

Introduction

The flames of social movements and of demands did not come to end during the first trimester of 2019, during which the Tunisians maintained the same mechanisms of protest that they have consistently adopted, from marches, demonstrations, sit-ins and roadblocks as a way to communicate and convey their voice and pressure in order to get their demands.

As a whole, the secondary education crisis dominated the movements that the country experienced during the month of January 2019. The long dispute between the Ministry of Education and the Secondary Education Union caused various protests by students, teachers and parents alike.

In February 2019, protests related to the deterioration of infrastructure, environmental conditions, interruptions of drinking water and demand for development and employment were the main driver of unbridled social and economic mobility without any interaction from regional or central official authorities.

For the month of March, the crisis in the health sector and the decline recorded in its services are the main address of the protest movements in a number of governorates such as Gafsa, Kairouan, Kasserine, Jendouba and Nabeul. The “Rabta hospital” scandal and the death of 11 infants at once sparked the spark of the protest movement in Tunis, where a series of movements took place in Habib Bourguiba Street and in front of the headquarters of the government in Kasbah condemned what was considered a state crime and called for improving the health services provided in our hospitals and for establishing equity and guaranteeing the right to health for all Tunisian citizens.

Protest Movements:

The first trimester of 2019 did not have the same features that generally characterized the first months of the post-revolutionary years. It was relatively calm starting with the month of January, where the wave of unorganized protest movements was not accompanied by a general state of congestion and dissatisfaction in most of the country. The claims revolved around the demands of employment and development and were encountered every time with unfulfilled government promises or pledges.

According to the results of the Tunisian Social Observatory monitoring during January 2019, the movements were within 888 unframed movements at a time when the size of the movements in January of 2018 was around 1490, and during the winter of 2017 the number of moves reached 1,049 movements.

As for the second month of the year, it has maintained the same shape during the three years where the pattern of protest recorded a relative decline compared to the first month. The recorded number of unrestricted protest movements during the month of February within the 732 moves during 2019 while 975 were counted during the last year 2018, and during the year before 2017 the movements were 830.

It can be said that the month of March 2019 was similar to March 2018 in terms of the unframed social movements and the outcome of monitoring, where the first recorded 704 movements of protest and the second recorded 850 protest movements, but the pattern was far from the counterpart of the year 2017, in which the number of protests reached 1,089 unarmed protest movements.

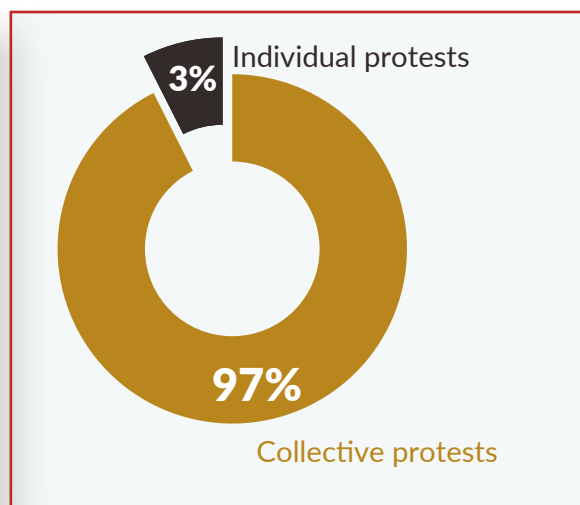
Individual and collective protest movements by gouvernorate

Gouvernorate	Jan	Feb	Mar				
Bizerte	16	16	22	Monastir	233	22	10
Tunis	86	27	32	Mahdia	12	26	19
Ariana	4	0	0	Sfax	63	22	25
Manouba	19	5	9	Kairouan	99	113	161
Ben Arous	17	0	0	Kasserine	56	38	34
Zaghouan	1	6	0	Sidi Bouzid	77	58	39
Nabeul	69	72	14	Gabes	7	1	12
Jendouba	67	60	64	Medenine	26	42	41
Beja	31	5	14	Tataouine	17	26	27
Kef	22	24	33	Gafsa	61	97	69
Seliana	22	33	22	Tozeur	20	12	2
Sousse	48	27	49	Kebili	15	0	6
				Total	888	732	704

A change in the pattern of movements during the first three months of 2019 had an impact on the outcomes of unbridled protests compared to previous years. The total number of protest movements for the first trimester of 2019 was 2324, of which 70 were individual movements in the form of suicide or attempted suicide. The number of movements recorded during the first trimester of 2018 was 3315, of which 154 occurred in cases of suicide and suicide attempts. Those observed during the first trimester of 2017 reached a total of 2983 protest movements, of which 283 occurred in the form of suicides and attempted suicide.

