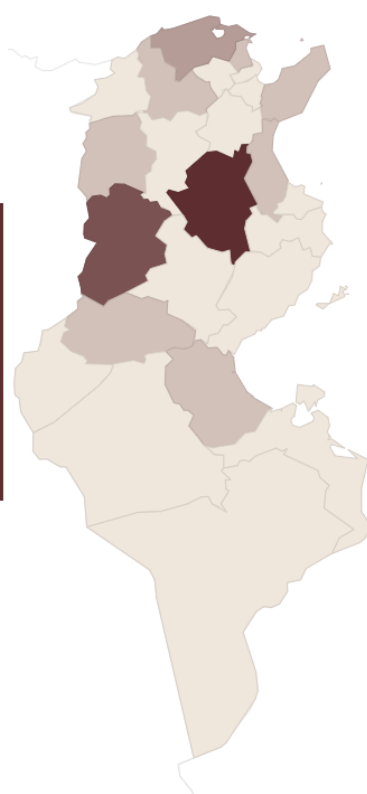


The map of violence during January 2023 did not show much change. The most vulnerable groups are still targeted, namely children and the elderly, and especially women. This month witnessed femicide, violence, rape, and abduction of minors. The violence was prevalent in many areas of the country. The public space, homes and educational institutions were the setting for the majority of acts of violence.

## Geographical Distribution of Violence

The governorate of Kasserine has experienced 27.8% of the cases of violence observed during the month of January. Kairouan is ranked second with a rate of 22.2%, followed by the governorate of Bizerte with a rate of 11.1%. The remaining cases were observed in the governorates of Beja, Nabeul, El Kef, Sousse, Ariana, Gabes and Gafsa with a rate of 5.6% for each, while no cases of violence were observed in the capital Tunis, which was prone to the highest levels of violence in previous months. Also, no cases of violence were observed in the governorates of Ben Arous, Manouba, Monastir, Sfax, Mahdia, Medenine, Tataouine, Tozeur and Kebili during January.

Ariana	5.6%	Ben Arous	0%
Bizerte	11.1%	Tunis	0%
Zaghuan	0%	Manouba	0%
Nabeul	5.6%	Beja	5.6%
Jendouba	0%	Siliana	0%
Le Kef	5.6%	Sousse	5.6%
Sfax	0%	Monastir	0%
Mahdia	0%	Sidi Bouzid	0%
Kasserine	22.2%	Kairouan	27.8%
Tataouine	0%	Gabes	5.6%
Medenine	0%	Tozeur	0%
Kebili	0%	Gafsa	5.6%



# Gendered Distribution

Men represented 38.9% of the victims of violence while the share of women was about 33.3%, and mixed victims in about 11.1%.

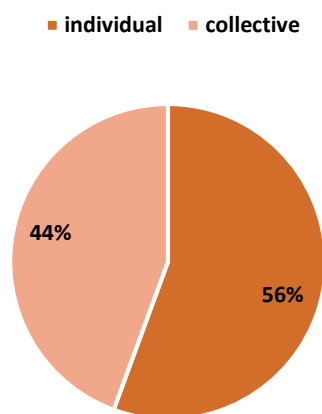
16.7% of the acts of violence observed by the Tunisian Social Observatory team resulted in human losses.



Violence during the month of January was characterized by its mixed nature at 88.9%, while men were responsible for 11.1% of the observed cases of violence.

