

Number 74



Report of the month October 2019

Social movements, Suicides and Violence

834 collective protests and **20** cases of suicide and attempted suicide

Introduction

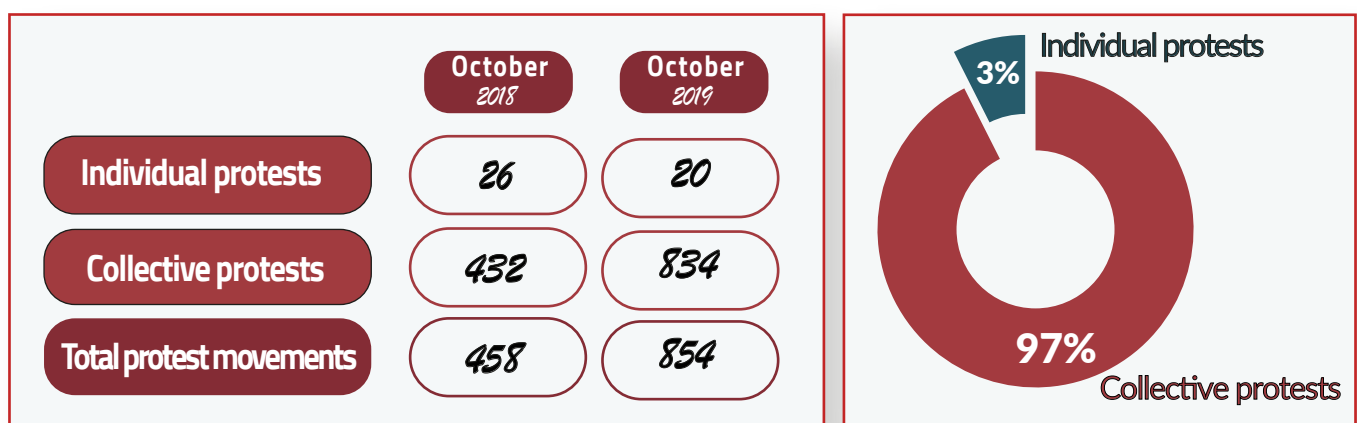
The different elections held in the country in October 2019 (the legislative elections of October 6th and the second round of the early elections of October 13th) did not bring hope to social actors as protest movements increased by about 49% compared to October 2018. Indeed, during the month of October, the monitoring team of the Tunisian Social Observatory recorded 834 protest actions, 20 acts of suicide and attempted suicide.

Although this month coincided with a climate described as revolutionary in terms of "eviction" by voters of the so-called "system" and the rise of a new "system" of governance, this positive climate failed to reduce protests compared to October 2018 as we recorded a 75% increase in economic protests, a 39% increase in social demonstrations, an 87.5% increase in politically motivated movements, a 13% increase in educational protests, a 145% increase in administrative protests and a 186.3% increase in health-related movements, not to mention infrastructure-related demonstrations, which saw a 26% increase.

The nature of protest movements in July 2019

The number of social demonstrations observed reached 834, representing 98% of the total. 22% of these demonstrations were of a violent nature (184 protests), which is the lowest percentage compared to the instantaneous and spontaneous demonstrations recorded during the month of October 2019; this percentage is a remarkable indicator because it concerns anarchic and violent and unframed demonstrations, in particular those linked to the immediate reactions of citizens such as the reactions of people affected by the floods to their homes, particularly those of the inhabitants of El Mostakbal City, Governorate of Ariana when they blocked the northern entrance to the capital and in the absence of any interaction between the State authorities and their crisis, this situation has led to a state of panic, disorder and congestion in most roads.

Individual and collective protest movements



Nature of collective social movements (October 2019)