Individual and collective protest movements

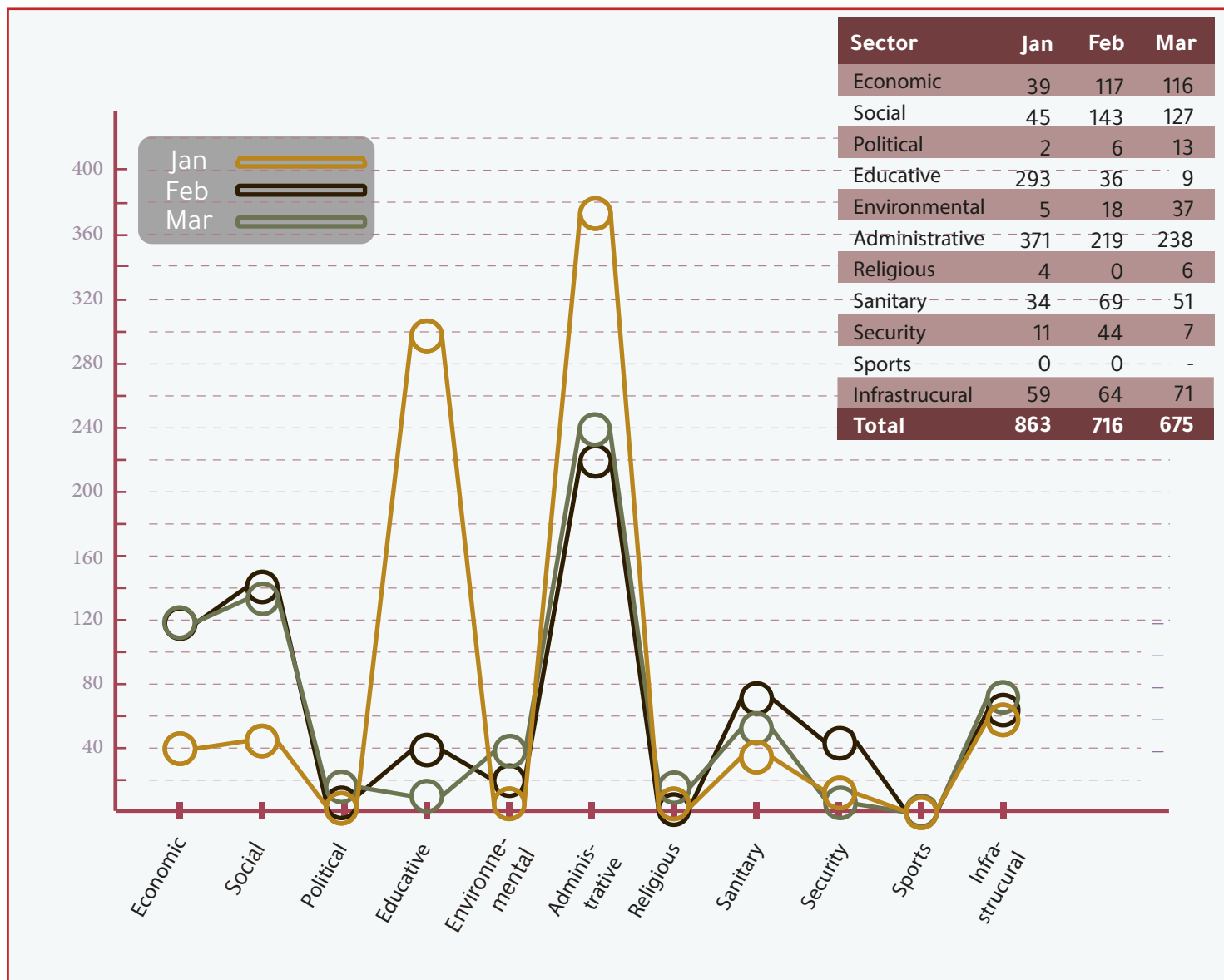
Volume	
Individual protests	70
Collective protests	2254
Total protest movements	2324



On the other hand, and despite the decline in the pattern of protest movements, the first trimester of 2019 remained in the same context of demands that, during the seven years following the revolution, have dealt with the same areas and sectors: economic and social demands related to infrastructure, development, employment and professional status. These claims monopolize 72% of the protest movements (economic, social, administrative and infrastructure sector), followed by educational movements, which represent 15% of the first trimester of 2019. The emergence of protests and movements in the environmental and health sectors accounted for 10% of all unchecked protest movements monitored.

Types of protests by sector

instant protests	Sector	Economic	Social	Political	Educative	Environmental	Administrative	Religious	Sanitary	Security	Sports	Infrastructural
	Volume	115	137	9	136	33	353	2	81	32	0	14
spontaneous protests	Sector	Economic	Social	Political	Educative	Environmental	Administrative	Religious	Sanitary	Security	Sports	Infrastructural
	Volume	97	110	11	119	13	288	4	50	18	0	31
violent protests	Sector	Economic	Social	Political	Educative	Environmental	Administrative	Religious	Sanitary	Security	Sports	Infrastructural
	Volume	60	68	1	83	14	187	4	23	12	0	49



