

Number 84

Report of the month September 2020

Social movements, Suicides, Violence and Migration

751 collective protests, 15 cases of suicide and attempted suicide and 1923 Migrants



September 2020 Report on social movement

Contamination by the SARS virus Covid-2, or what is known as Covid 19 (Corona), accelerated among Tunisians during the month of September, bringing the number of infections throughout the month to 14,276 new confirmed cases, according to figures from the Ministry of Public Health.

The contamination curve increased rapidly from 7,860 confirmed cases between September 1 and September 23, within three weeks, to 6,416 confirmed cases in one week. These figures confirm the acceleration of the spread of the virus in the country and the evolution of the epidemiological situation in the following month towards more complications, especially with nearing maximum capacity in hospitals given the 107 residents in intensive care at the end of September and the number of beds in intensive care that do not exceed 130 beds.

This health emergency further complicates the multiple crisis facing the country, as the Covid pandemic has fueled social tensions, exposed the reality of non-programming in the two successive governments in 2020 (the government of Elyes Fakhfekh and the current government of Hishem El-Mechichi), lifted the veil on the reality of poverty and marginalization in the country and drew a clear map of what the situation could be in the coming month of January.

The month of January is often a season of protest and social mobilization since it coincides with the implementation of the new finance law and the new fiscal instruments it may entail and the harshness of the demand.

Tendency for violence

This rise in social tension was one of the logical consequences of a global and targeted containment adopted by the authorities to deal with the pandemic, disrupting production, exposing thousands of people to technical unemployment and blocking any prospect of investment or development.

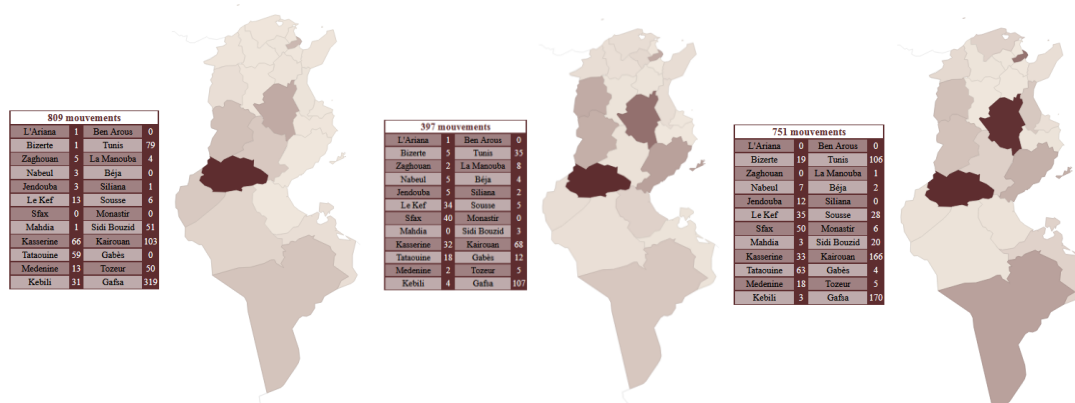
As stated in the August 2020 report, attention should have turned during this quarter to the adoption of an urgent economic rescue plan and a strategy to take the country out of the cycle of a serious loss of growth that economists estimate could reach 11% by the end of the year, but efforts were directed towards a new political debate that ended the government and established a new government with the absence of an economic and social rescue program.

The quarter that followed the first wave of Covid was characterized by the laxity of the authorities in the strict application of health protocols, particularly after the total opening of borders at the end of June, which accelerated a second difficult wave of propagation of Covid among Tunisians and the congestion that accompanied it around the lack of health services, including the lack of access to testing for the virus in the public sector and the high cost of these tests in the private sector, not to mention the failure to comply with sterilization procedures, the provision of preventive equipment and the failure to comply with health protocol in a number of public and private establishments, which has accelerated the number of Covid cases from around 100 cases in mid-August to more than 1,300 cases. Infection confirmed at the end of September and the pressure that accompanies this rise on the level of accommodation in hospitals and mandatory quarantine centers.

Social embarrassment for the person infected with this virus has decreased as the intimidation and stigma against the infected has ceased. However, economic embarrassment has exacerbated the decline in development expenditures at the end of July by 14% in exchange for an increase in operating expenses, according to figures from the Ministry of Finance and with the decline in financial resources at the budget level, the country is facing an unprecedented rate of deficit in the state budget by the end of this year.