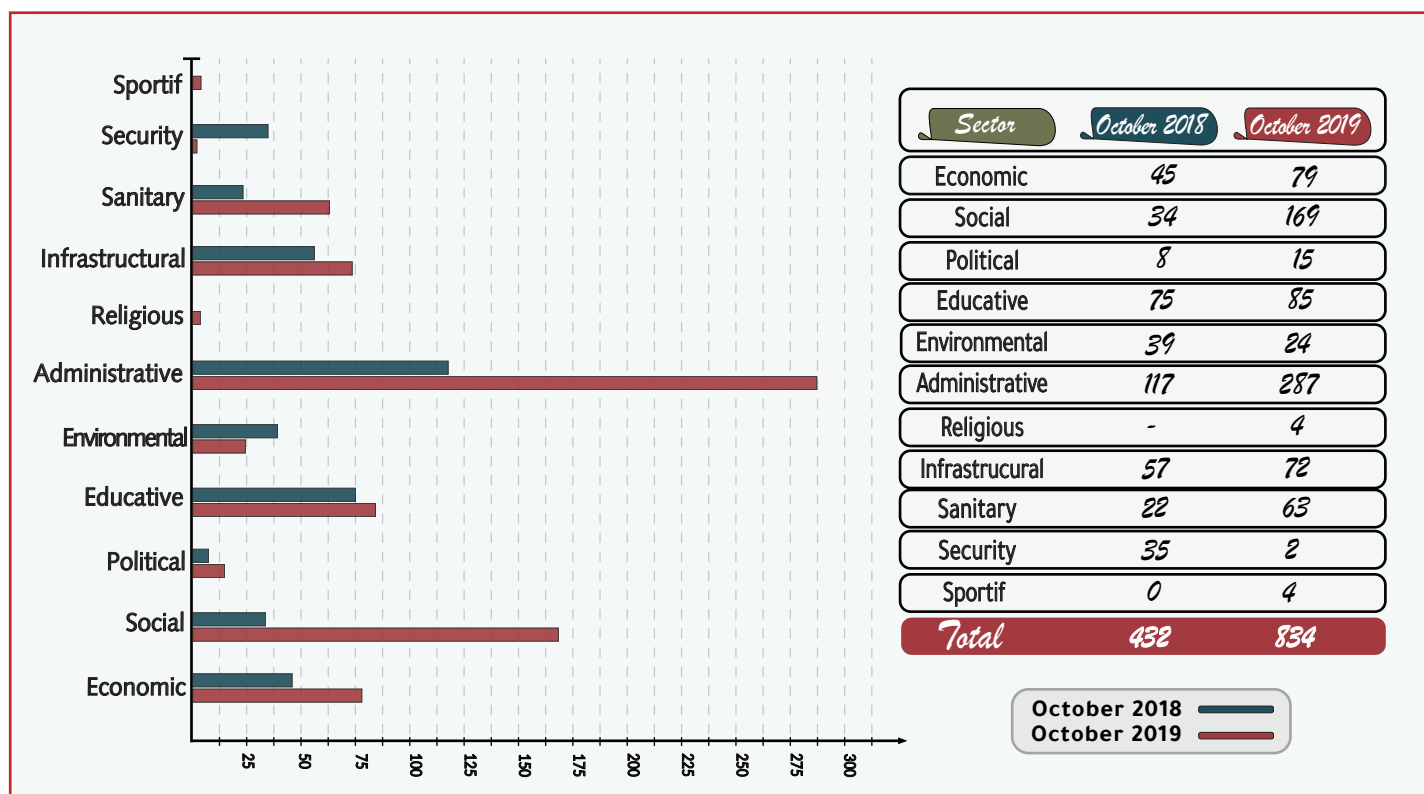
Protest rallies remain the most important form of protest among demonstrators, accounting for 45% of the total number of demonstrations observed during the month of October 2019, followed by strikes, up in the order of 15%, road blocks with 12%, sit-ins with 6. % and burning tires with 1.35% of protest movements observed.

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

With regard to protest spaces, the media were the main focus through which anger was expressed and made known, while social networks were the main site for their anger and protests. Then there are the headquarters of the administrations, the headquarters of the governorates and municipalities, not to mention the professional spaces and roads that represent the other spaces of protest and claims.