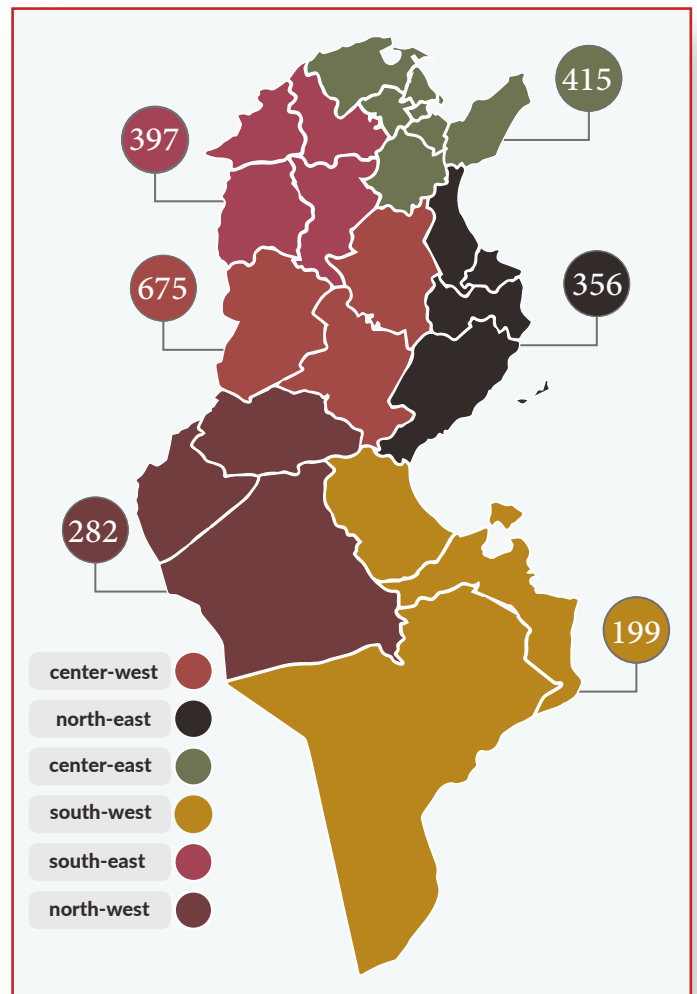
As for the protest map, the traditional regions of the protest movement over the past years have maintained their position during the first trimester of 2019, namely, the governorates of Gafsa, Kasserine, Kairouan, Sidi Bouzid and Tunis (the center of policies and decision making). These regions monopolized about 50% of the movements observed by the team The Tunisian Social Observatory. It is worthy to note that Sfax, Nabeul and Jendouba Governorates, witnessed a relative increase in the size of protest movements.

The unframed movements in the governorate of Jendouba were linked to the wave of regional protest movements and could be included in the framework of qualitative movements. This wave started in late January, in the form of successive movements, and in February it became an organized regional movement led by a regional coalition of national organizations and civil society associations calling for regional development and activating stalled projects.

The same was true in Nabeul, where the movements registered during the first trimester of the current year 2019 were related to the infrastructure and compensating the farmers whose lands were harmed due to the last floods that affected the governorate at the end of the last year 2018.

With regard to the governorate of Sfax, the movements were often associated with infrastructure and drinking water, and the status of administrative services and education sector.

The spontaneous movements of the Tunisian citizen remain at the forefront of the observed movements, representing 1012 of the 2254 recorded by the first trimester of the year 2019. In contrast, the number of random movements is within the limits of 741 moves and those of a violent nature within 501 moves.



collective protest movements

Nature of collective social movements



Geographical distribution of protests

Instant protests

Bizerte	22	Monastir	21
Tunis	51	Mahdia	18
Ariana	2	Sfax	35
Manouba	20	Kairouan	186
Ben Arous	6	Kasserine	52
Zaghouan	3	Sidi Bouzid	79
Nabeul	97	Gabes	7
Jendouba	96	Medenine	51
Beja	21	Tataouine	25
Kef	36	Gafsa	83
Seliana	27	Tozeur	12
Sousse	52	Kebili	10

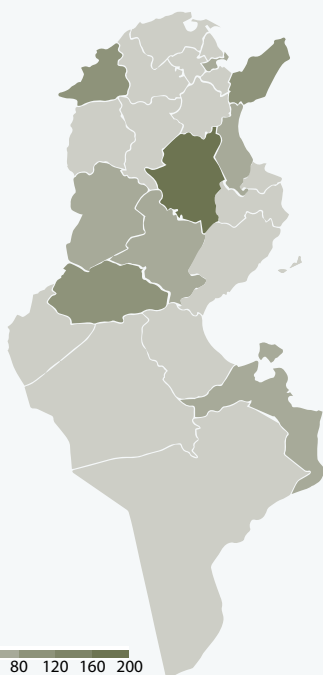
Spontaneous protests

Bizerte	22	Monastir	23
Tunis	59	Mahdia	14
Ariana	0	Sfax	39
Manouba	5	Kairouan	107
Ben Arous	2	Kasserine	41
Zaghouan	3	Sidi Bouzid	80
Nabeul	35	Gabes	8
Jendouba	41	Medenine	52
Beja	12	Tataouine	20
Kef	24	Gafsa	69
Seliana	27	Tozeur	13
Sousse	42	Kebili	3

