

Number 81

اتحاد أصحاب الشهادات  
المعطلين عن العمل  
Union des Diplômés Chômeurs



تجميد الانتدابات  
قرار جائر ولا شعبي

اتحاد أصحاب الشهادات  
المعطلين عن العمل  
Union des Diplômés Chômeurs



تجميد الانتدابات رطوبة  
لاوامر صندوق النقد الدولي  
لا ديمقراطية  
دون عدالة اد

## Report of the month June 2020

Social movements, Suicides and Violence

934 collective protests and 24 cases of suicide and attempted suicide



# Introduction

The social situation has become quite difficult and the level of social tensions has doubled, with a tendency to escalate in the weeks following the period of targeted confinement and the resumption of normal activity after the long period of inactivity suffered by the state and citizens.

The complications of the social situation could worsen in the coming weeks if the government maintains the same policy of procrastination and indifference that it has always adopted with social actors and social demands. This is confirmed by the figures, indicators and results of the work of the Tunisian Social Observatory team through its monitoring of demonstrations and social movements in different regions throughout the month of June 2020.

This congested social situation is a logical result of unjust economic and social policies that do not provide solutions, do not respond to social actors as much as they create new crises, complicate existing ones and accumulate files.

This situation is accompanied by political tensions that can increase the gap between the people and those in charge of governance, thus fuelling social congestion, as this difficult social condition requires comforting messages and clear, fair and transparent economic and social policies that open up horizons for the people and restore confidence, even relatively, in their leaders.

Political tensions and government instability can expose the country to a difficult scenario, especially with the significant decline in the services provided to citizens and the significant deprivation of basic rights such as the right to water, the right to security, the right to work and good health services.



We can explain what we are presenting by going back to the figures and indicators previously published by the Tunisian Social Observatory in its previous monthly reports. The month of June has never been a season of protests and social tensions in recent years. As shown by the number of protests in June 2018 that amounted to 499 protests, which is the lowest monthly result in the first six months of 2018 estimated at 5625 protests.

The result of protests and social movements in June 2019 was also the lowest monthly result compared to the first six months of the same year, estimated at 4,909 protest movements.

June 2020 comes to break the rule with a sharp increase in the level of social congestion. It ranks second after January in terms of the number of demonstrations and social movements double the number of the same period in previous years.

The number of protest movements during the month of June 2020 reached 934 movements, registering an increase of 81% compared to the protest movements during the month of May.

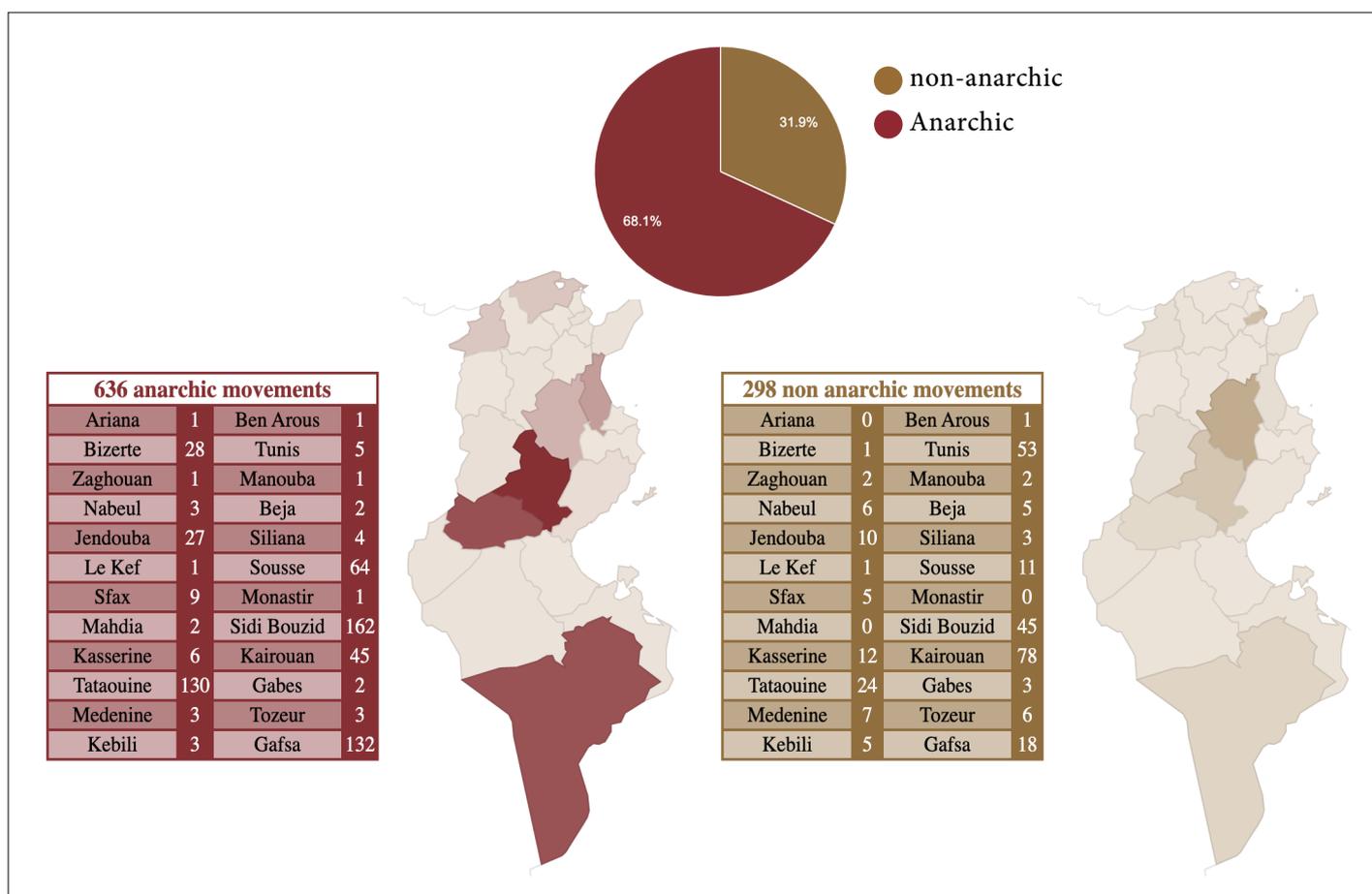
What is certain in the social mobilization and protests throughout the first half of 2020 with the peculiarity of an economic, social and health struggle with the Corona pandemic for about three months, the closure and total and/or partial suspension of the national economy, is this remarkable leap in the level of social movement observed between January and June 2020.