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

distribution of protest movements by sectors

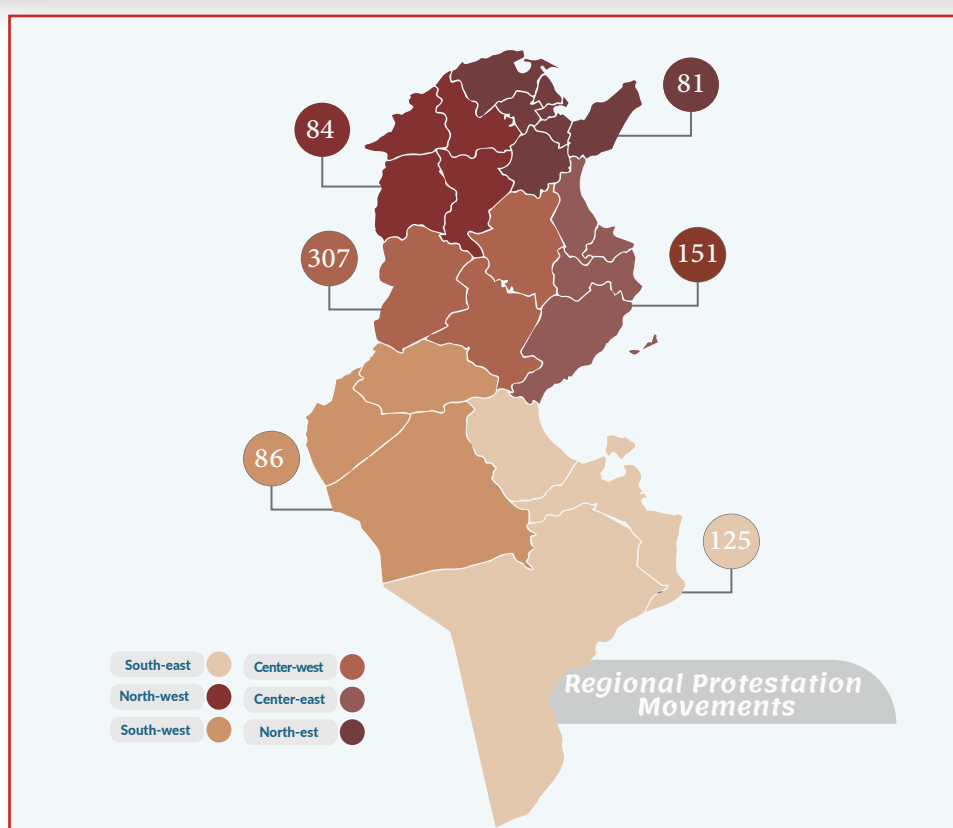


Protestations instantanées	Sector	Economic	Social	Political	Educative	Environ-mental	Adminis-trative	Infrastru-ctural	Sanitary	Security	Sports	Religious
	October 2019	37	79	7	35	13	128	2	29	30	15	2
	October 2018	3	7	2	6	15	16	-	8	9	7	0
Protestations spontanées	Sector	Economic	Social	Political	Educative	Environ-mental	Adminis-trative	Infrastru-ctural	Sanitary	Security	Sports	Religious
	October 2019	30	57	6	24	6	96	2	20	18	12	2
	October 2018	26	18	5	38	15	61	-	24	8	17	0
Protestations violentes	Sector	Economic	Social	Political	Educative	Environ-mental	Adminis-trative	Infrastru-ctural	Sanitary	Security	Sports	Religious
	October 2019	12	33	2	26	5	63	0	23	15	5	0
	October 2018	16	9	1	31	9	40	-	25	5	11	0

The mapping of protest movements during the month of October 2019

The governorate of Kairouan remains at the forefront of the angriest and most contesting area; most of these demonstrations remain without any significant reaction from the supervising authorities. During October 2019, 127 protest movements were observed in the region, followed by the governorate of Kasserine (94 demonstrations), the governorate of Sidi Bouzid (86 protests), the governorate of Gafsa (67 demonstrations), the governorate of Sousse (62 protests) and the governorates of Sfax and Tataouine (53 protests respectively) without forgetting the governorate of Medenine with 47 protests.

Gouvernorate	October 2019	October 2018	Gouvernorate	October 2019	October 2018	Gouvernorate	October 2019	October 2018
Bizerte	18	6	Beja	23	18	Kasserine	94	36
Tunis	19	13	Kef	9	10	Sidi Bouzid	86	19
Ariana	8	2	Seliana	22	12	Gabes	25	6
Manouba	24	4	Sousse	62	33	Medenine	47	53
Ben Arous	0	0	Monastir	30	4	Tataouine	53	5
Zaghuan	2	0	Mahdia	6	3	Gafsa	67	21
Nabeul	10	31	Sfax	53	30	Tozeur	10	8
Jendouba	30	16	Kairouan	127	98	Kebili	9	4



