

873
Collective protests

28
cases of suicide and attempted suicide

878
Migrants

Forum Tunisien pour les Droits Economiques et Sociaux

- 02, France Avenue, "Ibn Khaldoon" Building (Ex National), 2nd floor, Apt 325 - Tunis Bab Bhar 1000
- Phone: (+216) 71 325 129 FAX: (+216) 71 325 128
- contact@ftdes.net www.ftdes.net





Introduction

A month after the new government formation, protests and social movements have resumed their usual pace in the purpose to claim their economic, social, and environmental rights. It is the result of the unclear messages formulated by the head of government and the governmental team facing the social demands which, once again, at the threshold of a new difficult year, find their way to exacerbation.

The state of uncertainty and ambiguity about the lack of resources to cover both the current and the upcoming years adds to the complexity of this situation.

In the absence of a clear vision and an effective strategy, the State will lack the means to mobilize the financial resources necessary to develop the state budget with short and medium term of legal mechanisms as well as other strategic mechanisms. Indeed, the State would find the trouble to fight corruption, recover funds from tax evaders, collect state taxes and customs duties from fraudsters, limit tax exemptions and privileges, institutionalize a tax on wealth and activities benefiting from the pandemic, fight overall against corruption, capital flight, and revise the law concerning the independence of the Central Bank. Under these circumstances, it seems that the upcoming year would be launched by more foreign debts that will lead to social and economic repercussions resulted by the implementation of international donor policies.

The tendency towards more foreign indebtedness implies keeping the same economic and social choices as the ones before the 25th of July. Since the beginning of November, the social situation has aggravated. It has restarted with its usual rhythm. Hence, a social explosion is expected when the fiscal measures of the upcoming year would be revealed (two thirds of the State budget's resources come from taxes), the subsidies on basic products would be recklessly ceased, and the job opportunities in the public sector such as health, and education would be closed.

n addition to the lack of clarity about the economic plan adopted by the government, the economic choices of K. Said are not different from the previous policies. The national solutions to mobilize budgetary resources are absent and the external loans are the only solutions adopted. In addition, the lack of a clear vision with a realistic diagnosis to the current social situation would eventually lead to stigmatize the social movement and to consider it as a form of conspiracy.

If we add to this the absence of a serious and convincing communicating approach, this will constitute a set of triggers that would evolve the social tension to explode. It became clear during the month of November 2021 that the post-July 25 policies regarding the handling of the social issue do not differ from their predecessors, at least through three events:

The Landfill crisis of El Gonna in Aquereb



has undoubtedly confirmed that the authorities have no solutions to environmental and social crises. They are not the guarantor of a healthy environment. They do not respond to the demands and struggles related to the environment. In fact, the authorities quickly resorted to reopen the landfill by force and to confront the social movement in the region with tear gas and arrests. These security measures led to the death of the young Abdelrazzak Lachahab, because of gas asphyxiation.

The Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights issued its first press release on November 9. It warned against the security approach to the crisis by denouncing the inadequacy of the political response to social crises and the concealment under the guise of public interest, the persistence to serve the interests of lobbies and companies that violate the law and the constitution without any control or accountability with the complicity of the Ministry of Environment and its structures in charge.

The return of El Kamour's crisis



coincides with the first anniversary of signing the November 8 agreement between the government and the sit-in of El Kanpur. At the time, it was considered as a positive step on the part of Mechichi towards the legitimate demands. It aspired to put an end to both the crisis of cessation of oil pumping, in the desert of El Kanpur, and the social crisis that continued to push towards more rebellion and regional solidarity.

However, the lack of interaction with this social movement, which continued over time and developed and established a new platform of protest synergy and regional solidarity, as well as the failure to implement the November 8 agreement confirmed two aspects: the first is the confirmation of the state's willingness to shirk its obligations by denying the agreements reached and the second is the break with the traditions of governance and transparency that the implementation of the agreement has come close to establishing.

