

Introduction

Demonstrations linked to the recent rise in fuel prices continued during the month of May 2019, representing even the largest share of social movements observed during the month by the team of the Tunisian Social Observatory at the Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights.

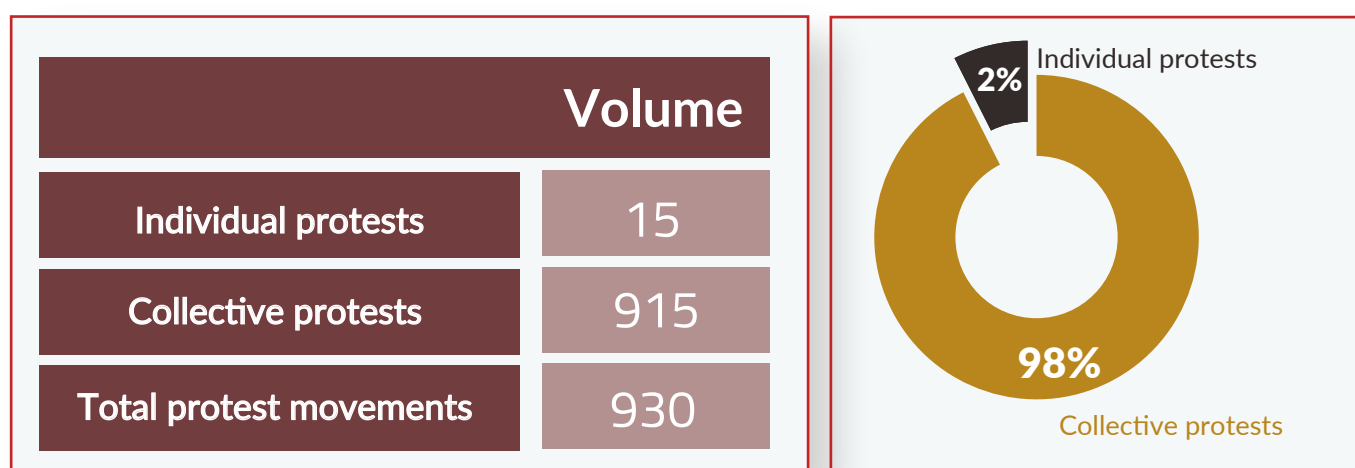
According to the monitoring sample, which includes the most credible daily and weekly newspapers, as well as the most credible electronic and audiovisual media, the wave of movements and closures of major roads in most of the country's cities have increased in the context of the protests against the rise in fuel prices.

Apart from the broad participation of representatives of the various actors in the transport sector, these events were marked by a strong presence of farmers and citizens who considered that this increase would have a significant impact on product prices and on the purchasing power of Tunisians.

The nature of protest movements in April 2019

930 protest movements were recorded during the month of May 2019, 2% of which were individual and 98% collective. These demonstrations were not only linked to the recent increase in fuel prices, but also to the fact that May coincided with the month of Ramadan, during which citizens were outraged at the blatant inflation in vegetable and cereal prices, not to mention the shortage of certain staple food products such as "subsidized oil".