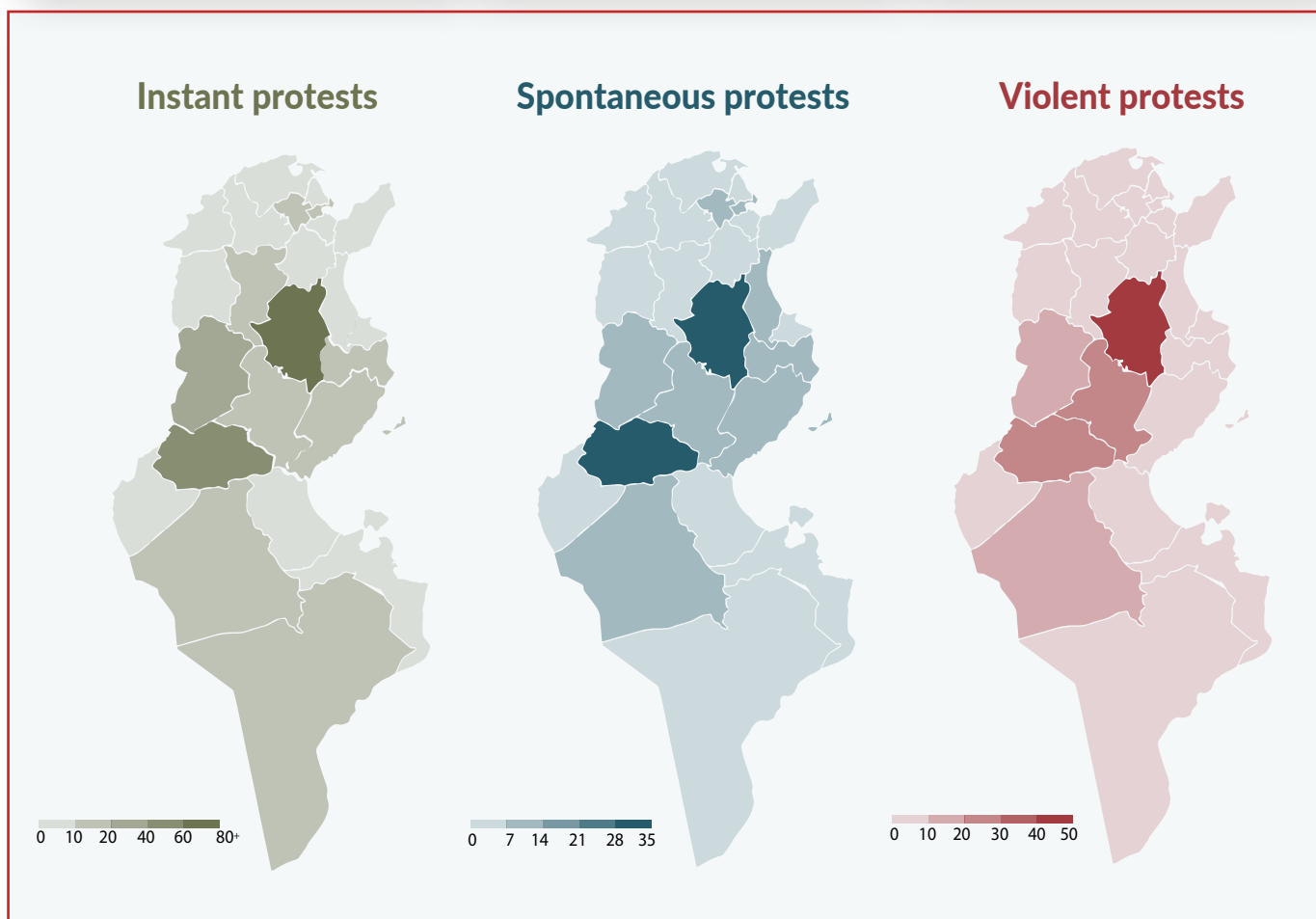
It is worth noting that the governorates of Kairouan, Sidi Bouzid, Gafsa and Kasserine represent the first square of social mobilization in Tunisia since they recorded 374 demonstrations in October, representing about 49% of the total movements observed.