The crisis of migrants' deportation with non-regulatory situation



President Said has shown no effort to sign agreements with the Northern Mediterranean countries to stop the forced deportation of migrants with non-regulatory situation. Worse, his speech appeared in the form of condemnation of this social phenomenon by considering it as a form of conspiracy against him. The fact is that "El-Harqa" has become a way for those seeking economic and social opportunities since all opportunities in Tunisia are blocked. In addition, the authorities continue to conceal information about their signed agreements with the Italian side concerning the continued expulsion of illegal migrants. They even block the way to those who seek such information. In this case, a documentary film (la via Della Ritorno), broadcast by the Italian Rai News 24, revealed two important documents:

- * The first document draws up the minutes of the meeting between Italian and Tunisian sides on the 20th of November 2020. The meeting presented the commitments of Tunisia to cooperate by forcing deportation on Tunisian migrants with non-regulatory situation and by strengthening of border controls;
- * The second document represents the correspondence sent by the Tunisian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the Tunisian Embassy in Italy concerning the follow-up of the financial commitments of Italy in return for the Tunisian cooperation on migration. These data are the ones that the Tunisian side refuses to disclose to the national media and national public opinion.

The month of November, which saw 873 protest movements in various regions, represented an important step to evaluate the extent of seriousness of the post-July 25 authorities in dealing with the economic and social files. Hence, this month's report helps to assess the extent to which the policies adopted previously led to increased unemployment rates, poverty, marginalization, and deterioration of basic services marking the continuity of the same choices and policies.

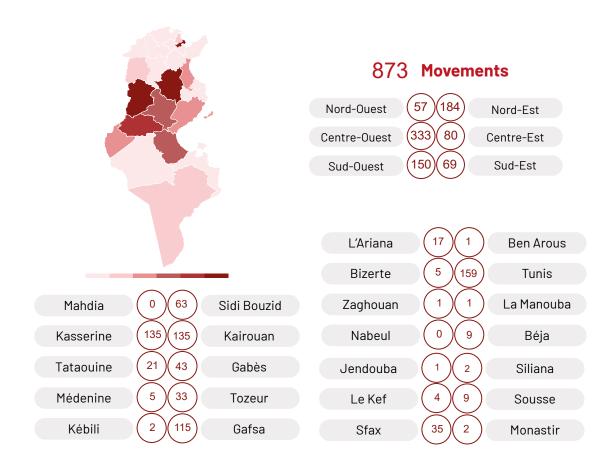
Indeed, the social tension, this time, will be different because the ceiling of hopes and expectations after July 25 were high and could not bear any delay. The figures and the statistics that have been collected during the month of November 2021, allow to have a data which help to anticipate the evolution of social tensions at the end of this year and the upcoming one.

Les Manifestations du mois de Novembre

The political, social, and economic events have confirmed throughout the month of November that the same scenario is repeating itself. An authority that has lost the ability to manage crises and adopts policy of exhaustion and indifference. It lacks clarity in the vision of economic and social agenda. The use of equity issues as a means in the political conflict (such as the issue of employment) and the absence of any reformist approach to the social problems at stake lead to aggravate social violence, harassment, and exclusion of vulnerable groups such as children and people with special needs. For example, people with organic and visual disabilities and people with albinism, whose official statistics are sometimes lacking accurate numbers suffer from the deficiency of access to education, training, and to t labor market.

The Mapping of protests:

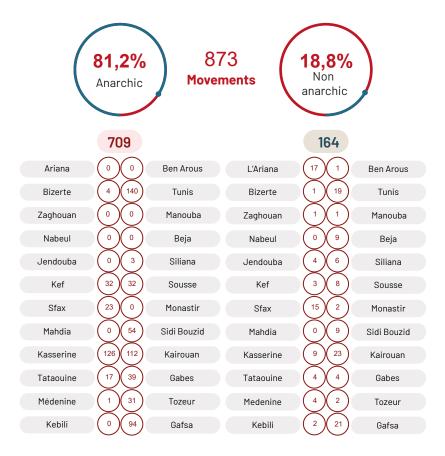
Out of the 873 movements of citizen protests and social movements, the Western Center (Centre Ouest) recorded 333 protest movements, ranking first among the other regions of the country. This region includes the governorates of Kasserine (135 protest movements), Kairouan (135 protest movements) and Sidi Bouzid (63 protest movements). It is followed by the Northern-Eastern region with 184 protest movements, led by the governorate of Tunis as the center of gravity of protests, then the Southern-Western region with 150 protest movements.