Individual and collective protest movements



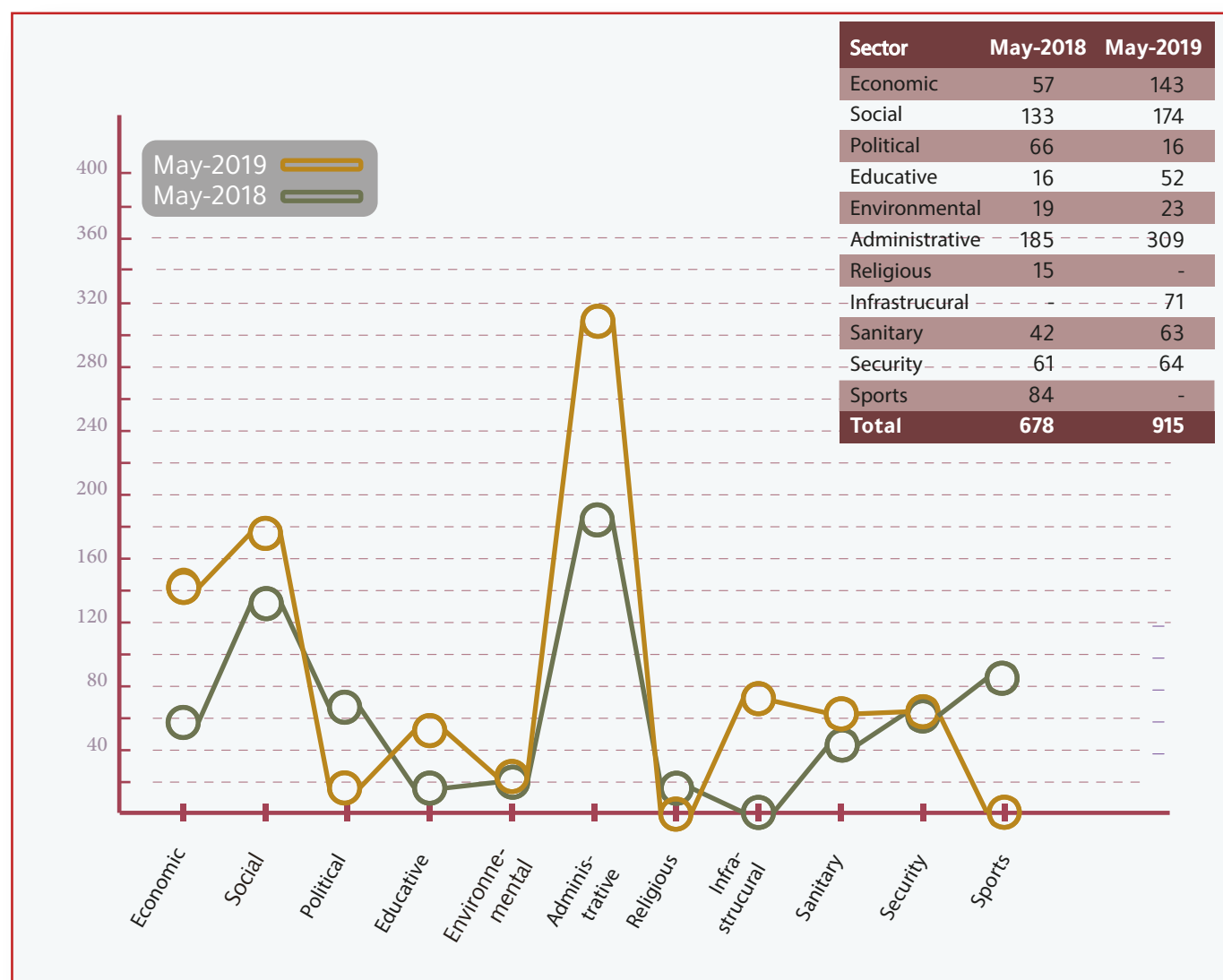
In addition, farmers in the various governorates of the Republic entered a series of protest movements that spread throughout May, due to high fuel prices and their impact on production and productivity, as well as their inability to pass-on this increase into their production costs

These movements were followed by other farmers' movements from the north-west and the centre claiming compensation for damage caused by the fires two years earlier or those linked to the floods that hit the country or those caused by the cold wave; compensation that was pledged by the State authorities and not yet paid.

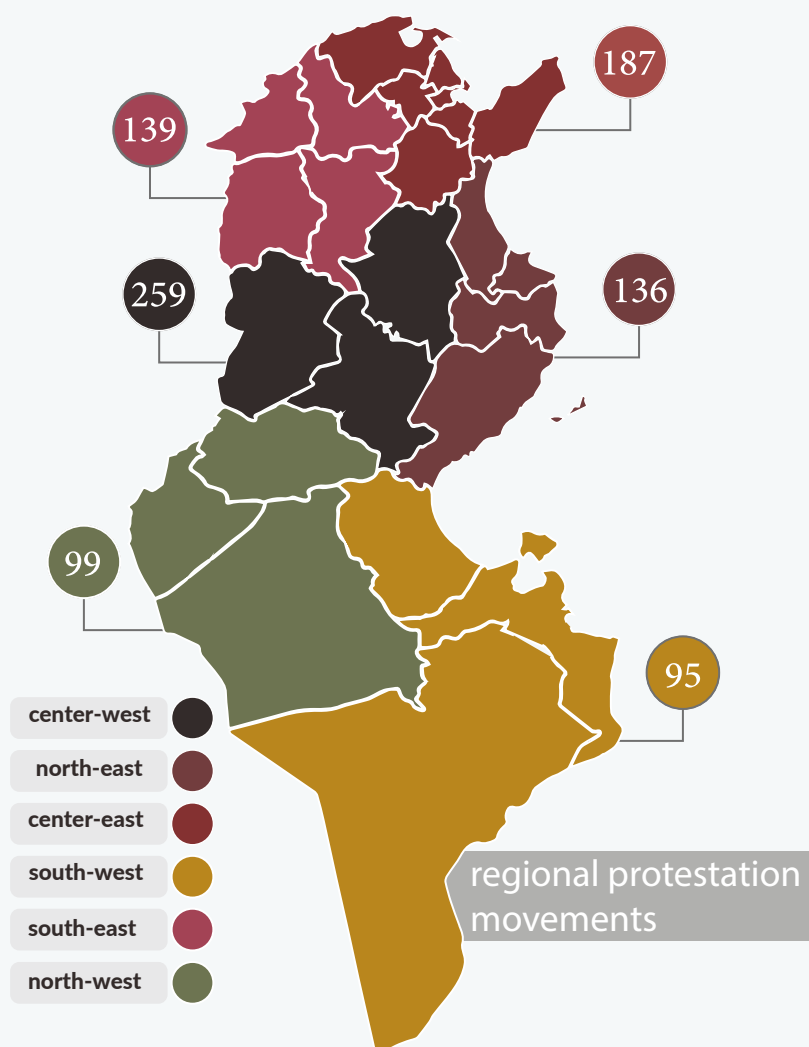
The movement of poultry farmers who invaded the streets accompanied by their chickens was also reported during the month of May, with calls to facilitate exports. Apricot producers, for their part, have thrown their crops out on the streets as part of a protest movement on market prices and the absence of a clear export system by the state.