Geographical distribution of protests

Instant protests			
Bizerte	3	Monastir	2
Tunis	10	Mahdia	12
Ariana	0	Sfax	12
Manouba	11	Kairouan	92
Ben Arous	0	Kasserine	20
Zaghouan	3	Sidi Bouzid	19
Nabeul	5	Gabes	9
Jendouba	8	Medenine	3
Beja	6	Tataouine	12
Kef	8	Gafsa	40
Seliana	0	Tozeur	3
Sousse	9	Kebili	12

Spontaneous protests			
Bizerte	3	Monastir	2
Tunis	9	Mahdia	9
Ariana	0	Sfax	7
Manouba	7	Kairouan	32
Ben Arous	0	Kasserine	11
Zaghouan	0	Sidi Bouzid	11
Nabeul	0	Gabes	3
Jendouba	3	Medenine	3
Beja	3	Tataouine	6
Kef	6	Gafsa	31
Seliana	0	Tozeur	6
Sousse	9	Kebili	10

Violent protests			
Bizerte	0	Monastir	0
Tunis	0	Mahdia	6
Ariana	0	Sfax	8
Manouba	5	Kairouan	41
Ben Arous	0	Kasserine	10
Zaghouan	0	Sidi Bouzid	20
Nabeul	5	Gabes	0
Jendouba	8	Medenine	0
Beja	0	Tataouine	6
Kef	3	Gafsa	24
Seliana	0	Tozeur	3
Sousse	0	Kebili	17



Acts and attempts of suicide in May 2019

With regard to acts of suicide and attempted suicide, 20 cases were recorded, including 16 males and 4 females: the age group 26 to 45 years accounted for about 35%, while this age group accounted for 81% of the total number of victims of suicide and attempted suicide in October 2018.

While children under 15 years of age and people over 60 years of age were absent from the statistics for October 2018, October 2019 witnessed the suicide of four children and three people over 60 years of age, including a seventy-year-old who killed his elderly wife with a hunting gun before killing himself with the same weapon in Foussana's delegation.

Suicides and attempts of suicide by gender



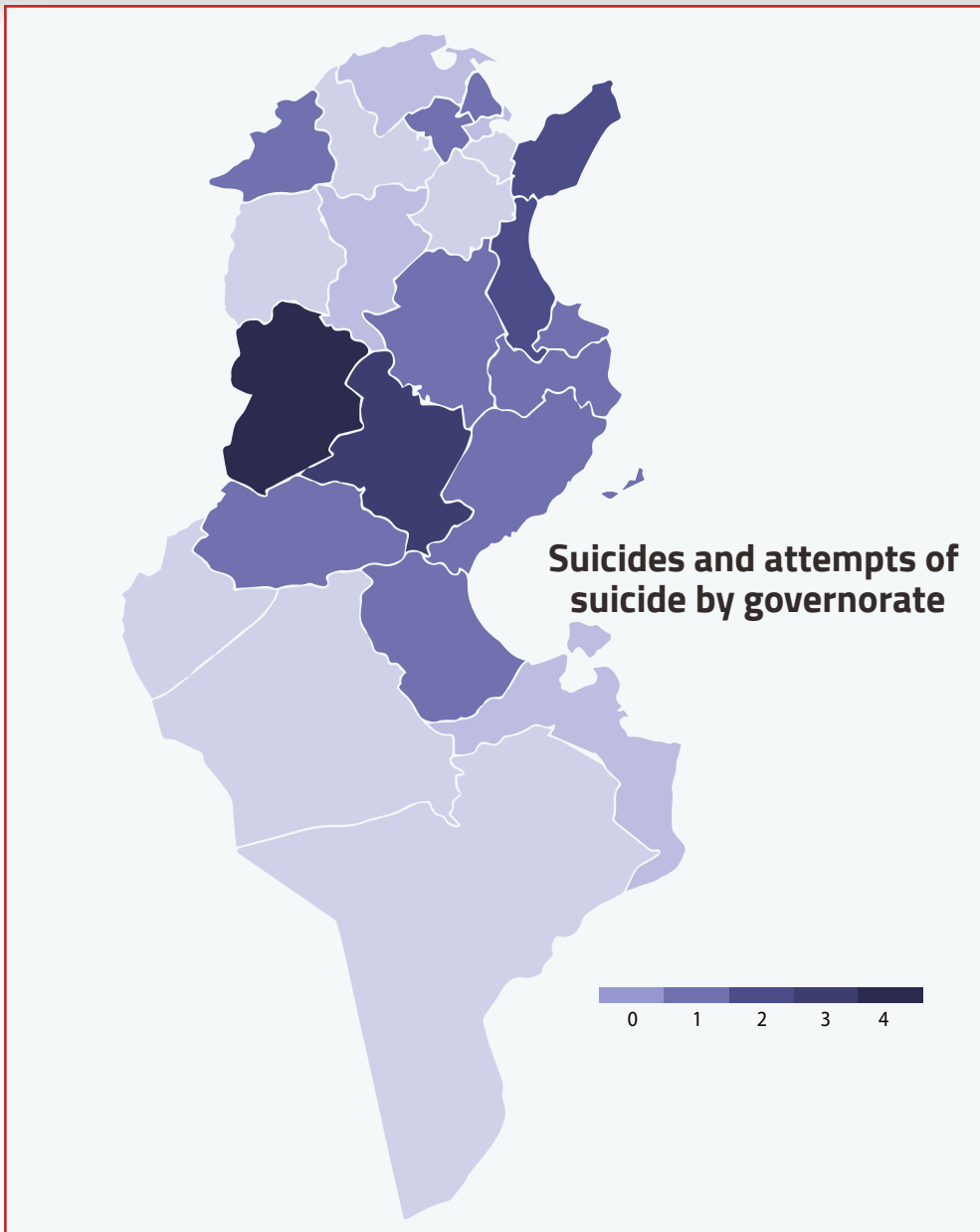
Suicides by hanging represent about 50% of the acts of suicide and attempted suicide committed by the victims, which shows their insistence on death.