The protests, nationally, have exceeded 110 protests respectively in the governorates of Tunis, Kairouan, Gafsa and Kasserine.

The anarchic protest movements, i.e. those tending to violence, have accounted for about 81.2% of total protest movements recorded including about 88% in the governorate of Tunis only.

It should be noted that these anarchic protest movements also include instant and organized protests with disparities between regions. With a relative similarity of percentages between instant and organized protests. That is, demonstrations that are organized and agreed to go out in a peaceful march, implement a protest rally, block traffic or other forms of protest, some of which slide into anarchy. On the other hand, some spontaneous demonstrations, which are an instant reaction to a demand, such as thirst for example or a crisis in transport or other, later slide into anarchy and violence.



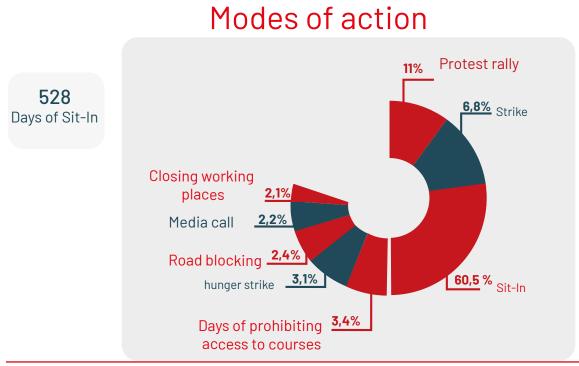
The anarchic demonstrations were nil in the governorates of Kebili, Ariana, Zaghouan, Ben Arous, Monastir and Jendouba.

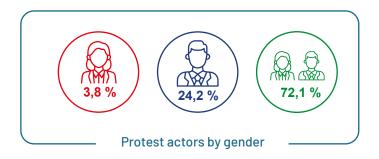


The Protesters and their Demands

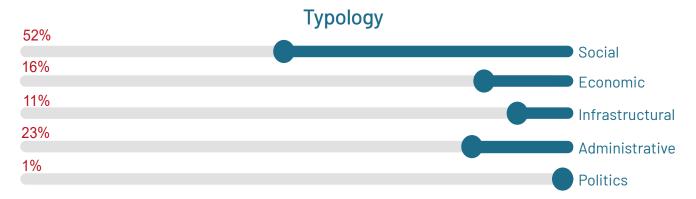
The sit-in was the most important form of protest conducted by applicants throughout November 2021 (60.5% of total protests noted). The number of sit-ins reached 27 and the total number of sit-in days was 528. This type of protest was followed by protest rallies with 11%, then strikes with 6.8%, out of 5 strikes recorded and 59 days of strikes observed

In addition, 27 days of hunger strike out of 3 hunger strikes were also observed. The demonstrators also engaged in other forms of protest, such as road blockades, refusal to join school, calls for distress and discontent through the media





These angry protesters demanded the right to work (53%), workers' rights and improved working conditions (33%), the implementation of agreements (17%), wages and emoluments (96 protest movements), regional development (64 actions), the access to drinking water (53 actions), and the fight against corruption (11 movements).