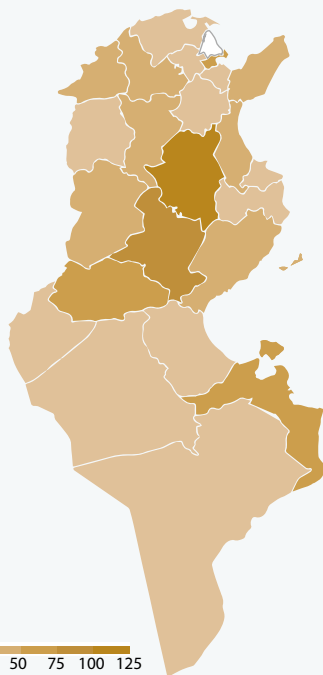
Violent protests

Bizerte	9	Monastir	16
Tunis	29	Mahdia	22
Ariana	2	Sfax	34
Manouba	6	Kairouan	71
Ben Arous	8	Kasserine	34
Zaghouan	0	Sidi Bouzid	13
Nabeul	20	Gabes	2
Jendouba	52	Medenine	3
Beja	10	Tataouine	24
Kef	18	Gafsa	64
Seliana	17	Tozeur	7
Sousse	27	Kebili	7

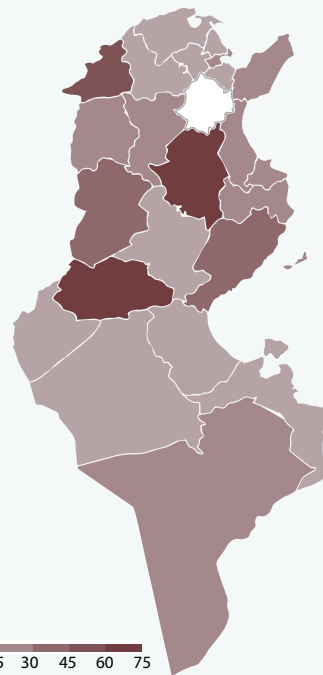
Instant protests



Spontaneous protests



Violent protests



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, agricultors, Secondary school teachers	★★
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	★

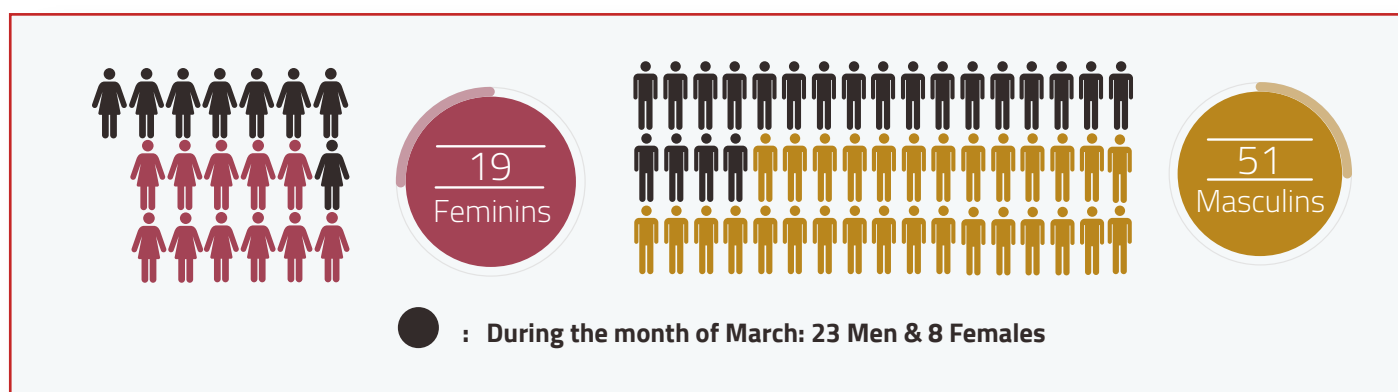
Suicide and suicide attempts

It should be noted that the decline recorded in the format of the unrestrained protest movements included both collective and individual movements where the monitoring tables showed a clear decline in the pattern of movements.

As in the case of the number of suicides and suicide cases, which have been halved in comparison with 2018, falling from 154 to 70 cases and attempted suicide in 2019, four times lower than the number recorded in 2017, which was about 283 cases and suicide attempt.

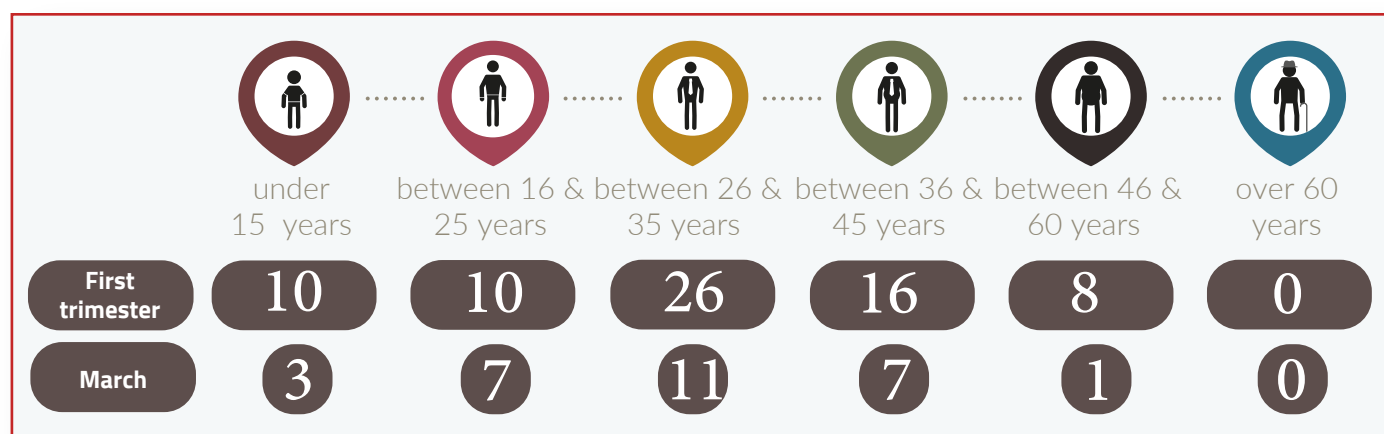
As in previous years, males were more prone to suicide and attempted suicide, accounting for 73% of recorded cases and 27% for females.