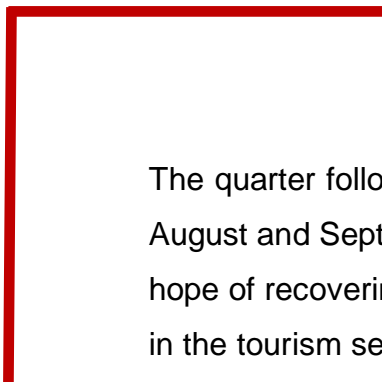
This situation could have a significant impact on the finance law for 2021, which means a more than difficult opening in January, given the decline in the development budget and what this implies in terms of halting investment and employment prospects.

This climate may double the number of unemployed, knowing that a 1% loss in the growth rate means a loss of 15,000 jobs, according to economists' estimates. Tunisia is now at estimates of a loss of about 11% of the growth rate by the end of 2020, which means an inflation of the economic and social crisis.



The number of social protests recorded in the third quarter of 2020 reached nearly 1946 protests and if this number has remained within the normal range and below what was recorded in the first quarter before the Covid crisis (2064 protests), it seems to predict a difficult final quarter in which the health sector will meet the economic and social, not to mention the security-related aspects, with the increase in social tensions in the face of the growing level of violence and criminality.

This general climate of global crisis has been fueled by political controversy and may worsen in the last three months of the year in the absence of any clear government program and in the absence of open and transparent communication with the people for a national salvation that presents a roadmap out of this global crisis and opens horizons for those who have demands, especially as these individuals have become violent in their demonstrations.

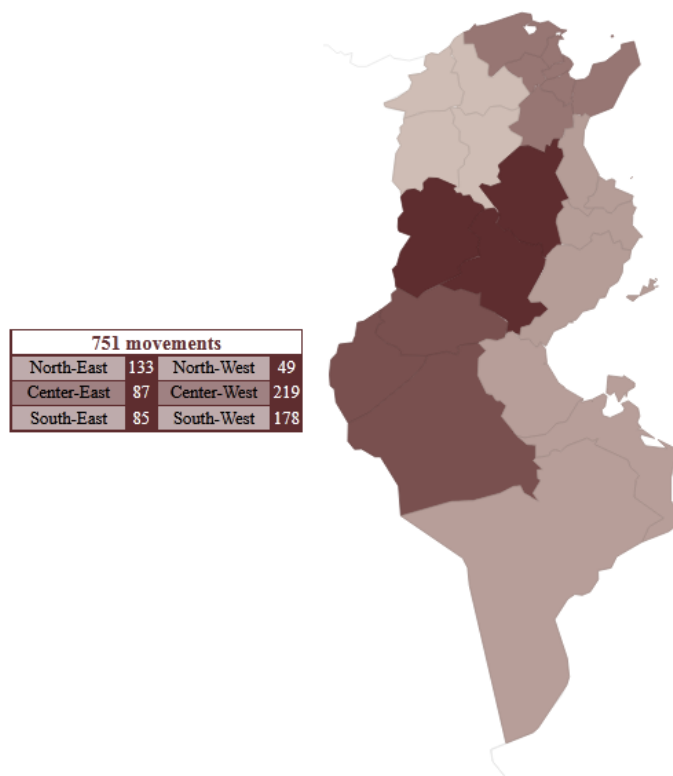


The quarter following the first wave of the Covid pandemic (the months of July, August and September) was characterized by the total opening of borders in the hope of recovering the economic situation and avoiding an unprecedented crisis in the tourism sector. Despite the development of health protocols in all sectors, the laxity in their application has caused the spread of Covid infection due to the influx of tourists and Tunisians living abroad. As of mid-August, a significant increase in the infection curve was observed, resulting in more than 14,000 contaminated people during the month of September.

In addition, the post-Covid quarter was also marked by social and political tensions that doubled the scale of hate speech between deputies during the month of July, and even as the parliament began its annual recess in August and September, political debate continued outside the walls of parliament leading to the resignation of the government chairman and the appointment of his Interior Minister, Hichem El-Mechichi, to form a new government. This controversy has had repercussions on the level of social tension, as the protests recorded during the month of September increased by almost 100% compared to August. This congestion is due to the uncertainties about the school year and about the spread of the Corona epidemic. The movement of irregular migration to Italy has also increased throughout the post-Covid quarter, which is another form of social tension.