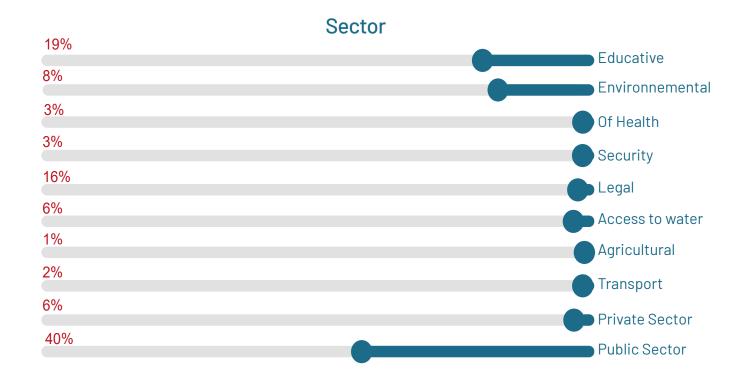


The protesters were mainly unemployed (42% of the actors of the protests) and unemployed graduates (41%); they were also employees, workers, activists, pupils, students, parents of pupils, farmers, traders, and sailors.

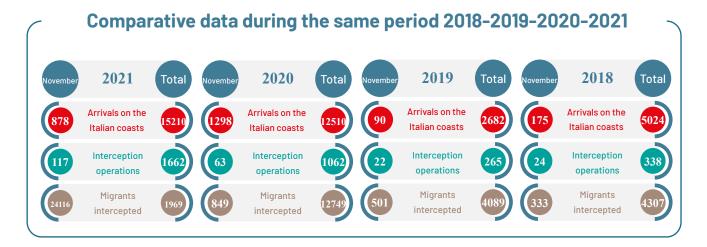
The initiating social actors movements								
42 % Unemployed graduates								
15 %	Inhabitants							
11 %	Employees							
7 %	Workers							
6 %	Youth							
6%	Other Citizens							
5 %	Urban workers							
4 %	Parents							
4 %	Students							

Protest spaces								
17 % Roads								
16 % Governorate head								
13 % HQ of Delegations								
11 % Administrative HQ								
9%	Work spaces							
8%	Ministry HQ							
8%	Public spaces							
7%	Public buildings							
7 %	Educational inst							
4%	CPG							

The roads represented the most important space of protest, with 16% and is a public space in which demonstrators try to attract attention so that the authorities interact with their demands and listen to them. The headquarters of the governorates represented a destination for angry protesters of 15%, followed by the delegations with 12%, the administrative offices with 10%, and finally public places. During the month of November, the protests in front of the Kasba and Carthage palaces were equal to 4%.



Irregular Migration



The number of Tunisian migrants arriving in Italy has decreased to 24% of all arrivals in Italy from all nationalities, after being about 28% during the months of August, September, and October. In fact, 878 migrants did arrive to Italy in a non-regulatory manner during the month of November. It is an overall decrease of 32% compared to November 2020. Since the beginning of the year of 2021, the total of arrivals to Italy increased up to 15210 Tunisian migrants. The rise is altogether of 90% in comparison with the same period as the year before. While 1969 migrants were intercepted, which is an increase of 131% compared to November 2020. The number of intercepted crossings, since the beginning of the year, has reached 24 116 migrants with an increase of 90% compared to the same period during the year 2020.

DISTRIBUTION OF ARRIVALS TO ITALY IN 2021

NON-ACCOMPANIED MINORS	_ ACCOMPANIED _ MINORS	FEMALES	— MALES —	THE ARRIVALS	
65	35	27	754	878	November
1980	612	550	12080	15220	Total
		•			

The statements of some French and Italian officials do not hide their satisfaction with the Tunisian cooperation in border control and in the field of forced repatriation, based on the figures achieved by the Tunisian authorities in the field of maritime border control. On the other hand, in November, Tunisian sailors protested the failure of the Maritime Guard to protect Tunisian sailing boats and to fight against illegal fishing.

DISTRIBUTION OF FRUSTRATING ARRESTS BY REGION

	Jendouba	Bizerte	Tunis	Nabeul	Sousse	Monastir	Mahdia	Sfax	Gabes	Medenine
November	-	2.4%	3.5%	15.2%	4.7%	8.2%	10.5%	44.7%	1.7%	9.4%

The number of minors who reached the Italian coast since the beginning of 2021 has reached 2591, or 17% of all arrivals in Italy holding Tunisian nationality. In addition, the number of female arrivals reaching the Italian coast, since the beginning of 2021, has reached 550 women.