Moreover, the nature of the demands made by citizens and demonstrators in the protest spaces confirms that the situation is tending towards more tension and congestion and thus confirms a threat to the social ladder in the light of political

## Protest movements during June 2020

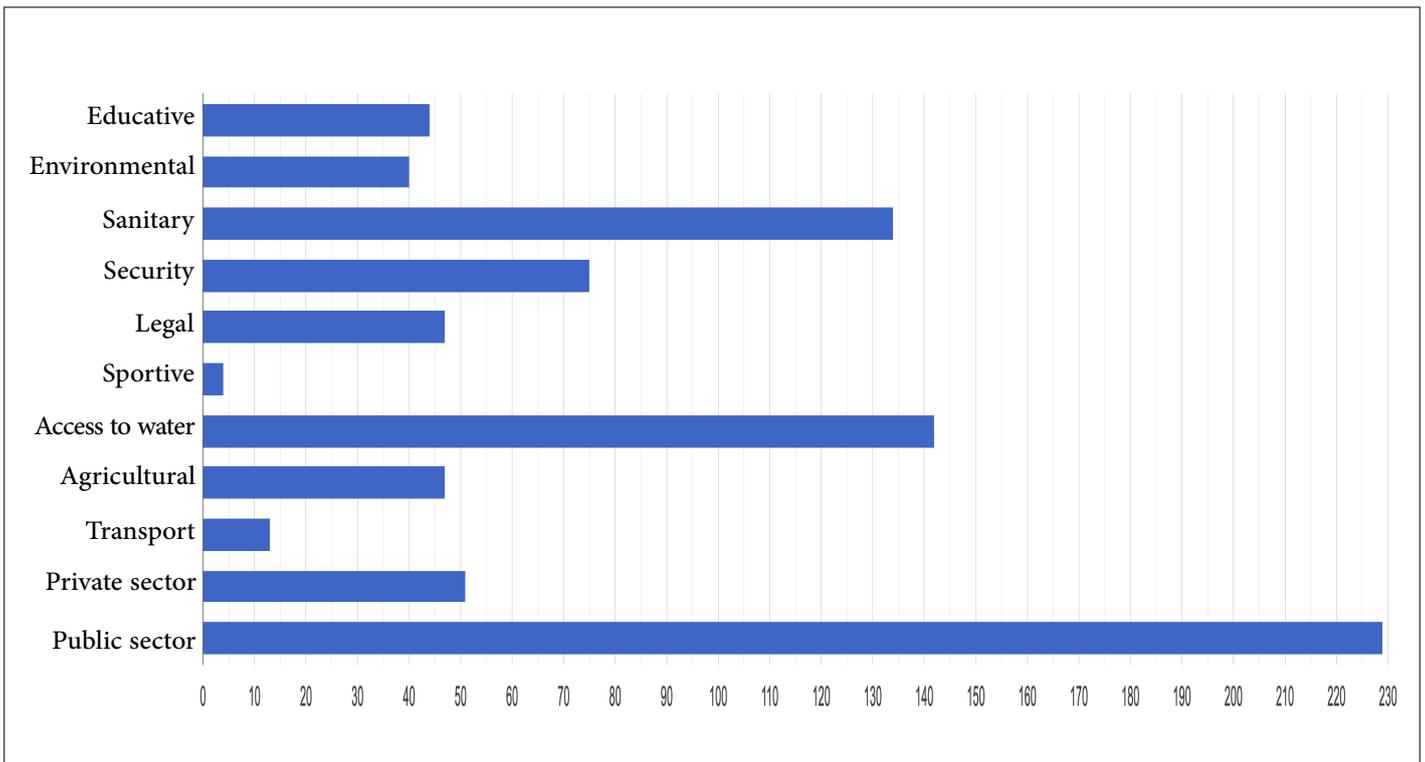
The number of demonstrations and social movements recorded by our monitoring unit throughout the month of June reached 934 protest movements, which represents the highest level of social congestion this month in three years, despite the exceptional situation faced by the citizens due to the Corona pandemic.

What is striking in this result is the change in the protest mapping to put the governorates of Sidi Bouzid, Tataouine, Gafsa and Kairouan in the forefront of the social scolding zones so that the result of the protest in these regions is 634 protest movements, which represents about 67.8% of the total protests observed, bearing in mind that the percentage of violent protests, i.e. those capable of sliding into violence or accompanied by violence, represented 68.1% of the total number of protests in June, which has not exceeded 51% in recent months.



It is also noted that the governorate of Kairouan, which for years has been at the top of the ranks in terms of social tension and suicide and attempted suicide, has ceded the rank of the leader in terms of the level of protest movements and most of its protests are oriented towards organization and coordination.

### Distribution of protest movements by sectors



Some of the demands raised by the demonstrators during the month of June are related to the exceptional situation experienced by economic institutions due to the consequences of the Corona pandemic. Throughout the first half of June, workers who lost their wages and/or work due to the closure of their institutions or the elimination of their services demonstrated in order to obtain their wages and financial benefits.

Moreover thirst was the most important slogan of the June demonstrations as in Brahmiya in the region of Zafarana in the south of Kairouan or in the region of Kettana in Gabes and in the university residence of Sidi Mansour in Sfax where the students made distress calls to be saved from thirst and to provide water in the housing.



Also, in the regional hospital of Kef, in the town of El-Matlaoui in Gafsa, where drinking water was interrupted for 3 days, as well as in Tebourba, Manouba, where drinking water was disrupted in the area of Shouiqui for 4 days, in the area of Chouachi in Hajeb El-Ayoun, governorate of Kairouan, where the interruption lasted more than a month, in the region of Gamboura in the delegation of El Oueslatiya, where water has been cut off for two years already knowing that 500

In the north of Douz, a demonstration against thirst escalated to tire burns to demand development. In the Tarbkhana region of the Sbeitla delegation, people demonstrated against thirst.

Demonstrators also blocked the national road number 16 connecting Kébili and Gabes to denounce thirst and in Ghomrassen, demonstrators demanded an immediate solution to the problem. The same demand was expressed in demonstrations in the regions of Jamel, Romdhaniya, Brabriya, Smeydiya, Mharziya and Chbika in the governorate of Kairouan, in the city of Ben Mezene, in Jendouba North and the city of Eriyeh, in Bousselem and in Ennifidha.

Protests against thirst did not stop at the demand for drinking water; thirst also affected agricultural production, which prompted many farmers to demonstrate in production areas in order to be supplied with irrigation water such as that of farmers in the area of El-Araya in Souk Essebt in the governorate of Jendouba.

In addition to thirst, many citizens have been compelled to demonstrate in the streets to demand security and protection due to the increasing level of violence and crime.