The month of September:

The mapping of protest movements increased in September by approximately 89% compared to the previous month, the number of protests recorded during September reached 751 protest movements compared to 397 protest movements in August. This increase was expected considering that September coincided with the start of the school year and the return of agricultural activities and this year it also coincided with the crisis of the spread of the Covid infection and the protests that followed in the medical, paramedical and citizens' ranks demanding health services and preventive means.

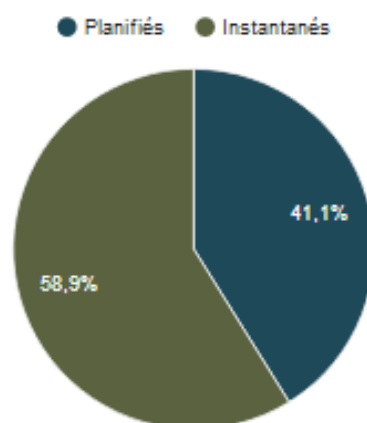


As for the protest mapping, it almost maintained the same distribution, with the center-west leading the most affected areas with 219 protest movements, followed by the south-west with 178 protest movements, then the north-east with 133 protest movements, the center-east with 87 protest movements, the south-east with 85 protest movements and the north-west with 49 protests.

751 mouvements			
L'Ariana	0	Ben Arous	0
Bizerte	19	Tunis	106
Zaghuan	0	La Manouba	1
Nabeul	7	Béja	2
Jendouba	12	Siliana	0
Le Kef	35	Sousse	28
Sfax	50	Monastir	6
Mahdia	3	Sidi Bouzid	20
Kasserine	33	Kairouan	166
Tataouine	63	Gabès	4
Medenine	18	Tozeur	5
Kebili	3	Gafsa	170



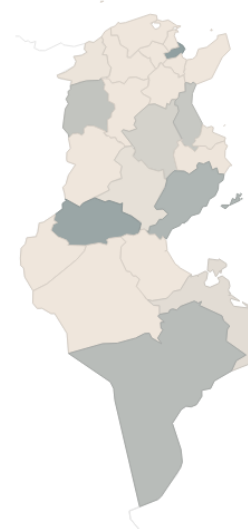
The governorate of Kairouan is at the forefront of the most affected areas by the protests, with 166 movements, followed by Gafsa (170 protests), Tunis (106 movements), Tataouine (63 movements), Sfax (50 movements) and 30 demonstrations in each of the governorates of Kasserine, El Kef and Sousse.



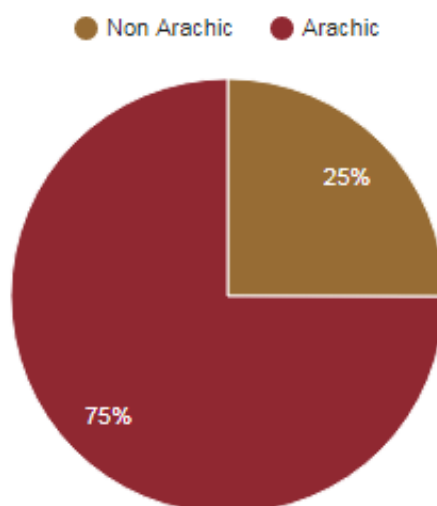
442 instantaneous movements			
Ariana	0	Ben Arous	0
Bizerte	19	Tunis	40
Zaghuan	0	Manouba	1
Nabeul	7	Beja	2
Jendouba	10	Siliana	0
Le Kef	3	Sousse	0
Sfax	5	Monastir	4
Mahdia	2	Sidi Bouzid	14
Kasserine	33	Kairouan	147
Tataouine	24	Gabes	4
Medenine	9	Tozeur	5
Kebili	3	Gafsa	110