MIGRANTS BY NATIONALITY



The intercepted crossings were concentrated during the month of November 2021 in the region of Sfax, up to 44.7%, followed by the governorate of Nabeul with 15.2%, then the governorate of Mahdia with 10.5%. The month of November was marked by the difficulty of controlling the intercepted passages. The Tunisian Ministry of Interior has published on its official website only few reports on the passage operations.

2483 Tunisian minors managed to reach the Italian coast this year, 1922 of whom were unaccompanied. These terrifying figures reflect some of the miserable reality of childhood in Tunisia, despite the presence of a legal arsenal for the protection of children's rights, which proves to be incapable of dealing with the phenomenon outside of security approaches due to the lack of political will. The multidimensional crisis that Tunisia is going through cannot by itself explain what is actually happening to children in Tunisia and the violations they suffer, combining school dropout, violence and other phenomena. Faced with the general state of frustration, fear of the present and the future as well as the non-functioning of the state and its structures, the children of Tunisia have become easy prey for the smugglers. The family's resistance to the irregular migration project of their children disappears, and they become tolerant, participating or encouraging. We estimate the number of families arriving in Italy this year to be around 500 families.

DISTRIBUTION OF FRUSTRATING ARRESTS BY REGION

	Jendouba	Bizerte	Tunis	Nabeul	Sousse	Monastir	Mahdia	Sfax	Gabes	Medenine
October	-	3,7%	9,8%	8,3%	6%	10,6%	21,21%	28,78%	3,7%	7,5%
MICDANTO DV NATIONAL ITV										
MIGRANTS BY NATIONALITY										
			— т	UNISIAN	NS	ОТІ	HER NATI	ONALIT	IES-	
	Octob	er	3.	5%				65%		
	(-)

During the month of October 2021, the region of Mahdia emerged to rank second after the governorate of Sfax as it witnessed 21% of intercepted migration operations. The night of October 2nd, 2021 has also witnessed the interception of 47 sea crossings according to the Ministry of the Interior. This figure is interesting as it raises the question of the extent of logistical and technical resources mobilized if compared to the drowning of October 16 off the coast of Mahdia knowing that the naval unit dispatched to the scene was content to rescue 6 migrants and return to the port without urgently calling other units to complete the rescue operations with no consideration for the 25 people reported missing and whose fate was unknown.

The percentage of intercepted migrants holding non-Tunisian nationality reached 72.81% due to departures from Libyan coasts that end up in Tunisian waters to be intercepted by the Tunisian authorities. Gradually, Tunisia is becoming a landing platform for migrants in the absence of a legal and logistical system, since the European Union countries disregard their rescue role in the central Mediterranean basin and do not facilitate the missions of humanitarian rescue ships.

The intercepted land crossings accounted for 56.5% of the total crossings during the month of November 2021, most of which are recorded from the governorate of Sfax and which mainly depend on the monitoring of hot spots with beaches and junctions near the coastal towns and villages and on the information effort in checking upon the homes where migrants are gathered.



The month of November 2021 was also marked by an increase in the number of deportations from Italy up to 516 migrants, bringing the number of expulsions from Italy since the beginning of the year to 1655, in addition to expulsions from France. The airport of Tabarka is currently used for this purpose.

Suicide and attempted Suicide

The suicidal fact worsened throughout the month of November since 28 cases of suicide and attempted suicide were recorded. The latter constitutes a social problem which is becoming more and more complicated without the authorities showing any plan to face it, reduce it, prevent it, or protect the victims and take care of them as well as their entourage.