Suicides and suicide attempts by age group



Suicides and attempts of suicide by governorate

Governorate	Bizerte	Tunis	Ariana	Manouba	Ben Arous	Zaghouan	Nabeul	Jendouba
Volume	0	1	0	1	0	0	2	1
Governorate	Beja	Le Kef	Seliana	Sousse	Monastir	Mahdia	Sfax	Kairouan
Volume	0	0	0	2	1	1	1	1
Governorate	Kasserine	Sidi bouzid	Gabes	Medenine	Tataouine	Gafsa	Tozeur	Kebili
Volume	4	3	1	0	0	1	0	0



Violence

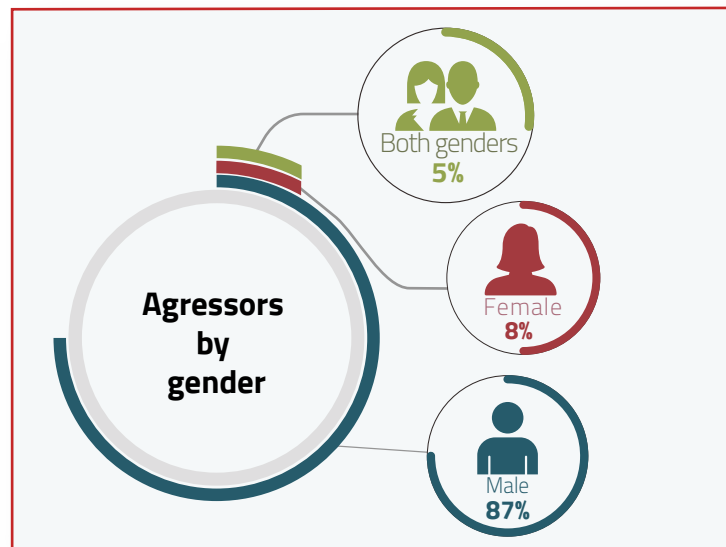
The acts of violence recorded during the month of October were individual in 70% of cases and about 30% collective.

cases of violence



In contrast to the previous months, during this month of October, we witnessed an increase in violence in which the perpetrator was a woman with about 8% against 87% male and the rest of the violence was mixed between men and women.