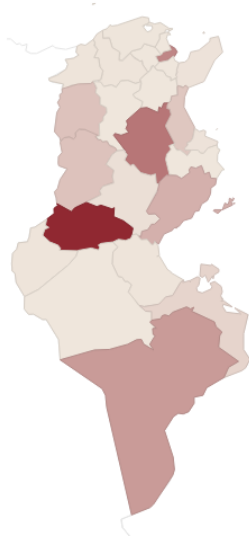
309 planned movements			
Ariana	0	Ben Arous	0
Bizerte	0	Tunis	66
Zaghuan	0	Manouba	0
Nabeul	0	Beja	0
Jendouba	2	Siliana	0
Le Kef	32	Sousse	28
Sfax	45	Monastir	2
Mahdia	1	Sidi Bouzid	6
Kasserine	0	Kairouan	19
Tataouine	39	Gabes	0
Medenine	9	Tozeur	0
Kebili	0	Gafsa	60



What is more striking is the magnitude of the anarchic demonstrations, that is, those tending towards violence, which accounted for 75% of the total number of the observed demonstrations.



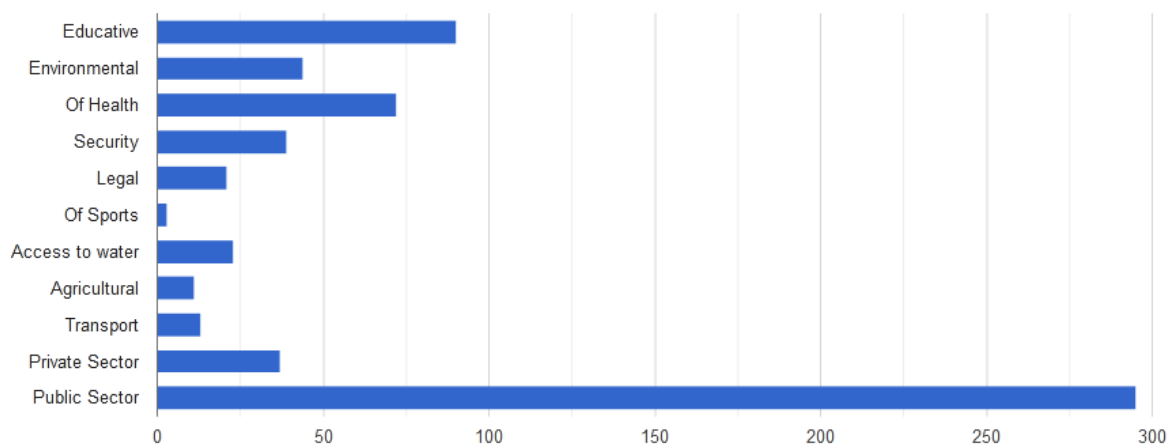
563 anarchic movements			
Ariana	0	Ben Arous	0
Bizerte	1	Tunis	80
Zaghuan	0	Manouba	0
Nabeul	3	Beja	2
Jendouba	2	Siliana	0
Le Kef	30	Sousse	26
Sfax	45	Monastir	3
Mahdia	0	Sidi Bouzid	6
Kasserine	30	Kairouan	94
Tataouine	63	Gabes	2
Medenine	15	Tozeur	2
Kebili	0	Gafsa	159



188 non anarchic movements			
Ariana	0	Ben Arous	0
Bizerte	18	Tunis	26
Zaghuan	0	Manouba	1
Nabeul	4	Beja	0
Jendouba	10	Siliana	0
Le Kef	5	Sousse	2
Sfax	5	Monastir	3
Mahdia	3	Sidi Bouzid	14
Kasserine	3	Kairouan	72
Tataouine	0	Gabes	2
Medenine	3	Tozeur	3
Kebili	3	Gafsa	11