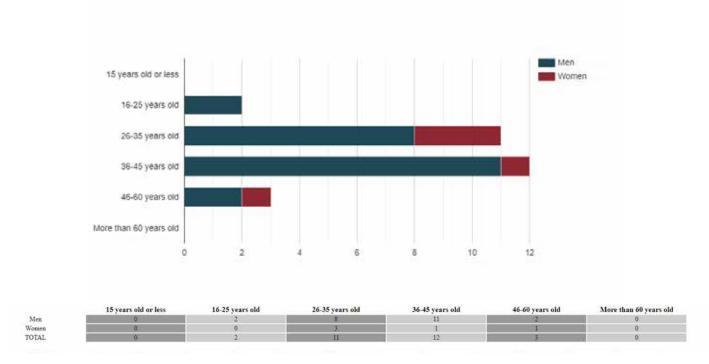
The male gender represented 82.1% of the total number of suicide and attempted suicide victims. It should be noted that the age group between 26 and 45 years is the most affected by suicides and suicide attempts and if we focus on this group we will find that it is the active group that encounters many difficulties in accessing its full rights, mainly economic and social rights such as access to employment, wealth and production.

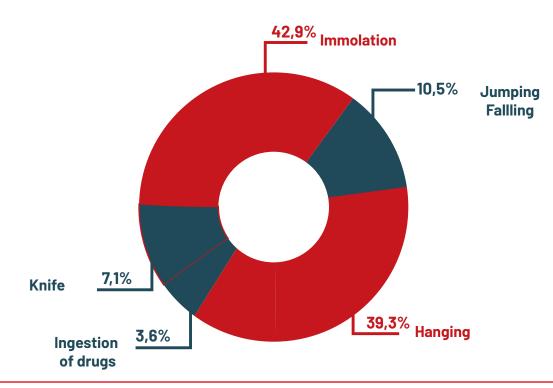
The number of victims of this age group who committed suicide or attempted suicide reached 23 victims.



The governorate of Sidi Bouzid came out on top in terms of the number of cases recorded (8 acts of suicide and attempted suicide), followed by Kairouan with 4 cases and the governorates of Tunis, Monastir, Medenine, and Kasserine with 2 cases for each governorate. The governorate of Ben Arous recorded 3 cases of suicide and attempted suicide, while the governorates of Gafsa, Nabeul, Zaghouan, Manouba and Tataouine have recorded 1 case of suicide or attempted suicide each.

Suicide by immolation accounted for 42.9% of the total cases observed, followed by suicide by hanging with 39.3% then suicide by jumping from heights of 7.1%, and suicide by knife with 7.1%.

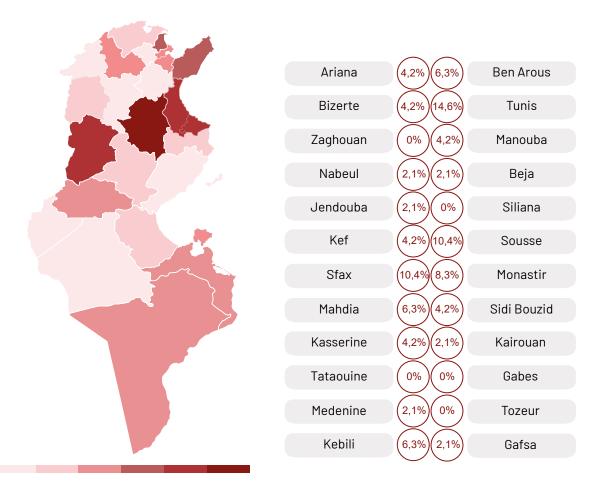




The national report on violence of November 2021

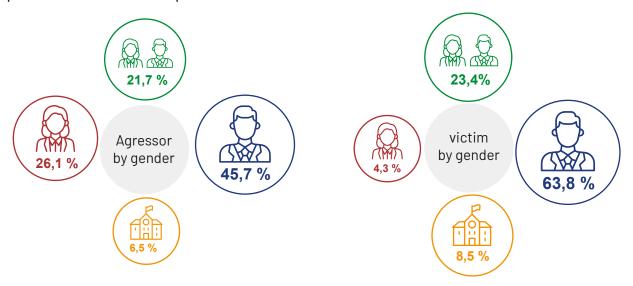
The month of November maintained almost the same pattern of violence recorded during the previous month of October which cannot be considered a positive indicator. It is rather a clear sign that the situation has not changed and that the causes and motives of violence are still the same. In fact, they tend to move towards more expansion and complexity.