Other farmers protested against the rise of wheat and milk prices. In Bir Lahmar in the governorate of Tataouine, 24 young men made a call of distress to draw attention to the sickness that affected their trees.

This month of May witnessed several citizen movements and demonstrations in various governorates of the Republic in which a number of precarious workers expressed their anger and grief following a terrible road accident of a truck that was illegally transporting female agricultural workers in the Sabala municipality of the governorate of Sidi Bouzid causing a dozen deaths.



Gouvernorate	Volume		
Bizerte	34	Monastir	24
Tunis	85	Mahdia	21
Ariana	0	Sfax	45
Manouba	16	Kairouan	155
Ben Arous	12	Kasserine	55
Zaghouan	0	Sidi Bouzid	49
Nabeul	40	Gabes	16
Jendouba	50	Medenine	22
Beja	10	Tataouine	57
Kef	42	Gafsa	68
Seliana	37	Tozeur	21
Sousse	46	Kebili	10
		Total	915



Thirst demonstrations continued in El Mdhila, El Rdeyef, El Ktar and Belkhir in Gafsa Governorate as well as several provinces in Kairouan Governorate. The delegation El Fadoul, Seliana governorate, experienced several protests against the frequent cuts in drinking water that lasted more than a week, forcing residents to draw water from Oued el KurdIn the governorate of Tataouine, the month was also marked by interruptions in drinking water in several regions and low water flow in other regions. The delegations of Sidi Youssef from the governorate of El Kef and Tabourba, governorate of Manouba, also experienced interruptions in the supply of drinking water.

In the municipality of Bouziane, in the governorate of Sidi Bouzid, the "Esseka" sit-in, which lasted more than 4 months, was dismantled after more than 24 hours of clashes between demonstrators, residents of the region and security forces who were present in the region in large numbers and who used excessive amounts of tear gas.

The education sector in its various primary, secondary and higher levels has experienced protests and suspensions of courses since teachers and substitute teachers have carried out a series of protests and sit-ins in order to demand payment of their salaries and to remind the relevant ministry of its commitments and agreements concerning the regularization of their professional situations according to the many official minutes of meetings and agreements.

At the same time, higher education teachers from the "IJABA" union continued their movements and sit-ins at the Ministry of Higher Education in order to implement their agreement with the Ministry. All these movements have affected the course of the school year.

In the governorate of Bizerte, the Jerzouna and Matar regions have experienced movements, demonstrations and a state of roar because of what citizens have considered to be a deterioration of the environmental situation of the Bizerte Lake due to the industrial discharge and the continuous gas emissions induced by the region's sugar plant.

The governorate of Gabes has also experienced a number of protest actions associated with the environmental situation and the discharges and emanations of companies in the industrial zone that the region has been suffering for decades.

collective protest movements



The sit-in of the young female graduates of Kairouan continued throughout May, ending at 41st day of hunger strike, when the health of the four demonstrators deteriorated in the face of the government's persistent silence and non-interaction with their demands for jobs and a decent life.

Forms of protests		actors initiating the social movements	
Social media, protests	★ ★ ★	Citizens, activists	★ ★ ★
Media calls, sit-ins, road blocks, blocking administrative spaces, burnt tires	★ ★ ★	Employees, workers, unemployed, unemployed graduates, doctors, paramedical staff	★ ★ ★
Peaceful protests, strikes, march towards the capital	★ ★	Precarious workers, parents, security, agricultors	★ ★
Hunger strikes, petitions, administrative headquarters, civil disobedience, sewing mouths as a form of protest	★	Collective taxi drivers, fishermen	★

Spaces of protests		subjects of protests	
Roads, public spaces, administrative headquarters	★ ★ ★	Ministry, head of government, governmental organizations	★ ★ ★
Professional spaces, governorates, SONEDE, STEG	★ ★ ★	Governorates, SONEDE,	★ ★ ★
Educational institutions, municipalities, delegations, bureaux, government organizations, hospitals	★ ★	Educational institutions, municipalities, delegations, hospitals	★ ★
Ministers, head of government	★	Judiciary authorities, security authorities	★

Types of protests by sector												
instant protests	Sector	Economic	Social	Political	Educative	Environmental	Administrative	Religious	Infrastructural	Sanitary	Security	Sports
	Volume	104	69	18	38	5	188	0	41	35	33	0
spontaneous protests	Sector	Economic	Social	Political	Educative	Environmental	Administrative	Religious	Infrastructural	Sanitary	Security	Sports
	Volume	75	70	16	33	2	143	0	20	18	25	0
violent protests	Sector	Economic	Social	Political	Educative	Environmental	Administrative	Religious	Infrastructural	Sanitary	Security	Sports
	Volume	101	47	13	15	2	135	0	27	15	17	0

The month of May was also marked by the return to the sit-in of el "Camour", the one which mobilized the inhabitants of Tataouine for several months three years ago. This return of the sit-in was decided in order to denounce the government's failure to implement the commitments it had undertaken to make in the agreements signed with the representatives of the sit-in.