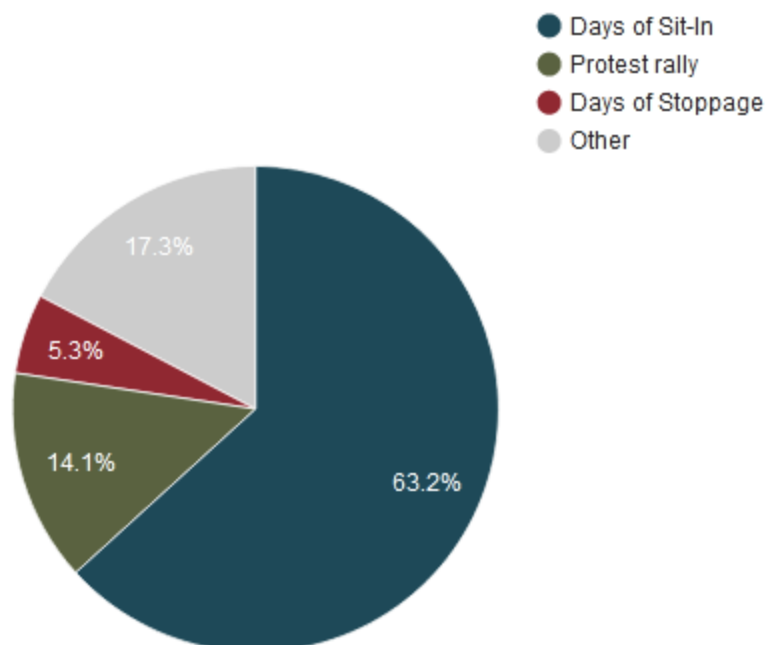


According to what was observed, the percentage of anarchic movements in Gafsa reached 159 protest movements, followed by 94 anarchic movements in Kairouan and 80 anarchic movements in Tunis. All protest movements in Tataouine were anarchic.



Sector	Percentage
Educative	14 %
Environmental	7 %
Of Health	12 %
Security	7 %
Legal	4 %
Of Sports	1 %
Access to water	4 %
Agricultural	2 %
Transport	3 %
Private Sector	6 %
Public Sector	46 %

The demands of the demonstrators were mainly of an economic and social nature, with approximately 77% of the total demands. 8% of the demands were to improve the state of the infrastructure and 17% were related to administrative demands.

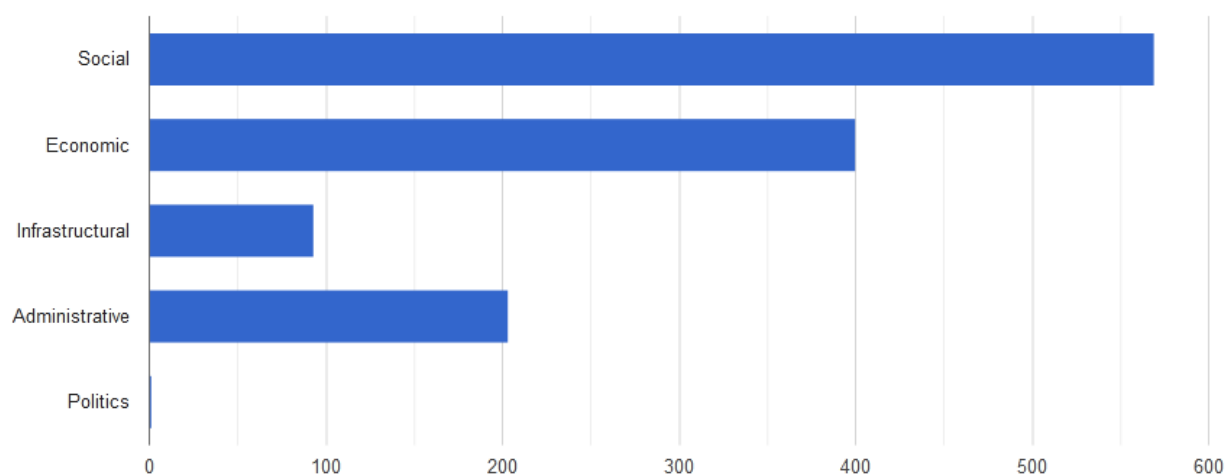


The sit-in was the most widespread form of protest with 63%, followed by protest demonstrations with 14%, strikes with 5.3%, and other forms of protest, including boycotts of school classes due to lack of health protocol, lack of educational facilities or lack of school transportation.

13%	Citizens	24%	Public buildings
6%	Youth	6%	Governorate headquarters
5%	Parents	10%	Medias
8%	inhabitants	3%	Educational institutions
3%	Activists	23%	Roads
9%	Employees	16%	Administrative headquarters
18%	workers	3%	Public spaces
5%	urban workers	6%	Headquarters of Delegations
1%	farmers	7%	Work spaces
42%	Unemployed	2%	hospitals
17%	Unemployed graduated	2%	Judicial Institutions
		5%	CPG

The unemployed were the most present actors of the protest movements throughout September with 42%.