It seems that violent behavior is gradually and progressively becoming a tool of communication between different parts of society. In its verbal, physical and psychological form, violence has become a form of relationship with the other in public and private spaces. After a thorough study of the impact, we can say that the generalization of this behavior is mainly due to the state of uncertainty that still characterizes the political situation, the exceptional measures and the weak presence of the state that continues even with the formation of the government. To date, about a month after its formation, the head of government and the ministers, whatever their positions and functions, have not issued any reassuring message or achievement that would give a new glimmer of hope to Tunisians.



In turn, the health situation has not known the stability hoped for. Since the month of November, it has seen the beginning of the spread of a new wave of the new variant of the Corona Virus. This can only deepen the fear, the threat, the social fragility, and the crisis under the present economic situation.

This month of November, in turn, saw the launch of the 16 days of fight against violence against women. During the month of November, the annual international campaign of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence took place. It started on the 25th of November and had many activities related to the implementation of Law No. 58 to combat violence against women. The critical review tackled subjects such as: invisible violence and economic violence which were neglected by the law since their treatment was vague and almost absent compared to what was expected.



Among the most striking critical reviews of law no. 58 during the 16 days, there was the one related to the situation of the child in the cycle of violence. In addition to the battered woman, the child, as the first victim, absorbs the violence in the space of socialization and reproduces it in his/her relationships with others in the public space, the street, and the educational spaces. Hence, violent behaviors develop simultaneously with the growth of the child, and they eventually become a tool of communication and social interaction.

Faced with the extent of violence to which women are subjected today, various activists and defenders of women's rights have unanimously agreed that the 16 days are an annual campaign of great value in relation to the status of women at the international level, but it remains insufficient in the light of the evolution of violence against women. Indeed, the situation must be taken more seriously since 73% of the victims are associated with attempt murder, according to the latest study published by the Tunisian Association of Democratic Women. The same study warns against the seriousness of the crimes of sexual harassment and rape, which so far have been met with social stigma and the patriarchal mentality of judges, leading in many cases to unfair sentences for the victims.



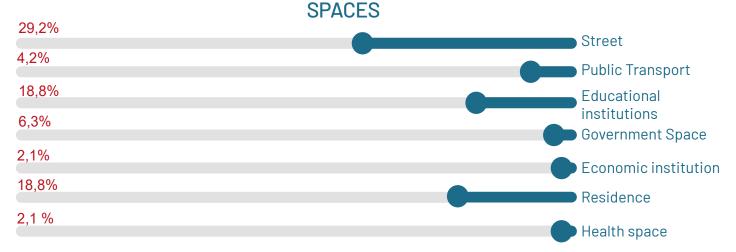
Faced with this reality, it is necessary to work as quickly as possible to provide as much support as possible to the battered woman and to the education of the child in its social and psychological aspect in order to change the collective conscience and produce a more balanced society.



The current school year has seen a notable increase in the level of school violence in general. According to figures from the Tunisian Social Observatory, there has been a monthly change from 2% of violence recorded in January 2021 to 14% in March, 9.5% in April, and 9.7% in June. This rate decreased at the end of the school year in July and August, only to rise again at the start of the school year, recording a rate of 19.1% during the month of October 2021 and a rate of 18.8% during the month of November, with a similar record (18.8%) in universities, hostels, and university restaurants.

These statistics set off every single alarm bell. The Ministry of Education and the responsible authorities must find urgent solutions to recover the casualties for the supreme interest of the child. The educational space should not become a matrix for violence.

What makes the phenomenon of violence more dangerous is its orientation. Since the month of November, individual violence has seen a remarkable development. It increased from 48% of the total violence during the month of October to 62.5% during the month of November against the decline of violence in collective form with the rate of 35.7%.



As in recent months and years, violence in its criminal form retains the first place in the scale of violence monitored by the Tunisian Social Observatory work team with a percentage of 70.8% of total violence, followed by institutional violence, which was in the range of 12.5% and in third place, economic violence representing 10.4% of the total.