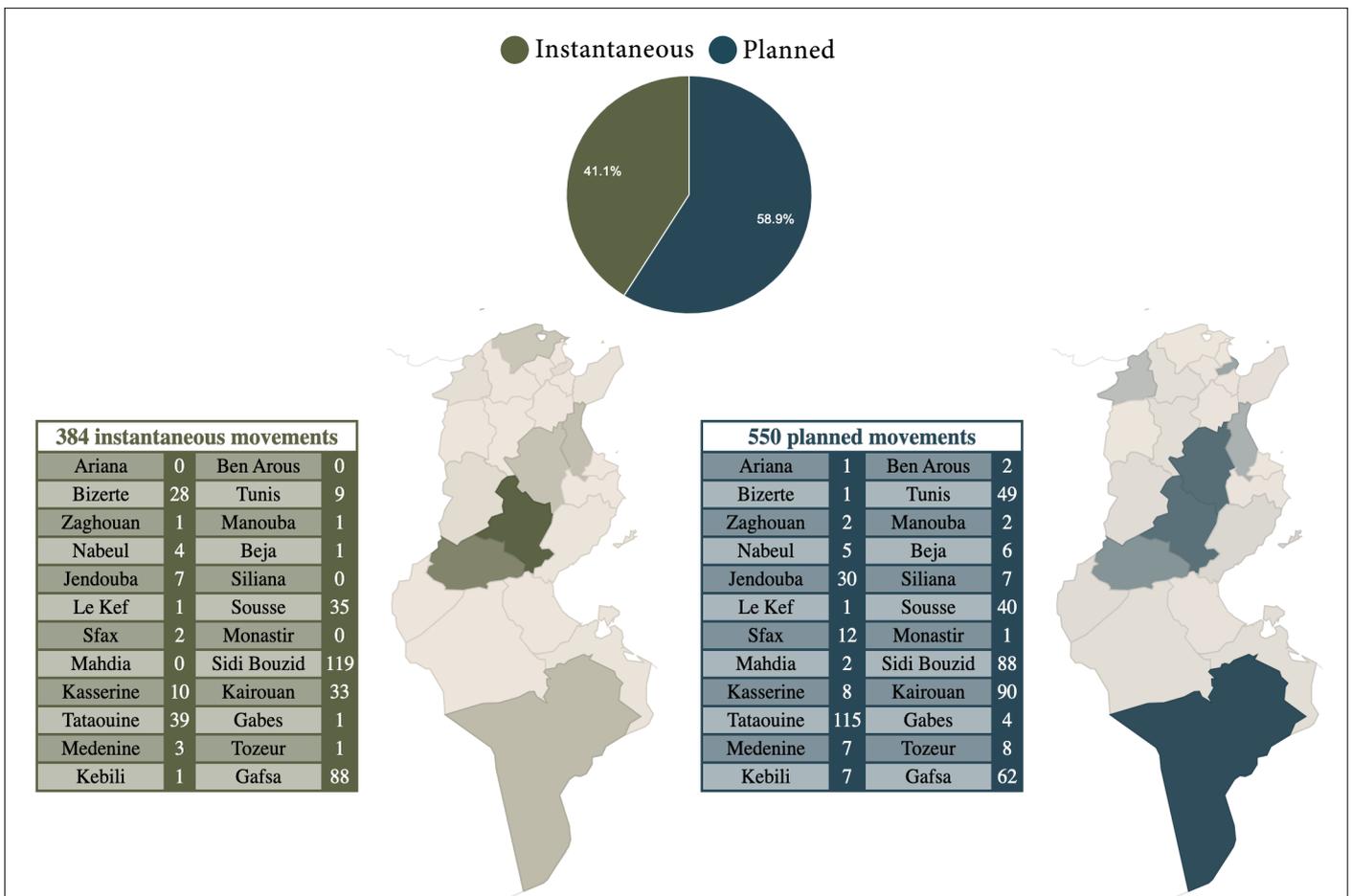
In Kasserine, families, supported by civil society, protested against violence following the death of a young man stabbed with a knife during a wedding ceremony. In Manouba, residents demanded protection from the growing number of burglaries.

The month of June also witnessed the protests of seamen advocating a number of long-standing and new demands, including the improvement of the situation in ports and the resolution of pending professional issues. In addition, the issue of urban shipyard workers has resurfaced after the failure of negotiations with the government on a final settlement.

The month of June also recorded numerous movements of job seekers in various regions to apply for employment, as well as the implementation of previous agreements that were not respected by the government despite their settlement years ago with the previous government, which raises the question of the concept of continuity of the governments' work.

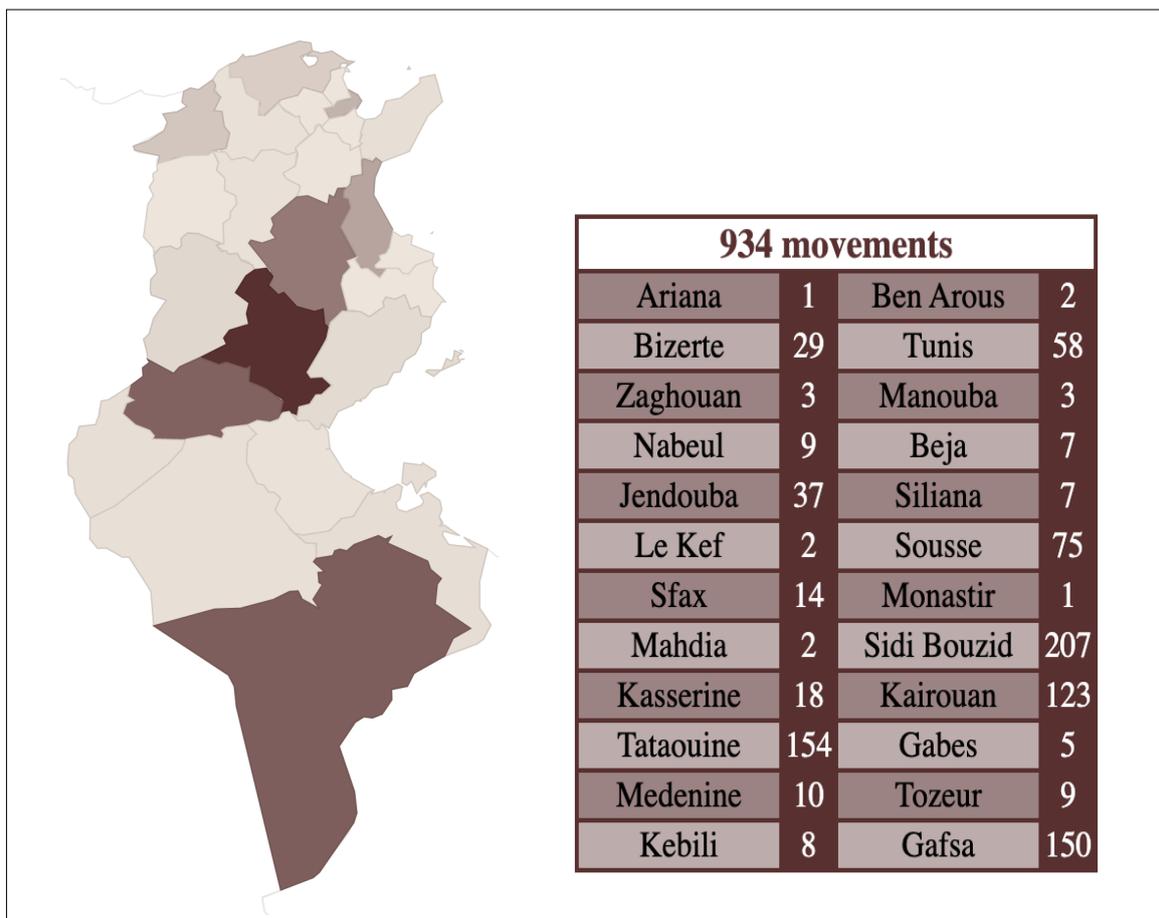
There was also a protest movement in the well of Sidi Bouzid which may spread to other regions in the coming weeks and is represented by repatriates from Libya who are asking for special attention to their social situation after their dismissal from the labor market.