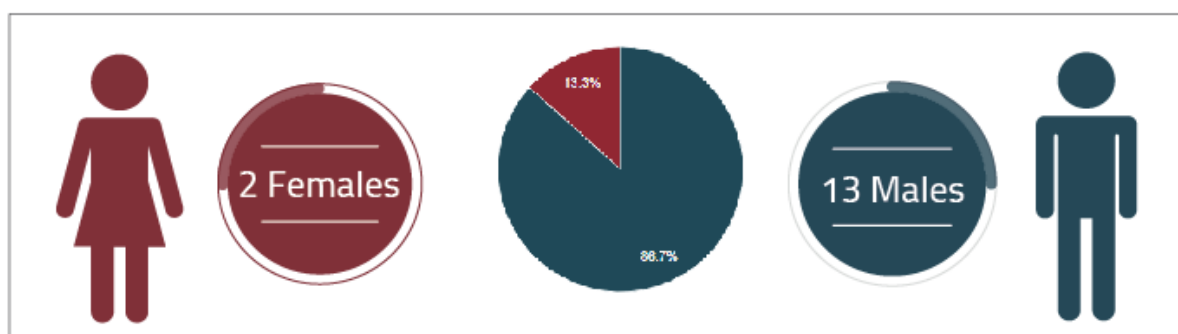
Roads (23%), trusteeship headquarters (24%) and administrative headquarters (16%) were the main areas of protest for all the movements observed.



Typologie	Percentage
Social	45 %
Economic	32 %
Infrastructural	8 %
Administrative	17 %
Politics	1 %

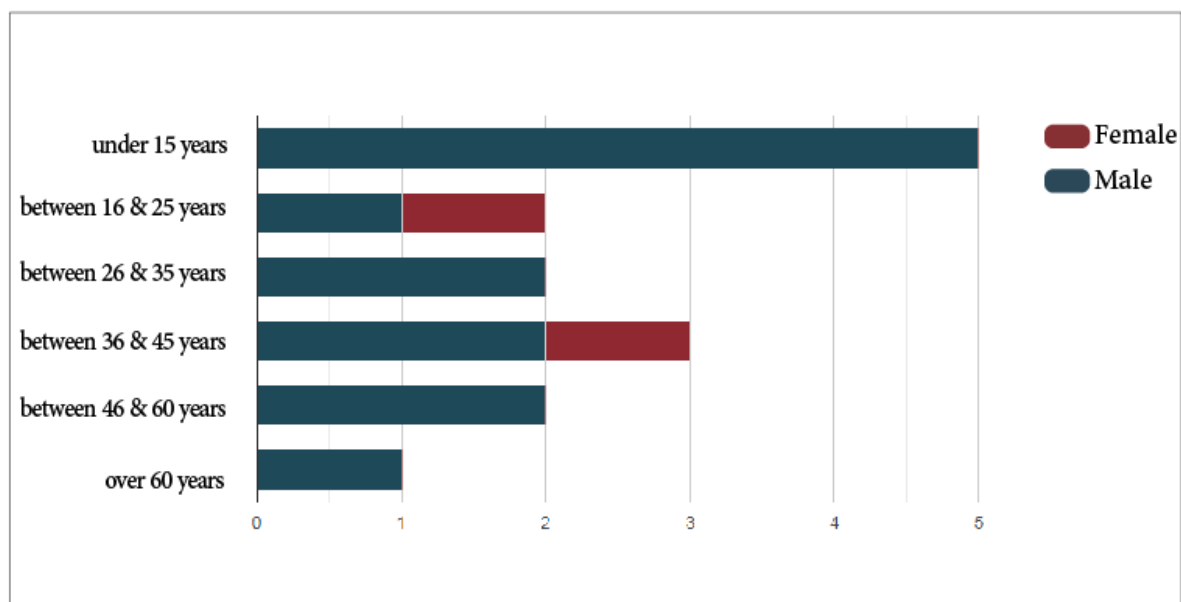
Suicide and attempted suicide

Concerning suicide and attempted suicide, 15 cases were recorded and about one third of the victims were children, meaning less than 15 years of age (five boys).



Males accounted for 80% of the total number of victims of the observed acts of suicide and attempted suicide and the age group of 16-45 years was the most affected by the acts of suicide and attempted suicide, the number of suicide victims in this age group reached 7 victims, including two females.