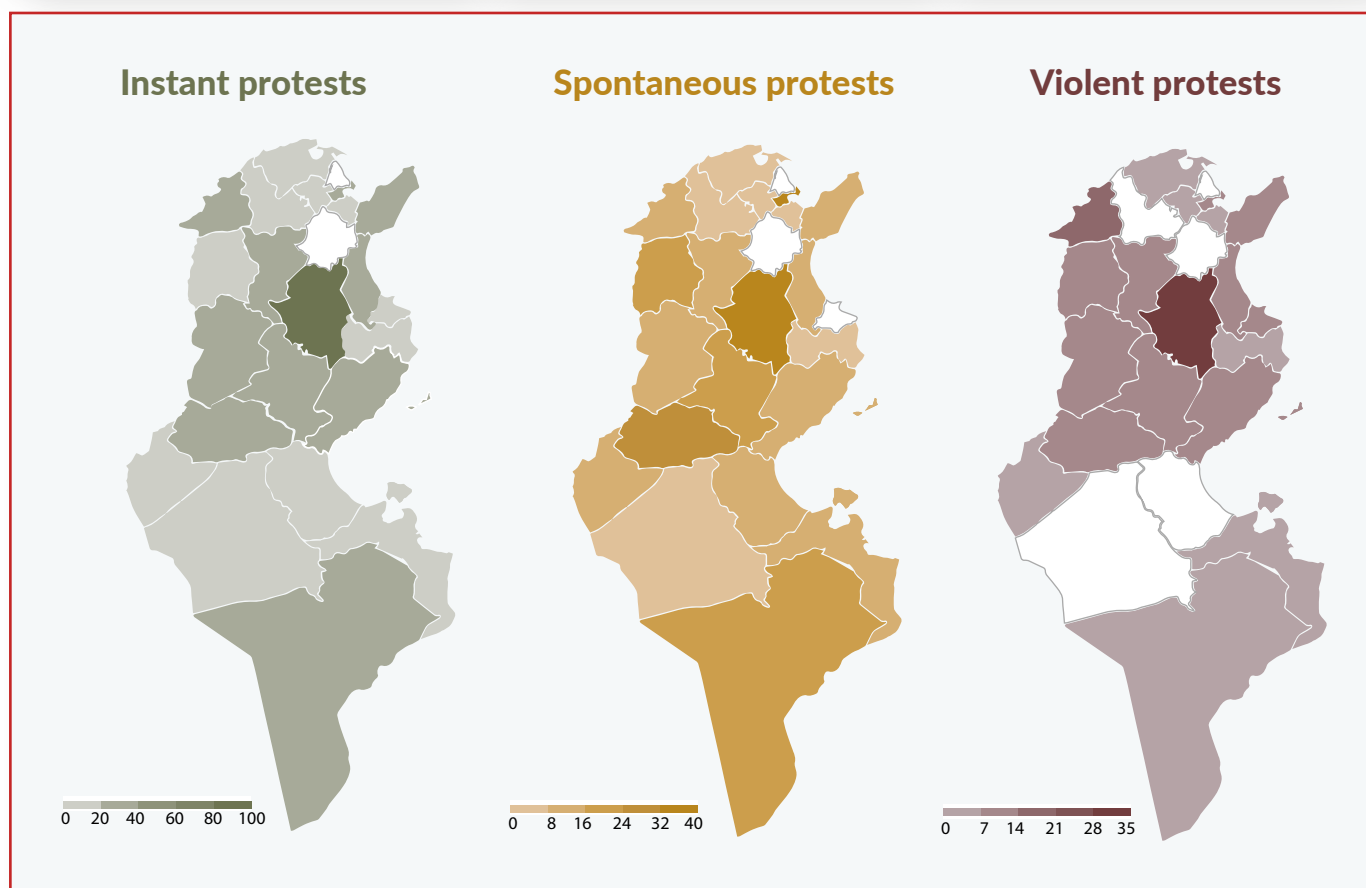
In general, the trend in protest movements during May 2019 was significantly lower than in previous months, mainly due to the month of Ramadan.

Geographical distribution of protests

Instant protests			
Bizerte	16	Monastir	12
Tunis	37	Mahdia	13
Ariana	0	Sfax	25
Manouba	10	Kairouan	82
Ben Arous	4	Kasserine	35
Zaghouan	0	Sidi Bouzid	20
Nabeul	21	Gabes	8
Jendouba	21	Medenine	11
Beja	5	Tataouine	35
Kef	18	Gafsa	33
Seliana	21	Tozeur	8
Sousse	25	Kebili	5

Spontaneous protests			
Bizerte	14	Monastir	0
Tunis	37	Mahdia	7
Ariana	0	Sfax	7
Manouba	4	Kairouan	39
Ben Arous	4	Kasserine	12
Zaghouan	0	Sidi Bouzid	20
Nabeul	9	Gabes	8
Jendouba	14	Medenine	9
Beja	5	Tataouine	16
Kef	20	Gafsa	26
Seliana	8	Tozeur	8
Sousse	9	Kebili	5