## Nature of protest movements (June 2020)



The month of June also witnessed a protest movement that can be categorized as part of the protest centralization in order to shed more light and draw attention to the essence of the demands in places whose voice does not reach the capital. This was the case in front of the municipal theatre in the capital, where demonstrators from the Hajeb El-Ayoun delegation went to protest with the support of activists and representatives of national organizations to draw attention to the fairness of their cause and their right to regional development and the need to put an end to famine and marginalization in the region, which at the end of May experienced a social tragedy represented by the poisoning of dozens of young people by alcohol consumption.

### The mapping of protest movements by gouvernorate (June 2020)

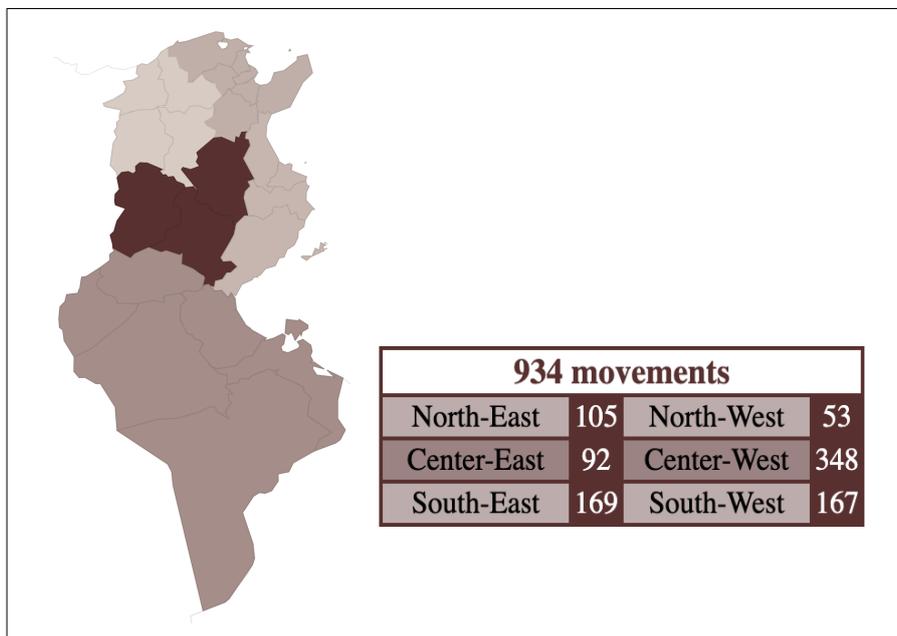


Sidi Bouzid has been propelled to the forefront of the most protestant regions in recent months and the demonstrations in this region are characterized by their anarchic character which means that they can slide into violence.

The number of protests registered in the region during the month of June reached 207 movements, followed by Tataouine in second place with 154 protests, Gafsa with 150 movements and Kairouan with 123 protests.

The centre-west is the most protestant region, followed by the south-west and east and then the north-east and north-west. The number of violent or violently-prone demonstrations reached 636 demonstrations, i.e. 68.1% of the total number of demonstrations in June 2020.

## Regional protestation movements



### Spaces of protests

Roads	30,09%
Hospitals	12,96%
headquarters of governorate	11,56%
Railroads	11,35%
Work spaces	8,99%
C.P.G	7,07%
Public spaces	6,00%
Administrative headquarters	4,39%
Ministry headquarters	3,64%
Educational institutions	3,53%
Medias	3,32%
headquarters of delegation	2,57%

As for the spaces of protest, roads were the first space for angry demonstrators with 30%, followed by hospitals with 13% and the governorate head offices with 11.5%. The emergence of hospitals as a space for protest was highlighted due to the continuity of demonstrations by health workers demanding a series of professional demands such as improving public health infrastructure, providing better health services and ending violence against medical and paramedical staff in hospitals.

### actors initiating the social movements

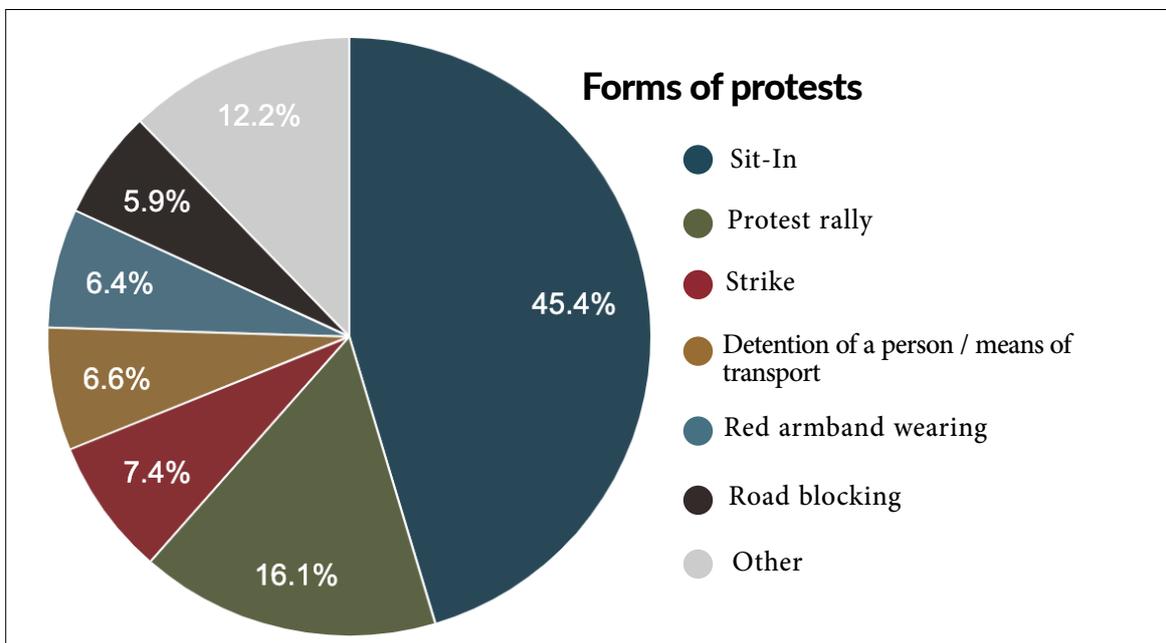
Inhabitants	18,09%
Youth	10,60%
Employees	10,49%
Unemployed	10,39%
Citizens	8,03%
Agricultors	4,93%
Workers	4,60%
Students	3,75%
Doctors	3,53%
Activists	1,61%