Suicides and suicide attempts by age group



Suicide and attempted suicide victims were distributed among 8 governorates: 3 cases respectively in Tunis and Gafsa, 4 cases in Nabeul and one case respectively in Kairouan, Jendouba, Bizerte, Sousse and Sidi Bouzid.

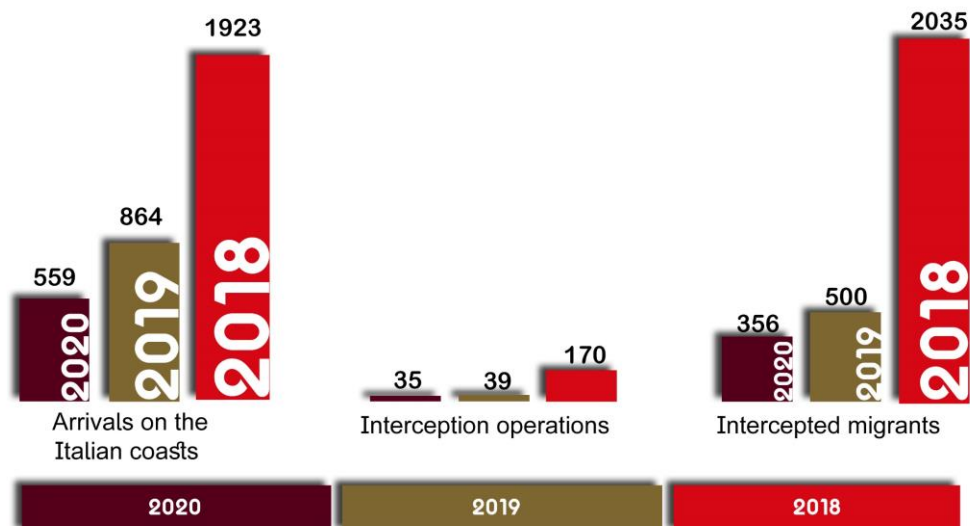
	under 15 years	between 16 & 25 years	between 26 & 35 years	between 36 & 45 years	between 46 & 60 years	over 60 years
Male	5	1	2	2	2	1
Female	0	1	0	1	0	0
Total	5	2	2	3	2	1

As an example, Nabeul has previously published a map of the regions with the highest suicide and attempted suicide rates because the region had experienced an increase in the suicide rate in recent years and the Tunisian Social Observatory had previously published these figures in its monthly reports.

Irregular migration during the month of September 2020:

In spite of the climatic changes that accompanied the month of September, the migratory flows continued, with approximately 4,000 people participating in the migration project out of which 1,923 managed to reach the Italian coasts while 2,035 individuals were intercepted. The Greater Tunis region emerged for the first time by ranking third in the crossing operations after Sfax and Medenine. The intercepted crossings were not only concentrated on the ports of La Goulette and Rades but also included attempts to depart from the beaches of the southern suburbs of the Capital and the beaches of the governorate of Ariana, which was not previously common.