Suicides and attempts of suicide by gender



The age group between 25 and 45 years is the most vulnerable to the phenomenon of suicide, which accounted for 60% of the cases monitored with the knowledge that the first trimester of 2019 did not register any case or attempted suicide in the age group over 60 years. The number of cases and attempts to commit suicide in the age group below 15 years was 14% of the cases monitored.

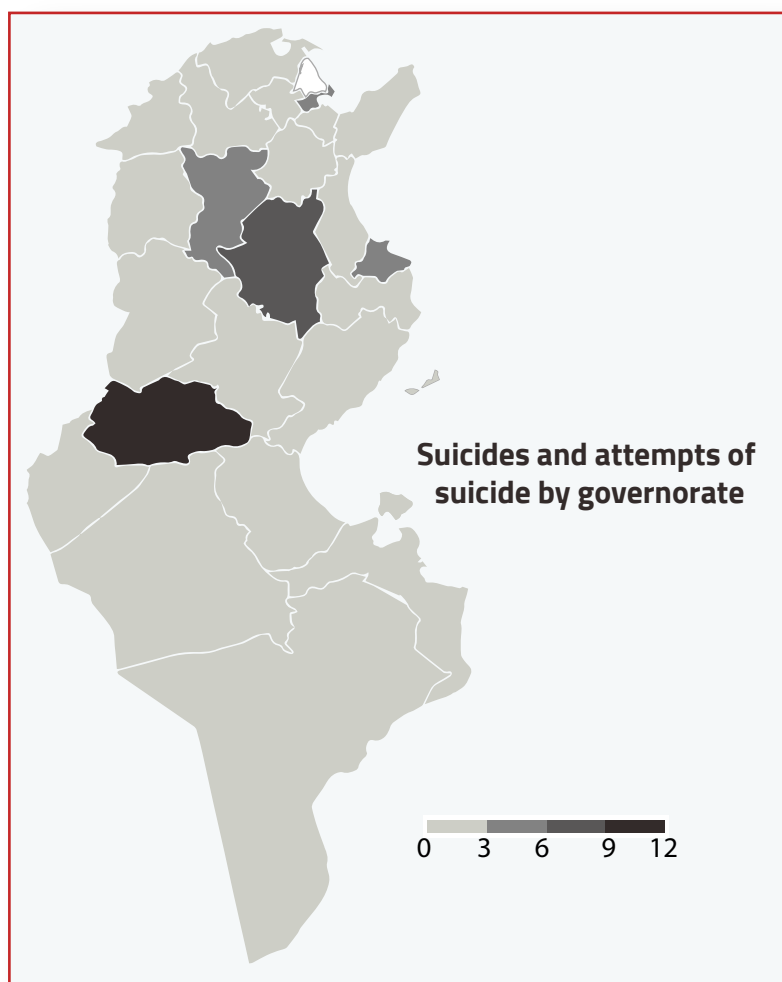
Suicides and suicide attempts by age group



It should be highlighted that the increased number of collective suicides and/or attempts of suicide during the first trimester of 2019, constituted a form of protesting against the lack of interaction of regional and national authorities. This protest form is mostly used by the social actors demanding employment and the regulation of their professional status.

Suicides and attempts of suicide by governorate

Governorate	Bizerte	Tunis	Ariana	Manouba	Ben Arous	Zaghouan	Nabeul	Jendouba	Beja
Volume	1	6	0	2	1	1	3	2	1
Governorate	Le kef	Seliana	Sousse	Monastir	Mahdia	Sfax	Kairouan	Kasserine	Sidi Bouzid
Volume	1	6	3	5	3	2	9	1	2
Governorate	Gabes	Medenine	Tataouine	Gafsa	Tozeur	Kebili			
Volume	3	3	1	11	2	1			



Violence

During the first trimester of 2019, we noticed the development of the different forms of violence. Robbery is committed with an extreme violence, with the use of stabbing weapons and hunting guns. Some of these crimes ended with murder such as the case of an oil mill owner in Nabeul. The victim's house was stormed, and his wife tied and he was hit on his head by a shovel several times until death in January. Also, a couple was badly injured after a thief shot them with a hunting gun in the region of Zoueyed in Sfax. A student almost died when someone tried to steal her cell phone.