As for the actors engaged in the protest movements, they are the unemployed, employees, doctors, residents, young people and farmers.

With regard to the forms of protest, sit-ins rank first among the observed demonstrations with 45.4%, followed by protest rallies with 16.1% and road blockades with 5.9%.

The month of June witnessed 26 sit-ins, most of them demanding employment and regional development, and despite continuous attempts of lobbying and escalation, these movements failed to receive any interaction from the authorities at local, regional or national level. Most of these movements were confronted with the security machinery, as for example, in the Kamour sit-in where clashes between demonstrators and security forces lasted for three days causing material losses and injuries in the ranks of both parties.

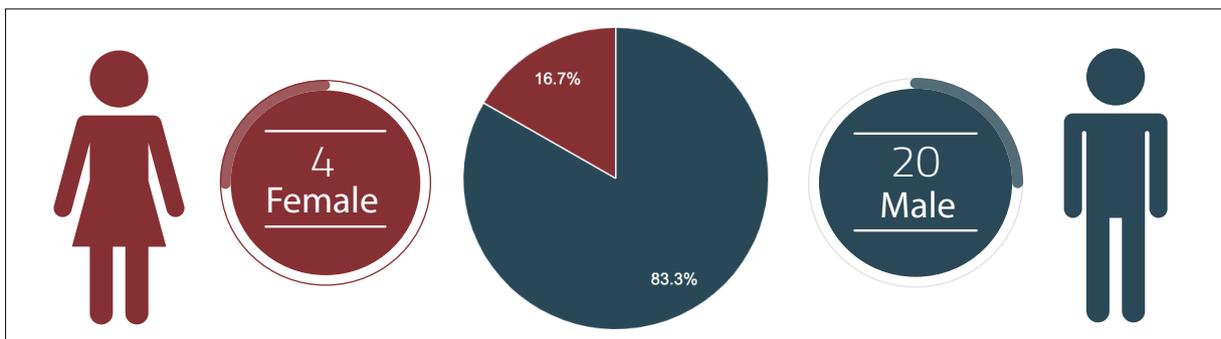
With regard to the Meknessi sit-in, the government used judicial treatment by arresting the demonstrators and prosecuting them in court, the same approach was adopted with the sit-ins in the Gafsa governorate in each of the four delegations in the mining basin, in the Gsar delegation and the southern region of Gafsa.



# Acts and attempts of suicide

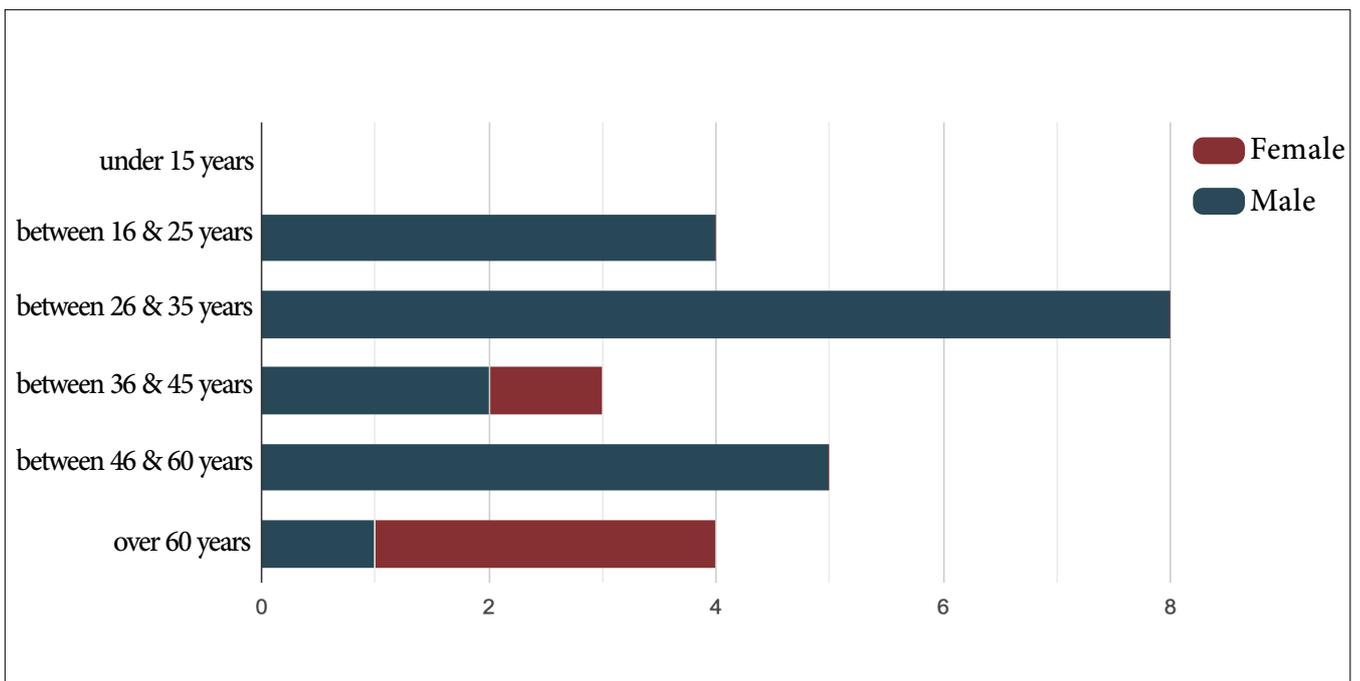
24 acts of suicide and attempted suicide occurred mostly in the governorates of Nabeul (7 cases) and Gafsa (5 cases). Two acts of suicide and attempted suicide were recorded in the governorates of Monastir, Kairouan and Bizerte, respectively. One case of suicide and attempted suicide was recorded in the governorates of Seliana, Gabes, Sousse, Ben Arous, Jendouba and Kasserine, respectively.