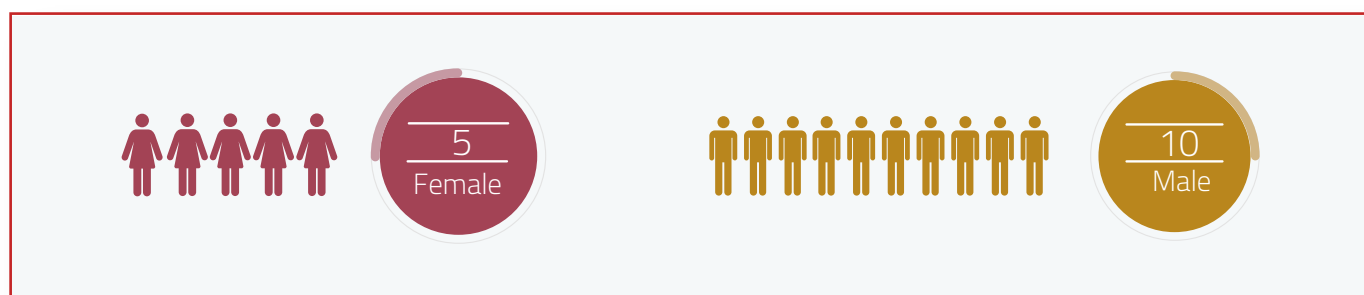
Violent protests			
Bizerte	4	Monastir	12
Tunis	11	Mahdia	1
Ariana	0	Sfax	13
Manouba	2	Kairouan	34
Ben Arous	4	Kasserine	8
Zaghouan	0	Sidi Bouzid	9
Nabeul	10	Gabes	0
Jendouba	15	Medenine	2
Beja	0	Tataouine	6
Kef	4	Gafsa	9
Seliana	8	Tozeur	5
Sousse	12	Kebili	0



Acts and attempts of suicide in May 2019

The number of acts of suicide and suicide attempts observed by the team of the Tunisian Social Observatory during the month of May 2019 were 15 cases which imply a significant decrease in different age groups. Men were the most affected by suicides and suicide attempts: they accounted for two-thirds of the acts recorded in May, compared with 33% for women.

Suicides and attempts of suicide by gender



In total, the cases of suicide and attempted suicide during the month of April mainly affected the 26 to 35 age group, accounting for more than 30% of the cases recorded. The proportion of children under 15 years of age accounted for 20% of the recorded cases.

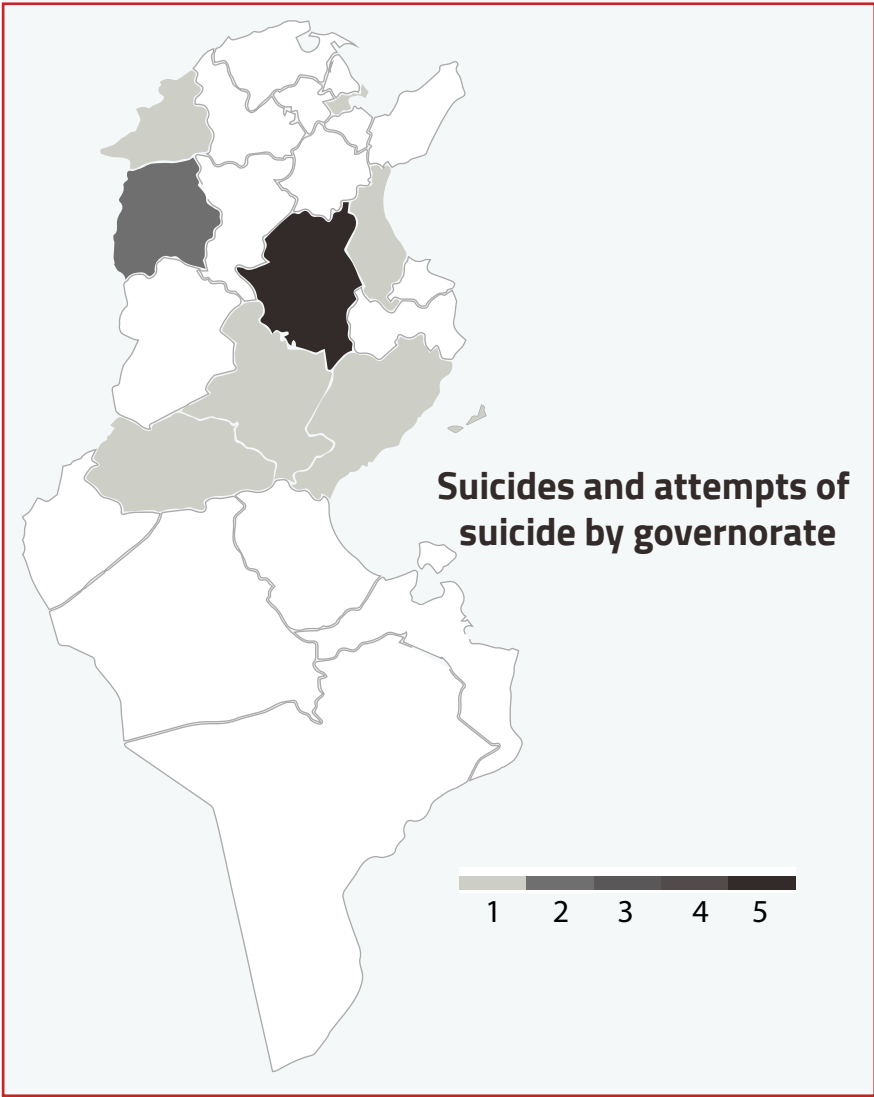
Suicides and suicide attempts by age group



It is relevant to note that one of the causes of this decrease would be the absence of collective acts of suicide threats or attempts during the month of May.