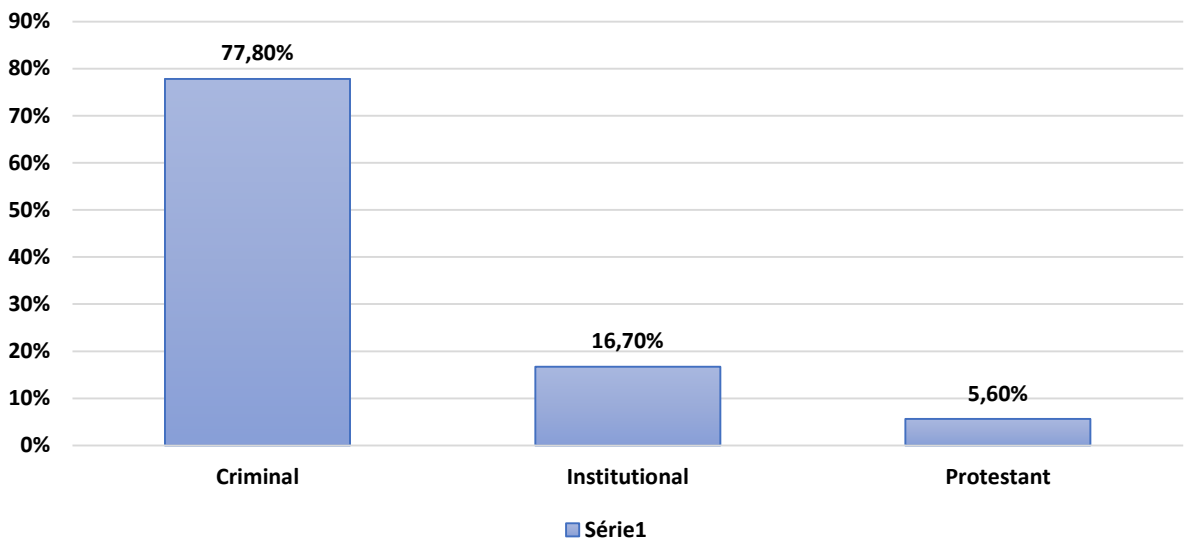
# Types de Violence

Individual cases of violence accounted for 55.6% of the total number of cases observed, while 44.4% of cases took a collective form. These percentages are similar to those recorded in December and November.



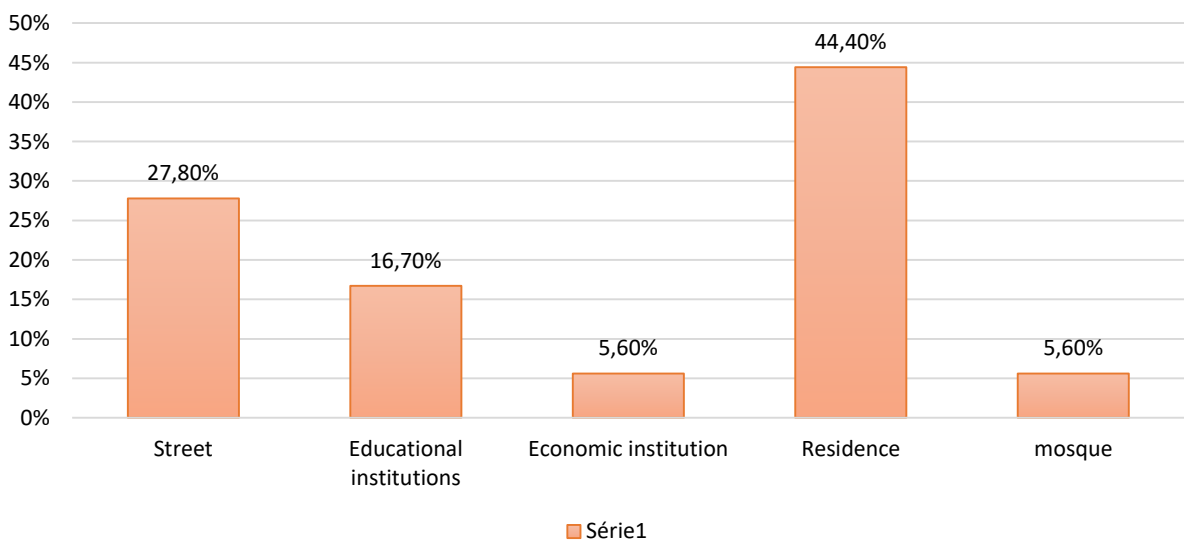


As in previous months, criminal violence was the most prevalent form during January, reaching 77.8% of the total violence recorded, followed by institutional violence with a rate of 16.7% and economic violence came third with a rate of 5.6%.