## Suicides and attempts of suicide by gender

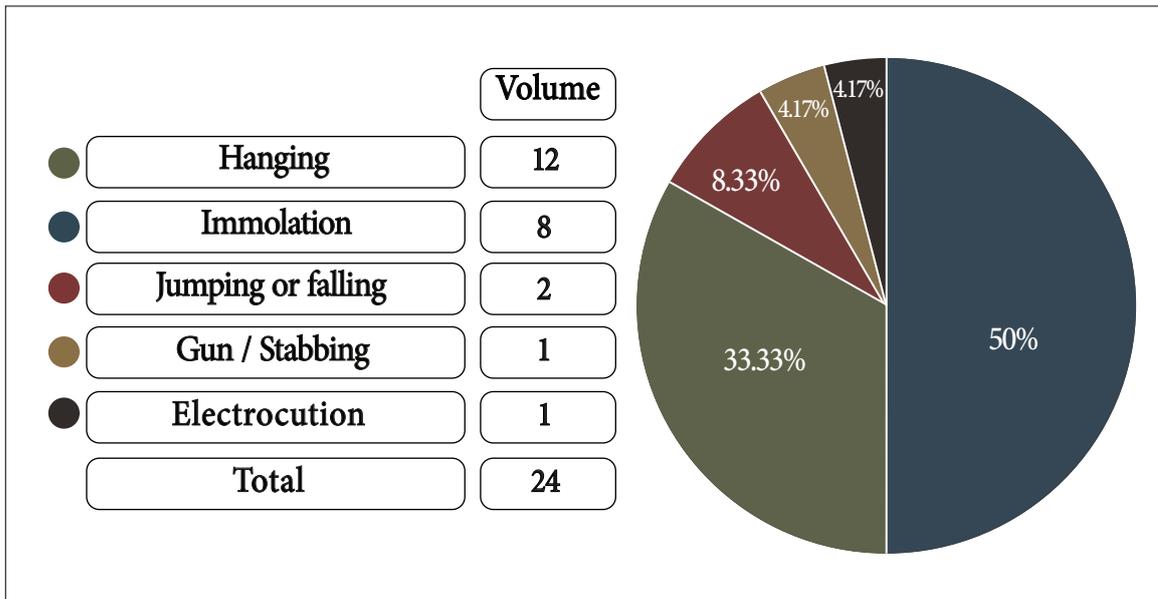


The male gender accounted for 83.3% of the victims. Four persons over 60 years old committed suicide (one man and three women) and the 26-45 age group accounted for about 45% of the total number of victims.

## Suicides and suicide attempts by age group

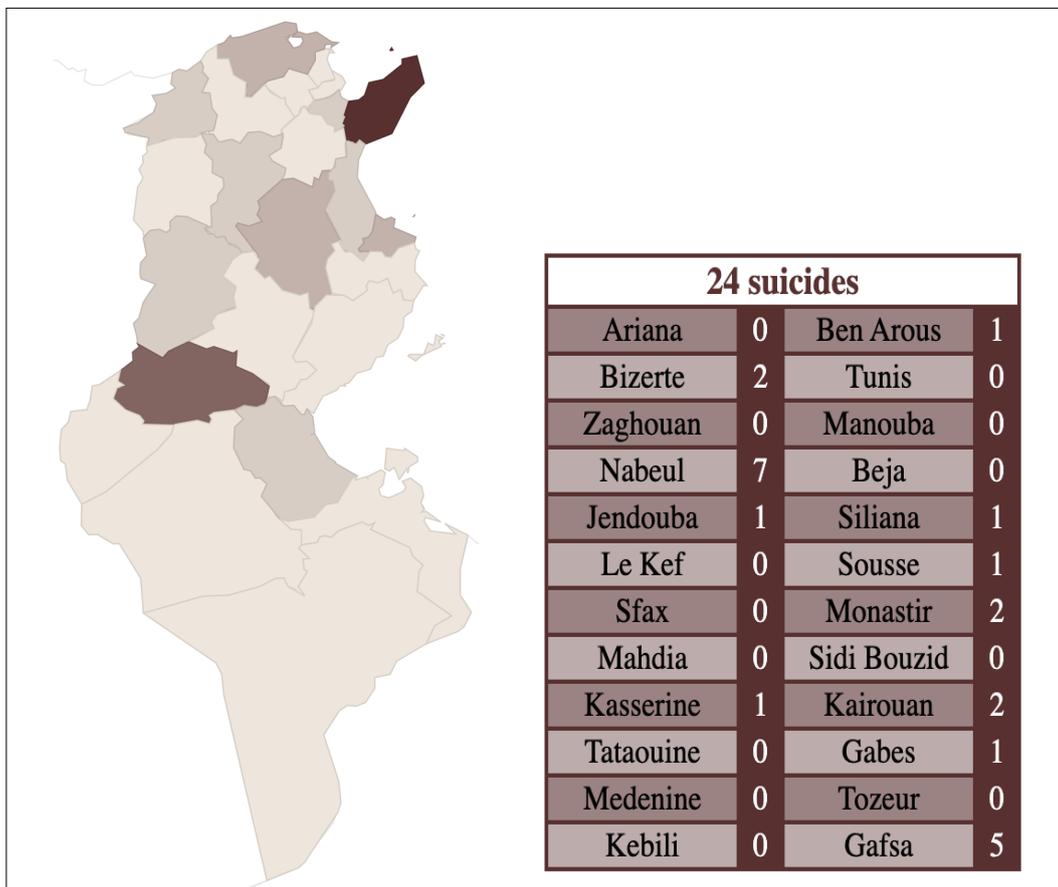


## means of suicide (June 2020)



50% of the victims chose suicide by hanging, by immolation with 33.3%, jumping or falling down with 8.33%, followed by electrocution with 4.17%.

## Suicides and attempts of suicide by governorate





# Violence

June 2020 has come to prove all the social and psychological predictions and readings regarding the high level of violence for the period after full and targeted containment.

According to the results of the work of the Tunisian Social Observatory, the month of June recorded a clear increase in acts of violence of all kinds.