The first trimester of the year 2019 was also marked by a climb in the number of sexual assaults. A 10 year old girl was hijacked and raped after being forced to drink alcohol by an adult. She was found the next day in critical condition.

Violence against institutions, whether educational or health related was also observed by our organism during this trimester. We registered the breaking in educational facilities to rob equipments or even to use its yard to throw a party which happened in the primary school of Houereb village in Kairouan. In addition, we observed the persistence of violence against medical and paramedical officers in the context of protests against the deterioration of the public health sector.

On another note, there has been a slight decline in the number of cases of domestic violence and spousal abuses on one hand and an evolution in its form on the other hand. Thus, we registered a number of cases of serious violence against parents: a young man has intentionally set his father on fire after spraying him with a flammable product, not to mention the various and several cases of sexual assault attempts on mothers.

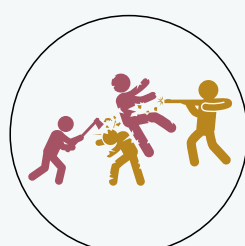
The level of violence of a collective nature in March was higher than individual violence where the first type represented 66% of the cases monitored by the team of the Tunisian Social Observatory, while the individual violence represented 34%.

cases of violence



**Individual
violence**

34%

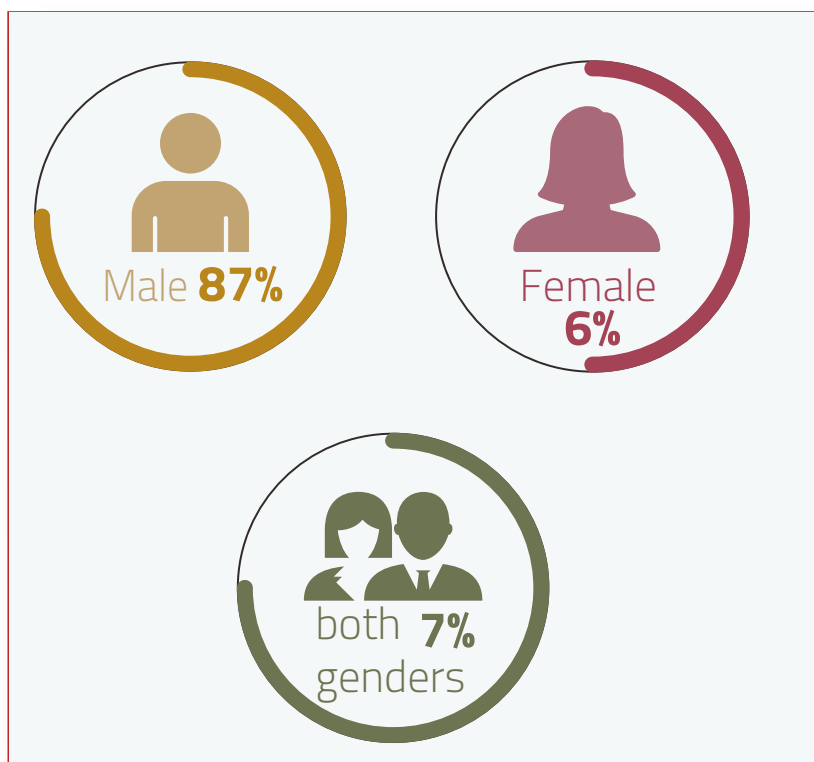


**Collective
violence**

66%

Men account for a high rate of monitored violence, where they were responsible for 87% of the cases recorded during the month of March, while women are responsible for 6% of registered violence and 7% are cases of mixed violence.