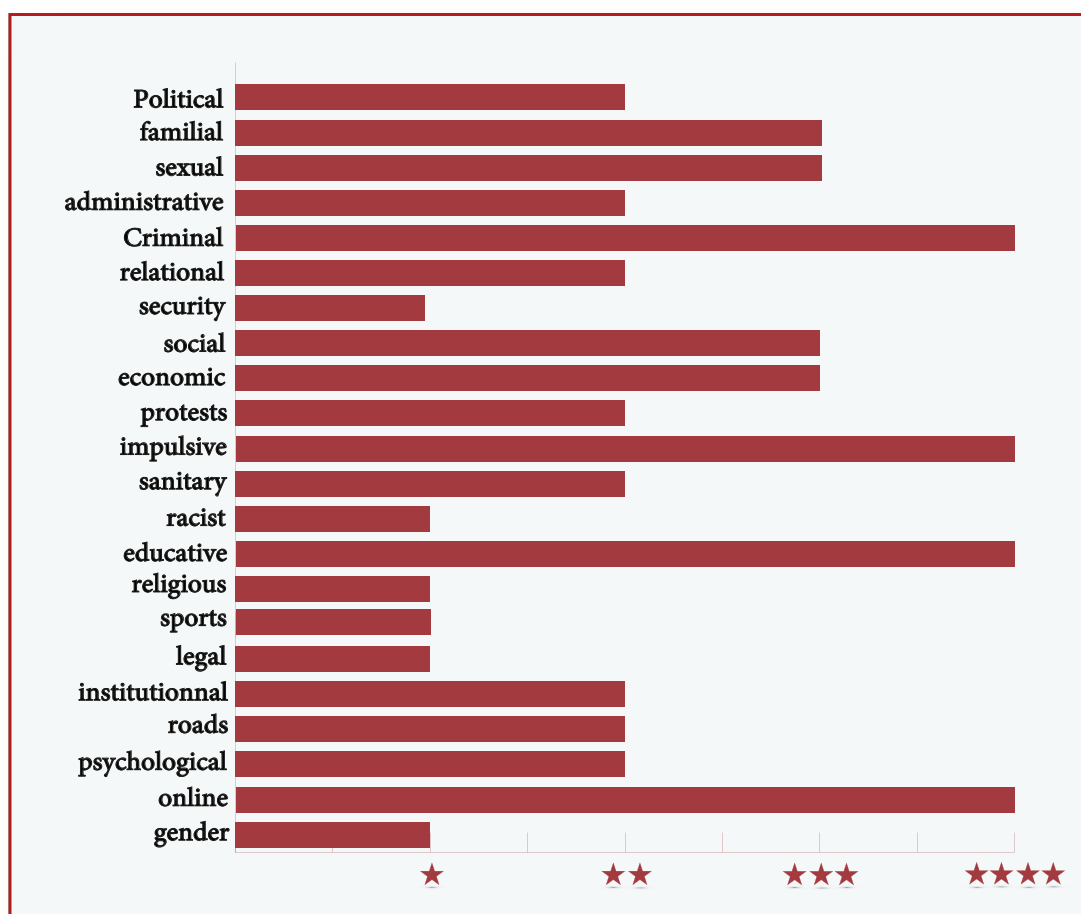
Agressors by gender



Violence in its criminal and emotional form continued to be at the forefront of the acts of violence identified by the Tunisian Social Observatory team during October 2019, accounting for 69% of the total number of cases, distributed among the various governorates and delegations of the Republic. These were mainly robberies, murders, assaults and burglaries.

As in previous months, violence in its sexual form represented a remarkable percentage of the incidents of violence observed; 18% of cases constituted sexual harassment. The most serious acts of child harassment have been recorded during sexual assaults on sick children at Al-Qassab Hospital and cases of sexual abuse by a former football player in Ettahrir City on young recruits to the club, not to mention the sexual assault of a teacher on his students in the southern region of Sfax.

Forms of violence



Women have been raped several times in the Battene region, Kairouan governorate, Ben Arous governorate and Gsar's delegation in Gafsa.