Suicides and attempts of suicide by governorate

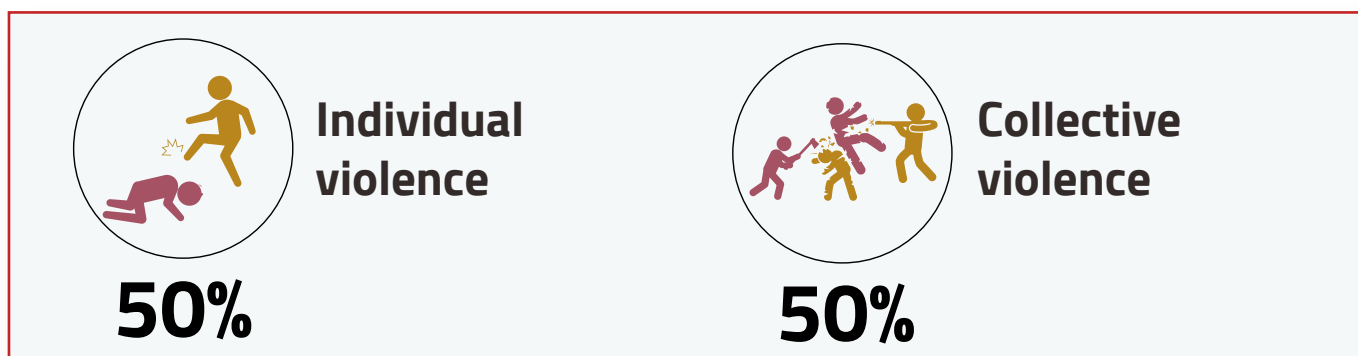
Governorate	Bizerte	Tunis	Ariana	Manouba	Ben Arous	Zaghouan	Nabeul	Jendouba	Beja
Volume	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
Governorate	Le kef	Seliana	Sousse	Monastir	Mahdia	Sfax	Kairouan	Kasserine	Sidi Bouzid
Volume	2	0	1	0	0	1	5	2	1
Governorate	Gabes	Medenine	Tataouine	Gafsa	Tozeur	Kebili			
Volume	0	0	0	1	0	0			



Violence

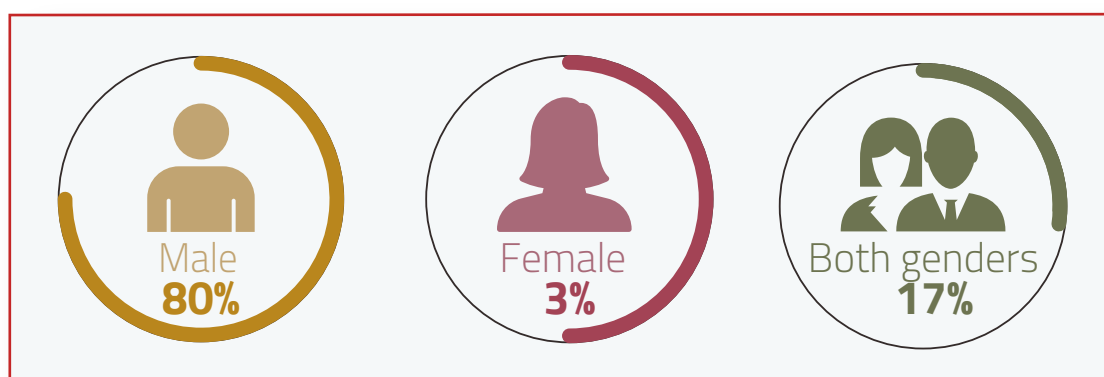
May 2019 was marked by an equal number of social and individual acts of violence according to the results of the watch of violence by the Tunisian Social Observatory Unit from all daily, weekly and electronic newspapers in Arabic and French, not to mention the official audiovisual websites.

cases of violence



Moreover, the male gender continues to be the most violent social agents, since 80% of the observed cases of violence were committed by men, with women being involved in 17% of cases of violence and only 3% of cases of violence were perpetrated by women.