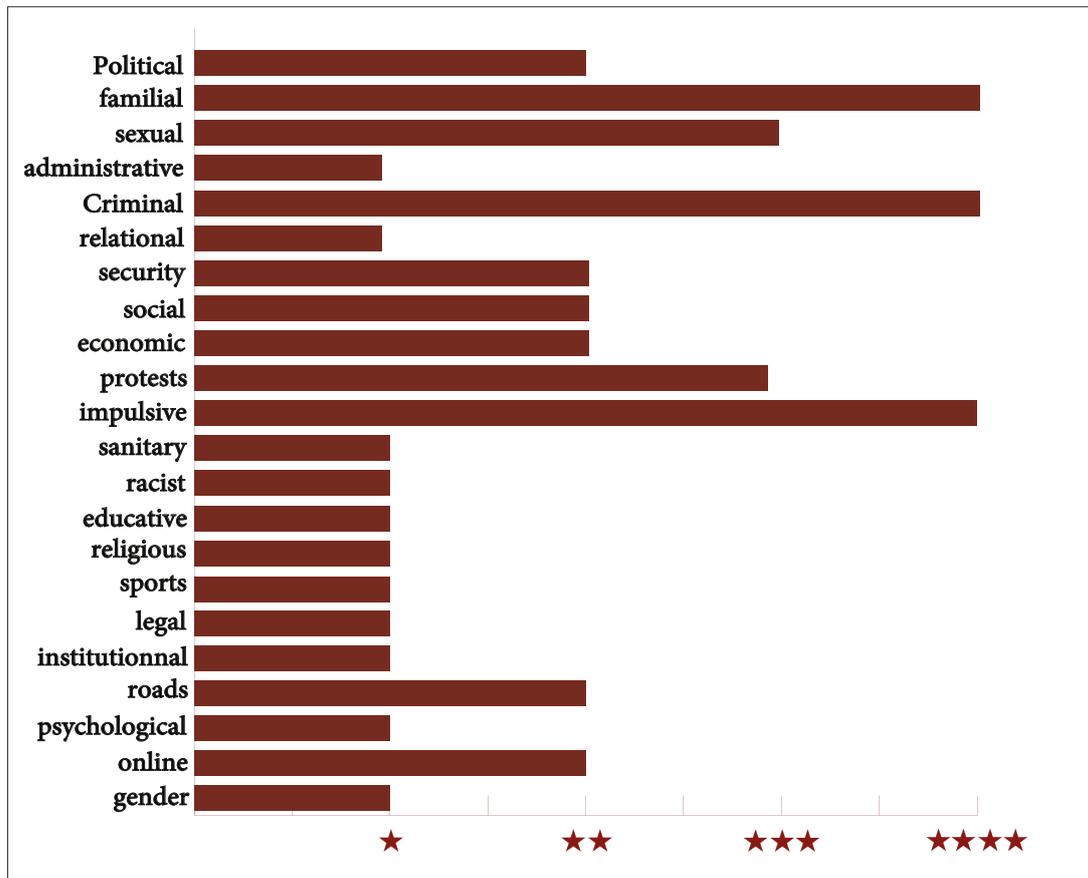
Public spaces also saw a clear spread of organized crime where violence in its criminal form was more than 52% of the total number of cases of violence recorded throughout the month of June through the monitoring sample comprising the majority of daily and weekly newspapers, audio-visual sites, radios and websites with high credibility.

Reports of violence during the month of June ranged from robberies, theft, murders, domestic and sexual violence.

As in previous months, violence in its sexual form was in the top three ranks, accounting for more than 18.5% of the total number of cases of violence observed, the victims of which were mainly women and minors.

This month witnessed numerous incidents of rape, harassment and sexual violence, perhaps the most significant of which was the gang rape of a 14-year-old girl by 8 people in the Sidi Omar Bouhajla region. In the region of Kasr Hlel, young men in his twenties intentionally lured a girl under 15 years of age via the Internet to brutally rape and torture her for 4 days. In Sfax, a 50 year-old kidnapped a 12 year-old girl to sexually abuse her.

## Forms of violence



And as a rule, the family was one of the main areas of violence during the month of June, since domestic violence represented about 22% of the total number of cases observed.

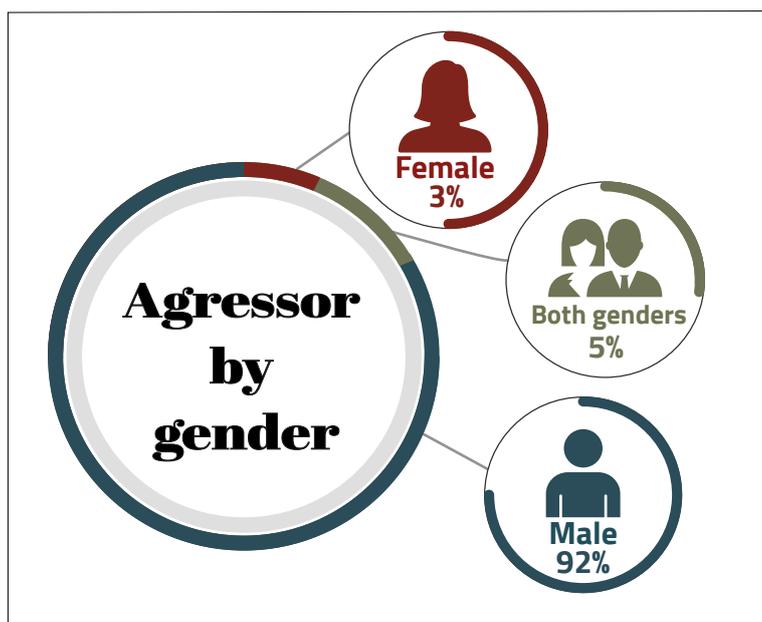
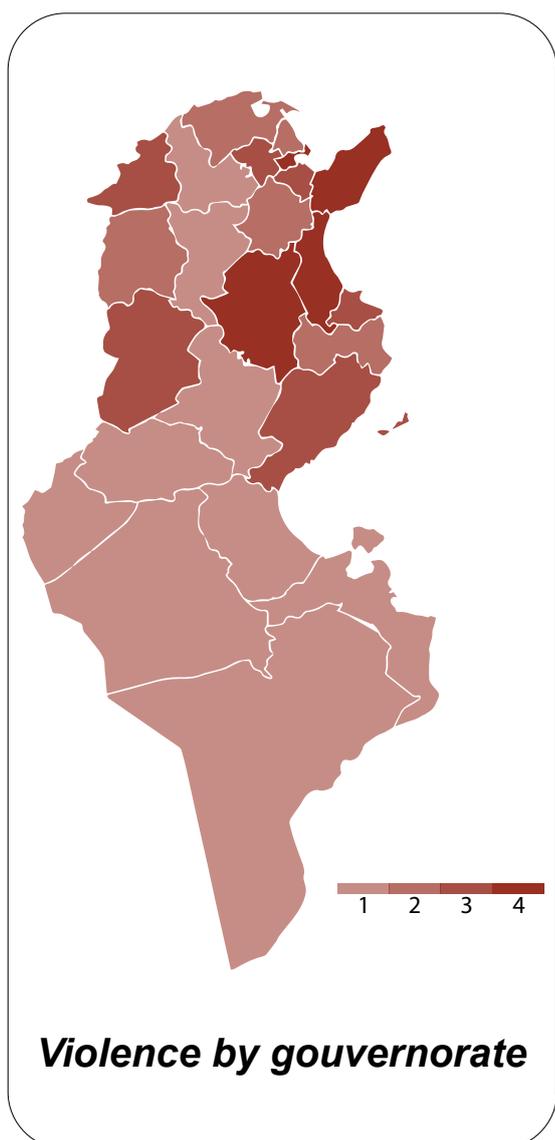
Impulsive violence comes in second place with more than 23.7% of all violence observed, and drinking parties remain the most important spaces, where the highest number of cases of impulsive violence was recorded.