Agressors by gender



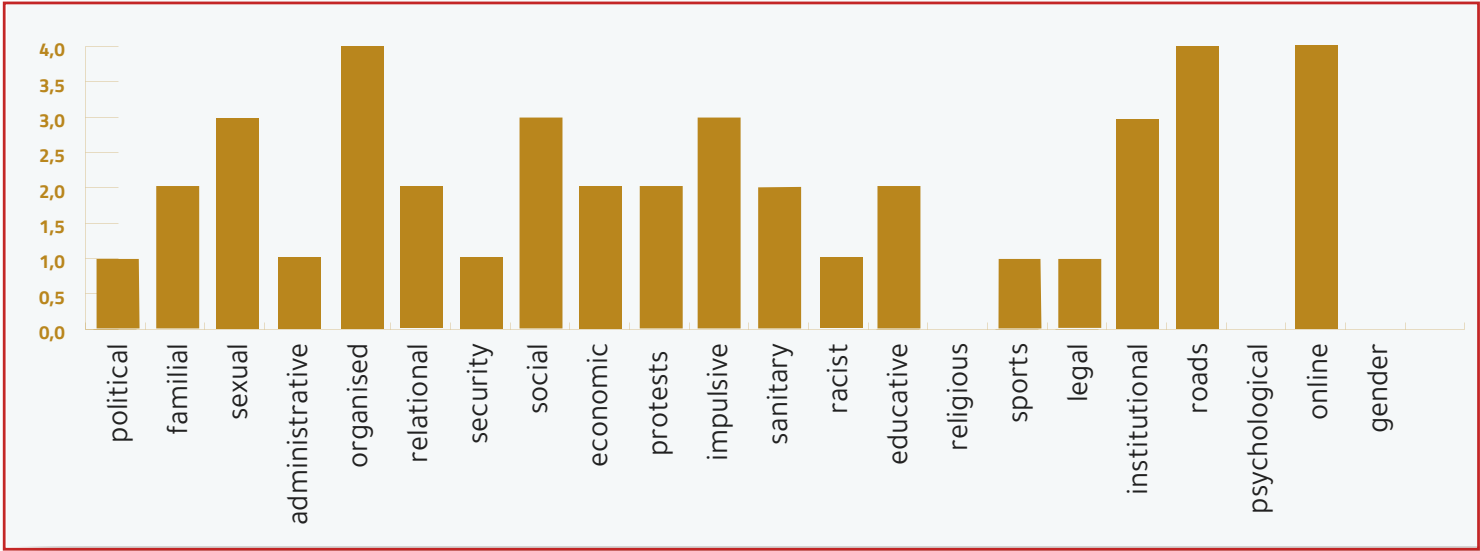
The cases of violence observed throughout March mainly targeted children under the age of 16, and cases of violence between murder, rape, harassment and stabbing were acute. At the beginning of the month, the Ministry of Public Health announced the deaths of 11 infants in their cots at the Wassila Bourguiba hospital due to bacterial rot. The number of victims of the rot was 13 infants, according to media reports. About a week later, the public opinion was again shaken by the horrific sexual harassment and rape of 30 children in Sfax by a teacher (25 females and 5 males).

In the same week, a sexual harassment case was committed by a 70-year-old blind man against two girls in the toilet of a cinema owned by the aggressor's son.

On another note, A 12-year-old girl was sexually molested by a shopkeeper in Al-Zuhour district of Medenine. A 9-year-old girl was harassed by her teacher at his home in El Mourouj 5, where she was following private lessons on his hands. The violence also involved a newborn baby in the governorate of Ariana dumped in a waste container in repeated social violence against children born out of wedlock.

So March was the month of violence against children with distinction. This situation necessarily reflects the condition of institutions, notably the public health institutions, and the spread of corruption to the extent of the massacre of newborns in the wassila Bourguiba hospital. It also underlines the propagation of mindsets that excuse violence, in particular violence against children born out of wedlock. We must not forget that the deterioration of the educational process is due to the pervasiveness of the private tutoring culture and the failure of the governing bodies to address this issue, which opened the door to gaps such as the harassment of this huge number of children, who according to sociological logic may be “the executioners of tomorrow” if they do not get the necessary psychological and social treatment.