The public space, including streets and means of transportation, monopolized the largest percentage of violent incidents recorded during the month of November. It was the scene of 33.4% of total violence, followed also by the educational space, the university space and the home (family space) which accounted for 18.8% of the violence observed respectively.

Violence in its various forms, physical and moral, educational, institutional, administrative and criminal, has been distributed in almost all governorates of the republic in almost equal proportions.

With the publication of the report of violence for the month of November 2021, the Tunisian Social Observatory renews its calls to the various official structures and state officials to give the necessary importance and priority to the fight against the phenomenon of violence that continues to spread in our spaces and among the various bangs of Tunisian society. Every day, fear grows from this phenomenon which represents a real threat to the social contract, stability, and coexistence between Tunisians.

Conclusion

The social situation seems to be an important factor for major developments in the coming weeks, where the political vision is not clear, the budget for the upcoming year is ambiguous. In fact, the financial solutions to develop the upcoming year's budget are from being lucid. They mainly revolve around a heavier tax system or more loans.

This situation is aggravated by the emergence of a new variant of the Corona virus, called by the World Health Organization, O-micron. Among these complications, we can mention the return to the confinement and the limitation of the movements of the people within the framework of the prevention plan. Hence, new complications to the economic situation are expected. All the triggering factors are present today for a possible new social explosion.

The decrease of the trust level in the ruling bodies is related to breaking commitments and laws and the inclusion of sensitive issues such as the lack of employment into political battle. In contrast, such a downfall results in the increase of violence. The speech of the President of the Republic has contributed greatly to the rise of social tensions. To avoid a social explosion, the Bouden's government must send two strong messages. First, the government should reassure the citizen by providing the means to protect his purchasing power and the rapid response to his/her needs in terms of basic services in health and education. The second message ought to reassure the social movements on the application of the agreements signed with them and the commitment to implement them. Otherwise, the scenario of a social explosion remains plausible, and its form is already known.

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.

Methodology for monitoring irregular migration

- Interception Operations: The watch is based on reports from the Ministry of the Interior and statements by the National Guard representative in the various Medias. In most cases, they do not include detailed information (gender, age groups, and the immigrants' countries of origin).
- Arrivals on European coasts: Several structures issue digital data on arrivals to Europe, such as the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, the International Organization for Migration, the Ministries of Interior of European countries and the European Coastal Surveillance Agency.
- The figures presented remain approximate and require continuous updating according to data published by official and civil structures, which may be edited in future reports, but which provide a reading of the evolution and change in the dynamics of irregular migration.
- Invisible figures: are the numbers of migrants who reach European coasts without going
 through local authorities or international structures and are not included in a census. These are
 important figures and differ according to the tactics of migrant smuggling networks. They also
 include departure operations from the Tunisian coasts that manage to escape strict security
 checkpoints or those whose passage is intercepted without issuing reports or without announcing them.

Conclusion

The social situation seems to be an important factor for major developments in the coming weeks, where the political vision is not clear, the budget for the upcoming year is ambiguous. In fact, the financial solutions to develop the upcoming year's budget are from being lucid. They mainly revolve around a heavier tax system or more loans.

This situation is aggravated by the emergence of a new variant of the Corona virus, called by the World Health Organization, O-micron. Among these complications, we can mention the return to the confinement and the limitation of the movements of the people within the framework of the prevention plan. Hence, new complications to the economic situation are expected. All the triggering factors are present today for a possible new social explosion.

The decrease of the trust level in the ruling bodies is related to breaking commitments and laws and the inclusion of sensitive issues such as the lack of employment into political battle. In contrast, such a downfall results in the increase of violence. The speech of the President of the Republic has contributed greatly to the rise of social tensions. To avoid a social explosion, the Bouden's government must send two strong messages. First, the government should reassure the citizen by providing the means to protect his purchasing power and the rapid response to his/her needs in terms of basic services in health and education. The second message ought to reassure the social movements on the application of the agreements signed with them and the commitment to implement them. Otherwise, the scenario of a social explosion remains plausible, and its form is already known.