## Spaces of Violence

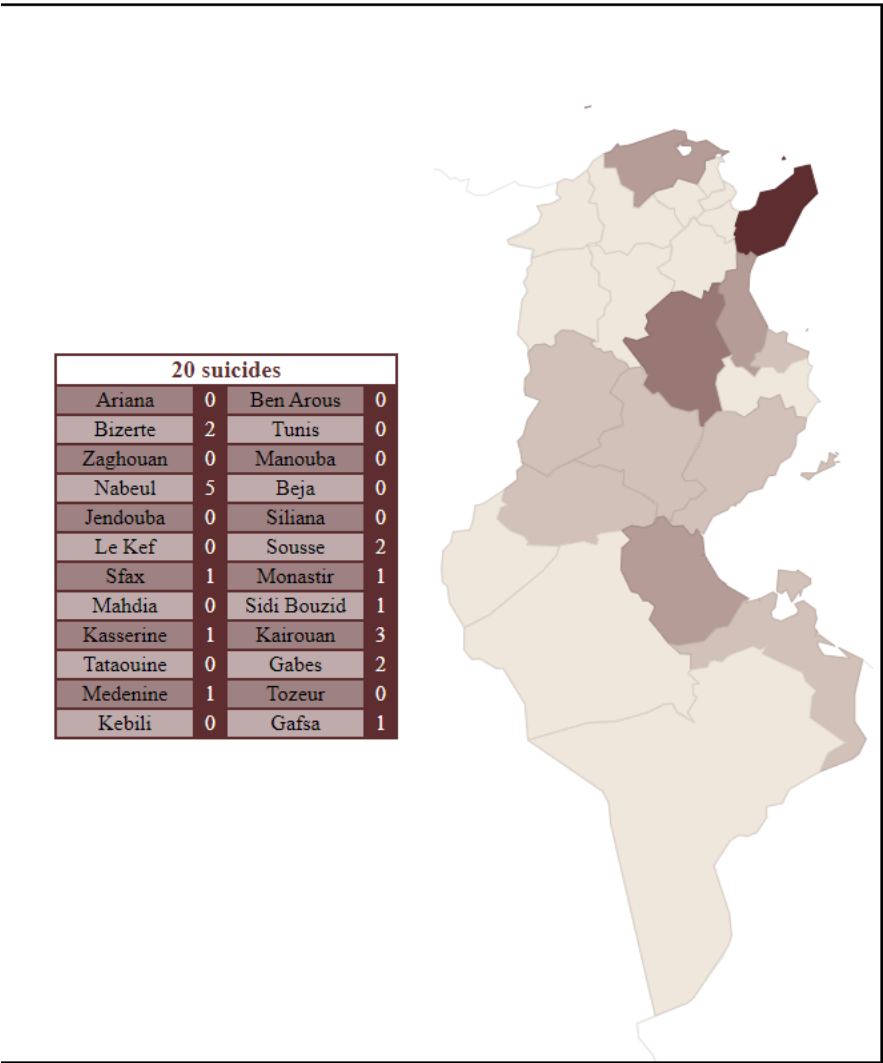
As in previous months, the family space experienced the highest percentage of cases of violence recorded during the month of January, where it witnessed 44.4% of the total violence observed, followed by the public space; the street, which is still considered to be the most important space where the majority of cases of aggression, violation and violence occur, with 27.8% of the total number of cases.



The month of January was marked by a remarkable tension in the educational and school space, where the recorded cases of violence reached 16.7%, followed by the economic and institutional space, with a rate of 5.6% of the observed cases of violence.

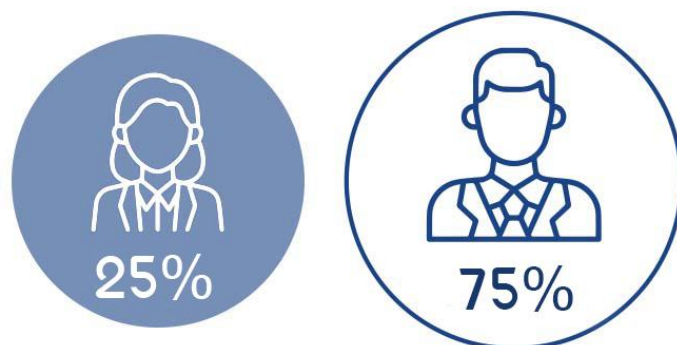
## Suicide and suicide attempts

The month of January 2023 witnessed a sharp increase in the number of suicides and attempted suicides, most of which were committed in a theatrical manner. The team of the Tunisian Social Observatory of the Tunisian Forum of Economic and Social Rights observed 20 cases of suicide and attempted suicide. The governorate of Nabeul has experienced 5 cases, Kairouan has recorded 3 cases, followed by the governorates of Sousse, Gabes and Bizerte which have known two cases, while only one case of suicide and attempted suicide was recorded in the governorates of Gafsa, Monastir, Sidi Bouzid, Kasserine, Sfax and Medenine. No suicide attempts were observed in the other governorates of Tunisia.



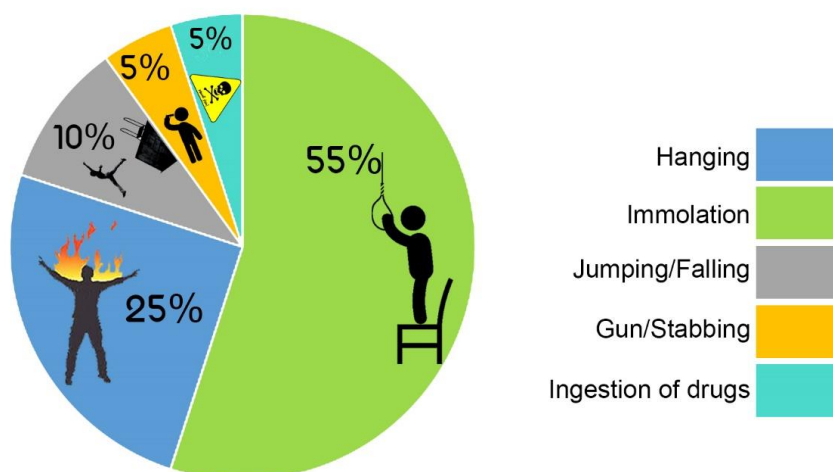
## Gendered distribution

75% of those who committed or attempted suicide during the month of January 2023 were male, while the percentage of females was approximately 25%.