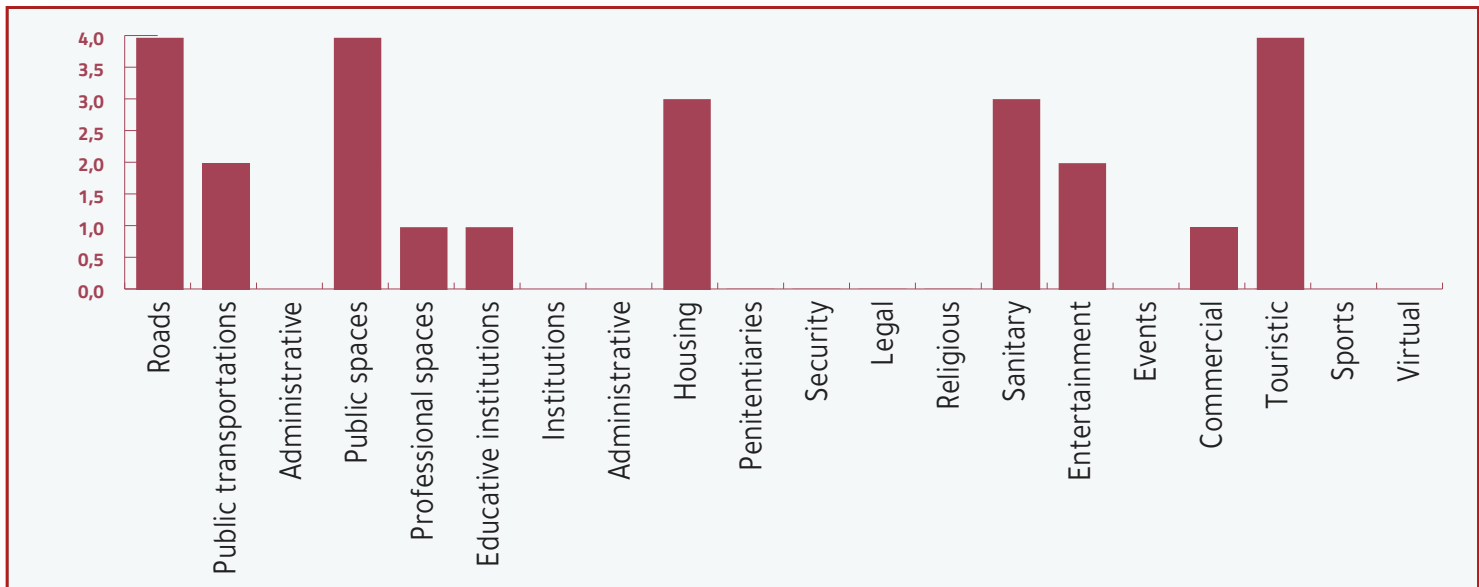
Forms of violence



What was observed in the rest of the cases was a variety of violent incidents involving physical violence during theft and violence in the family environment. A young man brutally assaulted on his mother in al-Manshiyya district of Kairouan, which caused her great damage, including the fall of her teeth and the injury of her left eye. The reason for this horrible action is a crisis in communication between the mother and her son, which forced the mother to resort to the security authorities and thus her son's imprisonment. Upon the end of his sentence, he committed severe violence against his mother.

A state of political violence in Sidi Bouzid was also reported following the stone and egg attack on a meeting of the Free Constitutional Party in protest against the remarks made by its founder Abeer Mousi, resulting in injuries among a number of attendees.

Intensity of violence by space

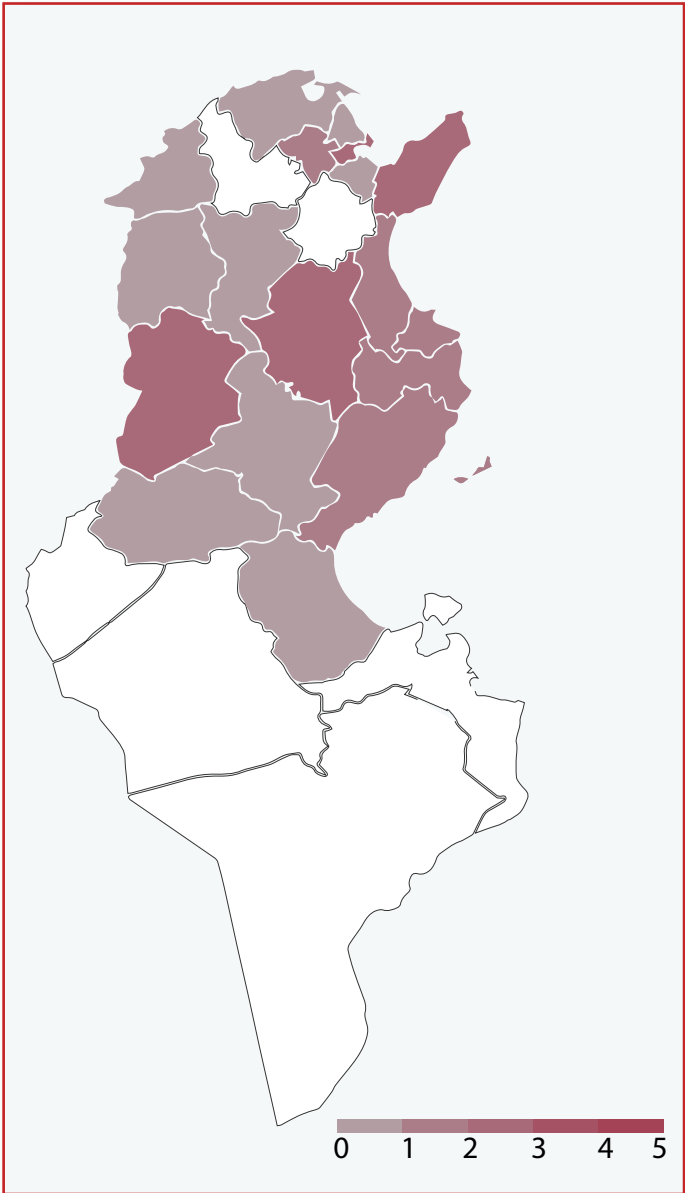


In addition, cases of violence with a criminal background were sometimes combined with the attempt to theft and highjack, especially if the victim was female. This is what happened to an employee in Sidi Hussein who objected to her theft. One of the aggressors stabbed her leg; while the other emptied her handbag and then they fled.

A girl was in her car waiting for her sister in Sousse when two young men deliberately stole the car and kidnapped the girl, but security followed the car and arrested the suspects.

It should also be noted that educational institutions continue to be targeted through theft, looting and equipment damage.

Violence by governorate



Conclusion

The first trimester was relatively quiet, but it ended with an increase in fuel prices. This decision, which was the source of much controversy, was the starting point for a series of waves of protests involving citizens from the sectors of informal public transport, Farmers and a number of industrialists in different governorates of the Republic, calling for the government to reverse its decision.

According to certain economic readings, the increase in the prices of fuel, which was confirmed by all the official statements, will be followed by new increases in the coming months of 2019, which will occur with relation to the review of the fuel prices in the context of Finance Law. These increases in fuel price will be one of the main reasons for social movements which the country will live on in the coming months.

It was another trimester characterized by violence in all of its forms, marked with an upsurge of violence against children and against public institutions and with an increase in the magnitude of violence especially if we take the progression of robberies to attempts of murder into consideration.