Residential space was the place most affected by violence during the month of June 2020 as it witnessed about 40% of the total incidents of violence recorded in its various forms, followed by roads and public spaces with about 50% combined.

## cases of violence

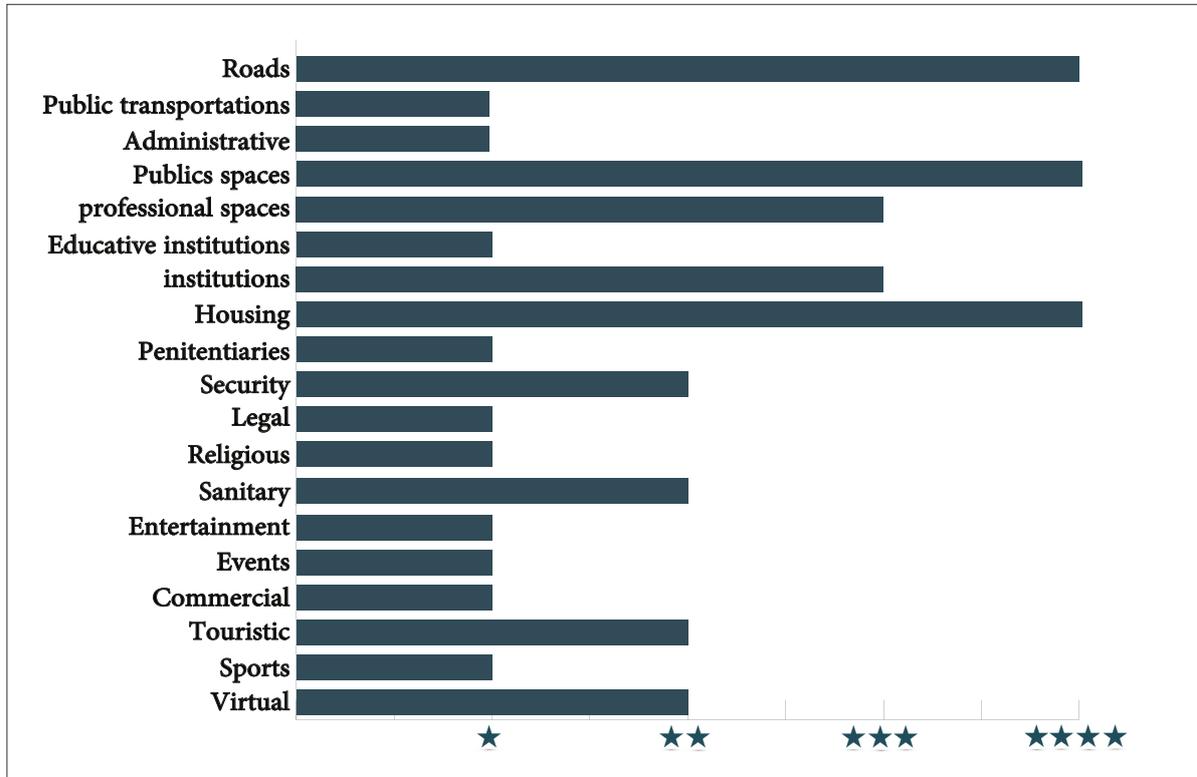


The violence during the month of June was mostly individual with 69%, while collective violence accounted for 31%. Men were responsible for 92% of the violent incidents while women were responsible for 3% of the violent incidents and the rest was of a mixed nature.



The governorate of Tunis has experienced the largest number of cases of violence observed during the month of June where about 17% of the total was recorded, followed by Sousse with 15.25% and this month, the governorate of Kairouan comes in third position with a rate of about 12%, followed by Ben Arous, Jendouba and Kasserine with about 7%.

## Intensity of violence by space





## Conclusion

Ultimately, suicide and attempted suicide are always a form of protest against oneself and the environment with all that it represents as violence against oneself. It also takes place in a context where violence is intensifying as a result of the economic and social crisis, proof of which is, as we have mentioned in this report, that there are protest movements condemning the spread of violence and crime and calling for greater security for citizens.

On the other hand, the government does not show any positive interaction with protests and social movements, sometimes making do with silence and ignorance and at other times with confrontations and arrests.

Pending the resolution of political tensions, the months of August, September and October, which will coincide with the start of the school, university and political year, hot dates are expected, unless the government has solutions and the will to negotiate with the demonstrators and implement practical solutions based on a realistic diagnosis of the crises. It's worthy to note that the first 100 days of activity of Elyess Fakhfekh's government saw 1138 protest actions with which the government did not interact although a large part of these protests relate to the implementation of previous agreements.

## New scientific calculation methodology:

As of March, the Tunisian Social Observatory of the Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights has adopted a new methodology of scientific calculation, the bases of which are as follows:

### Definitions:

Instantaneous movements: characterized by the surprise and speed of movement resulting from the anger of the crowd and the rumble it generates but are limited in time and space. This type of movement seeks to mobilize attention and social mobilization and is characterized by its peaceful nature. However, these movements vary in the parameters of protest development, including the use of violence.

Planned movements: movements which were essentially immediate but which changed and developed mechanisms of action in time and space and were able to acquire the capacity to organize and prepare for and seek to develop counter-mobilization but remain essentially peaceful. They are distinguished by their organizational means and their capacity to ensure its continuous action and mobilization for the same reasons.

They are distinguished by their organizational means and their capacity to ensure its continuous action and mobilization for the same reasons.

Violent movements: these are movements that make use of counter-violence as one of their mechanisms of action and are often direct reactions employing all means for confrontation and the achievement of their objectives, but they often lack clear organisational elements, programs and means.

### The methodology of Calculation:

The uniqueness of a movement is defined by a mode of action, a place and a day.

A protest taking place in several places will be counted as several movements.

A movement taking place over several days will be counted each day.

A protest using different action modes will be counted once for each action.