## Forms of Suicide

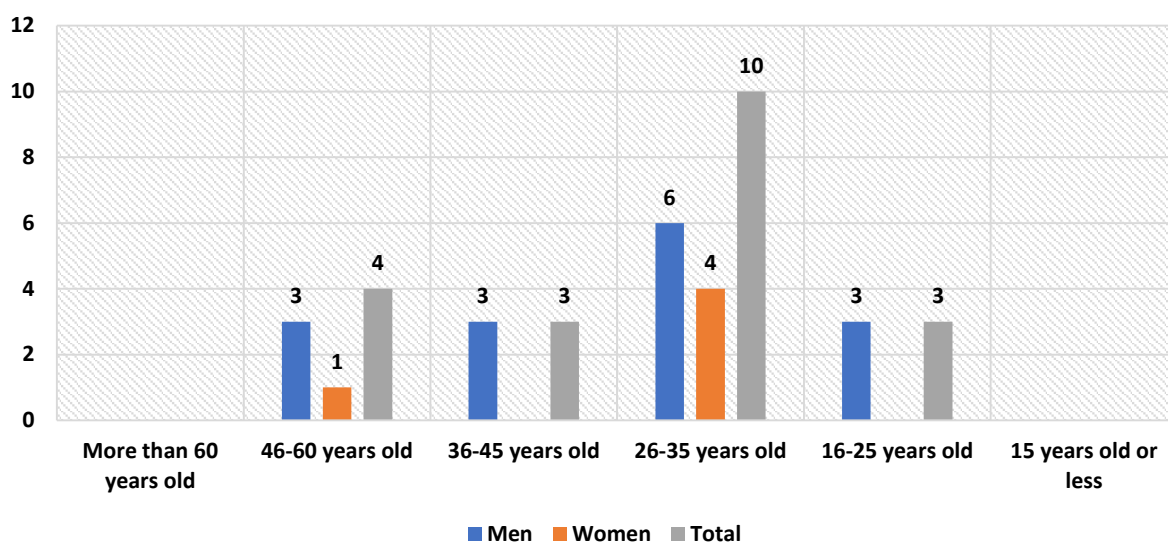
55% of the observed suicides and suicide attempts were committed by hanging, while suicide attempts by burning did not exceed 25%. Suicide by jumping and rushing was around 10% and suicide by bladed weapons was observed in 5% of the total number of the observed cases.



## Age distribution

The 25 to 35 age group was the most affected by suicides and suicide attempts. 10 cases of suicide and attempted suicide were observed in the 25-35 age group, 6 of which were men and 4 were women, and most of which had professional,

social or psychological problems. The age group of 45 years and over takes the second place with 4 victims, including one woman and three men. As for the age group under 25, the number of people who attempted suicide reached 3, all men, as is the case for the age group between 35 and 45, which recorded 3 suicide attempts, also all men.



## **Monitoring methodology for irregular migration:**

The totality of the data contained in this report represents what the Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights has been able to gather from various sources and by the available means. The digital data remains incomplete, not detailed and subject to updating and may not fully reflect reality, but in the absence of detailed and updated information from the Tunisian official side (number of passes - number Passengers - their distribution according to age groups and gender - defining where they come from - their social status - the number of missing persons...) These data may contribute to a clearer understanding of migration dynamics and significant transformations.

- **Frustrating Passes:** Reliance is placed on the Ministry of Interior's communiqués and the statements of the spokesperson of the National Guard in the various media. Most of them do not contain detailed data (sex, age groups, the parties from which the immigrants come...)
- **Arrivals to European coasts:** Many structures that emit digital data about arrivals to Europe, such as UNHCR, IOM, European countries' ministries of the interior and the European Coastal Control Agency.

The figures provided remain approximate and require continuous updating according to figures from official and civil structures that may be issued in subsequent reports but provide a reading of the evolution and change in the dynamics of irregular migration.

**Invisible numbers:** It's the number of migrants arriving in Europe across different routes without passing through local authorities or international structures does not have any effect on the census, which is important and varies according to the tactics of migrant smuggling networks. It also includes departures from the Tunisian coasts, which succeed in evading strict security controls, or those that are prohibited from passing them without issuing or without being announced.