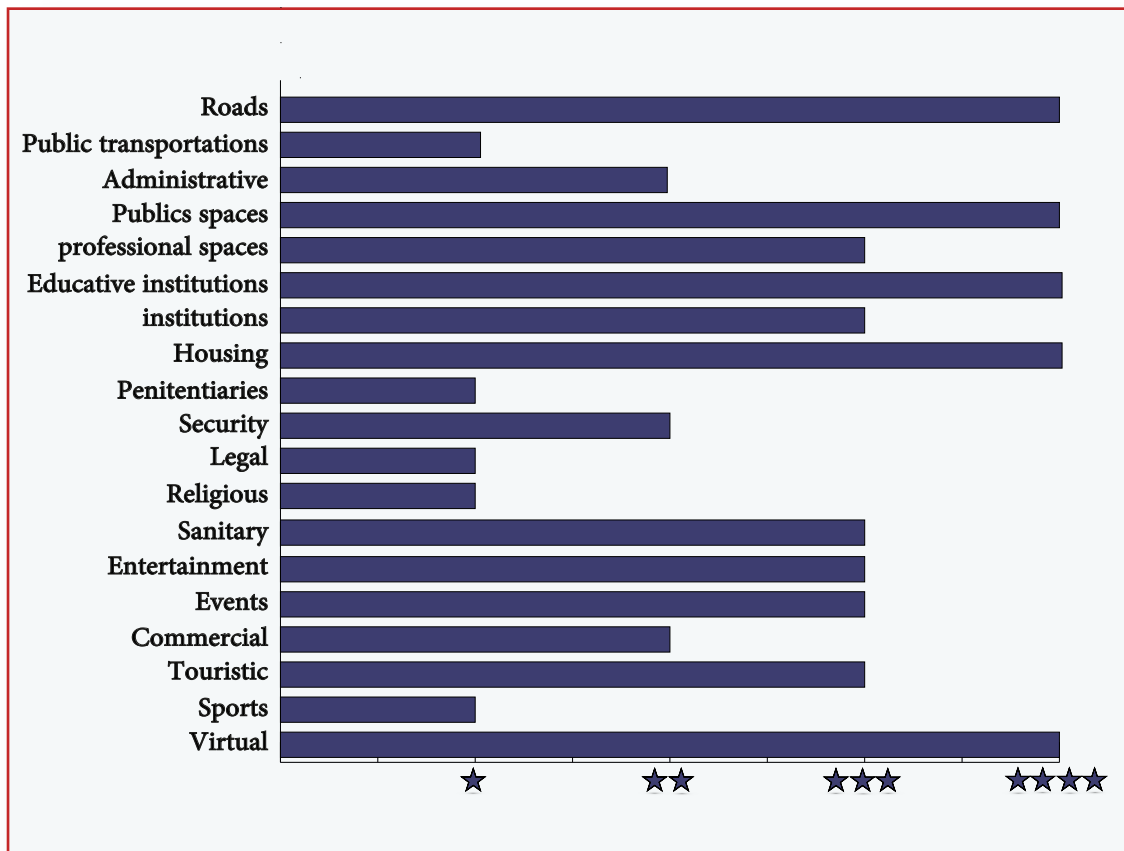
In addition, October witnessed a decrease in rates of domestic and family violence with 15% of all acts of violence recorded.

Family and domestic spaces have been the most frequent setting for the different cases of violence observed in its various forms, followed by public spaces, roads, public squares, cafés and markets. Educational spaces were the scene of 21% of the acts of violence observed during the month of October.

What was notable during this month of October, a month of elections by excellence where legislative elections and the second round of presidential elections were held, was the emergence of cases of cyber-violence very present on social networks with "messages" of threats, insults and scenes of verbal and physical violence. An unattended framework far from monitoring and accountability with consequences and repercussions in reality such as on the day of the presidential election in its second round with an exchange of violence in the El Hamma delegation in the Gabes governorate between supporters of the candidates.

The phenomenon of cyber violence remains a problem that is ignored in Tunisia's legal treatment and legislation, despite the threat it poses to various segments of society, including children, in addition to its serious impact on the general political and social climate.

Intensity of violence by space



Conclusion

In conclusion, the positive climate that characterized the Tunisian streets after the elections and its indicators, including the organization of citizen initiatives to conduct clean-up campaigns in various regions, do not seem to be able to calm the social situation at the end of this year and the beginning of the new year to come.

The same economic, social, administrative, health, infrastructural, environmental, educational, basic services, employment and development reasons that drove demonstrators to protest in the streets and public squares persist in the absence of an effective diagnosis of the extent of the economic and social crisis, in the absence of a realistic program, taking into account the fragmentation of political parties that invaded parliament after the elections on 6 October. This whole landscape could lead to political complications in terms of government stability, which will be accompanied by additional complications in the economic and social crisis.