Agressors by gender



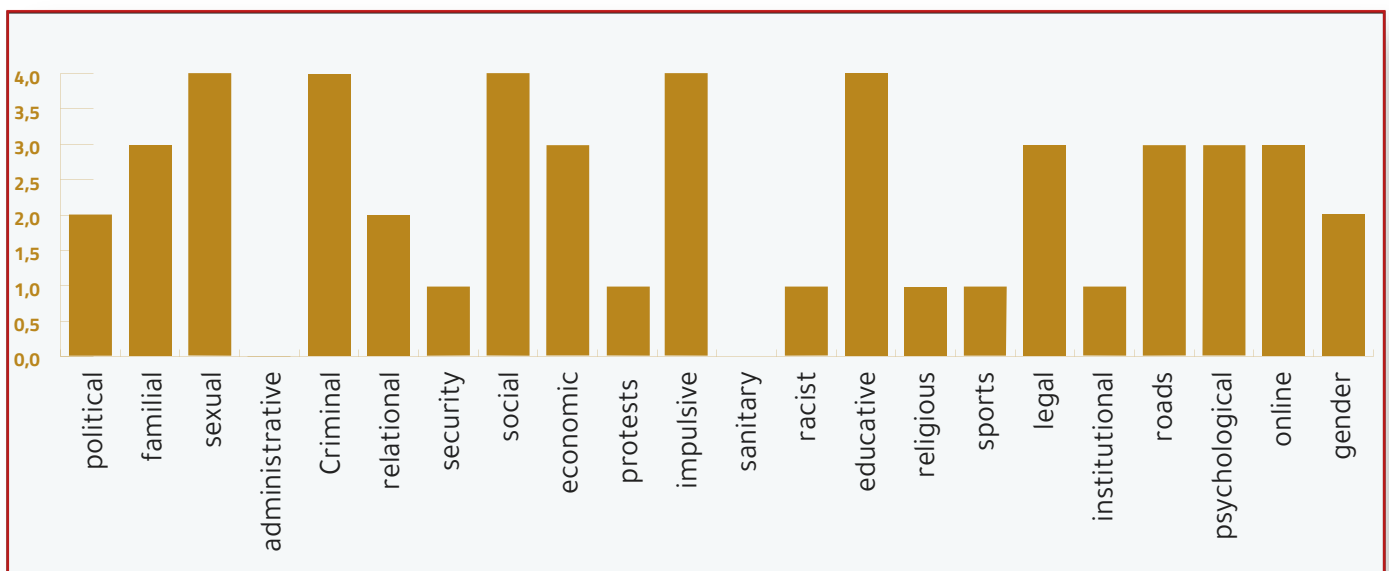
Impulsive, sexual, social, criminal and educational violence is at the forefront of the observed cases of violence, followed by domestic, economic and electronic violence. It is relevant to note that taking bare-dressed pictures of some victims of violence and threatening to publish the photos and videos via social networks has become a widespread practice of violence among young people in recent months, often involving male victims, and for revenge motivations.

During the month of May, a 21-year-old male was the victim of this type of practice by 2 young people including an 18-year-old boy in Beni Khdeche, Medenine, where he was assaulted, photographed naked and threatened to be divulged via Facebook. It should also be noted that the 18-25 age group has become a major source of violence, particularly in the family environment. During the month of May, three cases of serious violence committed by young people less than 25 years old against their parents. In the impasse of Sardina, the road leading from the airport to Sfax, a young man stabbed his mother to death after suspecting her decency. In Mahdia Governorate in Hiboune, a young man killed his mother with seven stabs and in Mahdia's Tlelsa delegation; a young man assaulted his father and imprisoned him in a stable in order to force him to sell his properties.

The month of May coincided with the month of fasting, which generated cases of commercial violence in the form of fraud or attempted fraud such as: the seizure of 100 kg of bovine entrails, 30 heads of cattle, 120 members of sheep and 30 heads of goats unfit for consumption and from which pestilential odors were produced during their transport in a truck from the Sahel region to Kairouan at the Khzazia region in Kairouan.

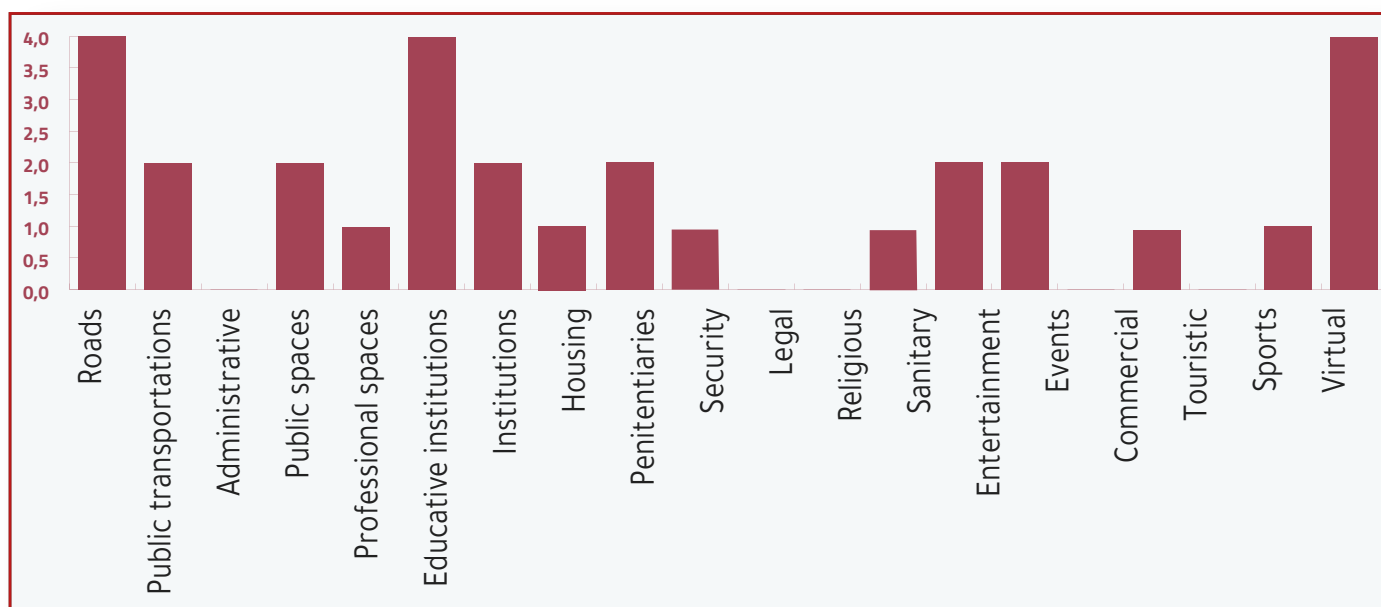
The educational space also experienced its share of violence during the last months of the school year. 14 cases of sexual abuse (harassment) were committed by a teacher against his students and were uncovered in Jendouba. In the Kef governorate, a female teacher was also hijacked and raped by a local criminal.

Forms of violence



The social situation and the violent drama TV productions during the holy month of Ramadan inspired five students of the fifth and sixth grades of both genders to harm themselves in the Zaafrana region in Kairouan.

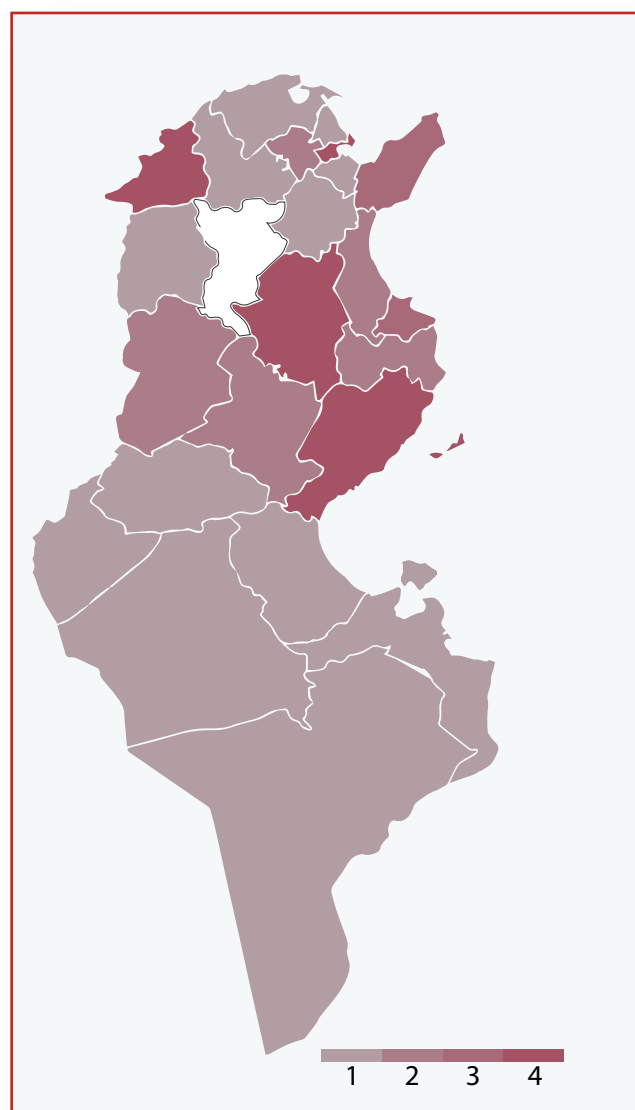
Intensity of violence by space



Violence by governorate

Another source of violence was experienced by the archaeological areas of Kef as they are systematically subjected to excavations and deterioration in the identified article. The main canal to carry water to the washhouses in El Mdhila was also vandalized by unknown persons.

In the ranking of the most violent regions, according to the registered cases, the governorates of Tunis, Sfax, Kairouan and Jendouba are at the top of the ranking. In general, violence is not measured in numbers but by the extent of the atrocities committed; Mahdia, for example, does not occupy an advanced rank, but it witnessed two serious cases of domestic violence during the month May. A mother was killed and a father was sequestered in a barn after being assaulted by his youngest child.



Conclusion

May did not show any change in the level of the map of the distribution of events. The governorate of Kairouan still occupies the first place of the regions that are experiencing social movements and strong demands with 160 protests. The Governorate of Tunis then follows, with its claims or movements linked to the sensitive and decision-making nature of the Capital. Thirdly, the governorates of Gafsa and Kasserine are the regions with a high level of social mobilization and lastly the governorates of Jendouba, Sidi Bouzid and Tataouine follow.