Comparative data for the month of September 2018 – 2019 – 2020

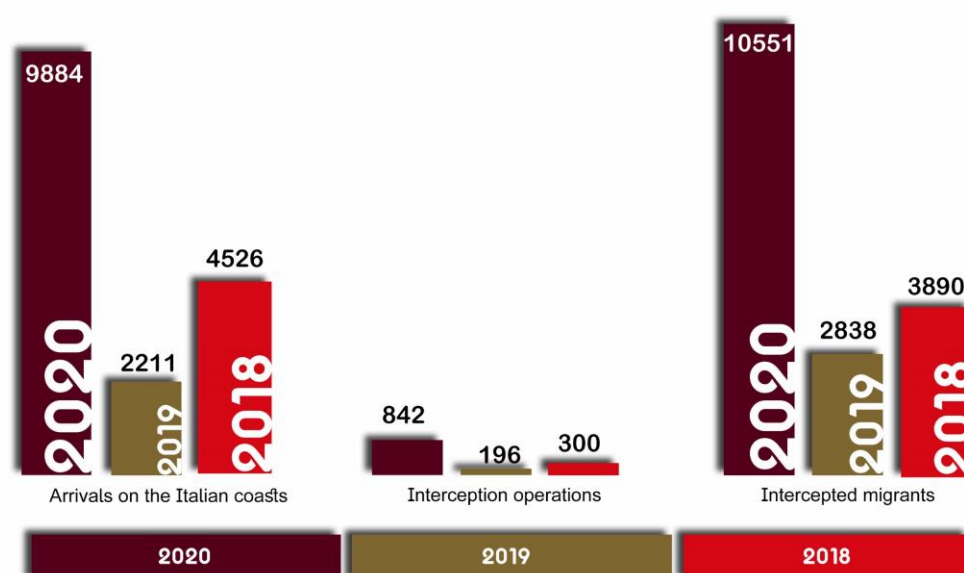


Comparative data for the month of September 2020 – 2019 – 2018

	2020	2019	2018
Arrivals on the Italian coasts	1923	864	559
Interception operations	170	39	35
Intercepted migrants	2035	500	356

The number of arrivals on Italian shores during the month of September was 1923, compared to 864 during the same period in 2019. During this period 170 transit operations occurred and 2035 migrants were intercepted. These are high figures that highlight the Tunisian security effort for the firm implementation of the commitment of the President to the Italian-European delegation that visited Tunisia in August 2017 in order to further strengthen the management of the Tunisian coasts.

Comparative data for the period January 1 to September 30, 2020



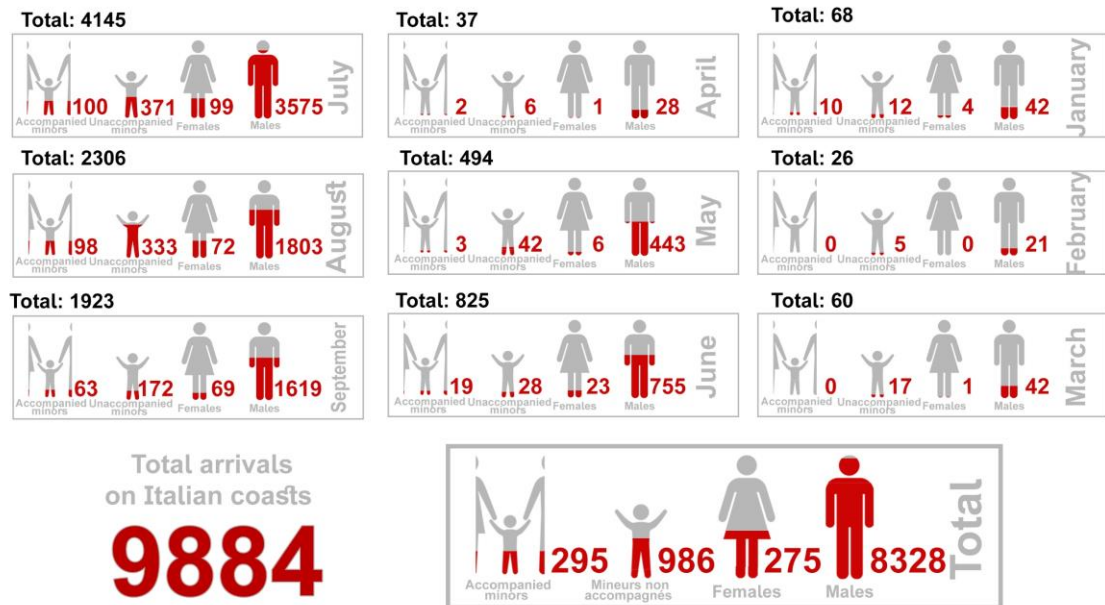
Comparative data for the period January 1 to September 30, 2020

	2020	2019	2018
Arrivals on the Italian coasts	9884	2211	4526
Interception operations	842	196	300
Intercepted migrants	10551	2838	3890

The most striking development of this year 2020 is the significant increase in the number of intercepted operations which reached 842 operations, compared to 196 operations during the year 2019 and 300 operations in 2018, mainly due to the combination of security cooperation and the logistical and technical capabilities of the Tunisian Maritime Guard. This willingness and capabilities are not available to fight crime and violence in the Tunisian street, which highlights

the depth of the impact of European pressure on Tunisia in the field of border control and even on national security priorities.

Monthly arrivals on Italian coasts in 2020

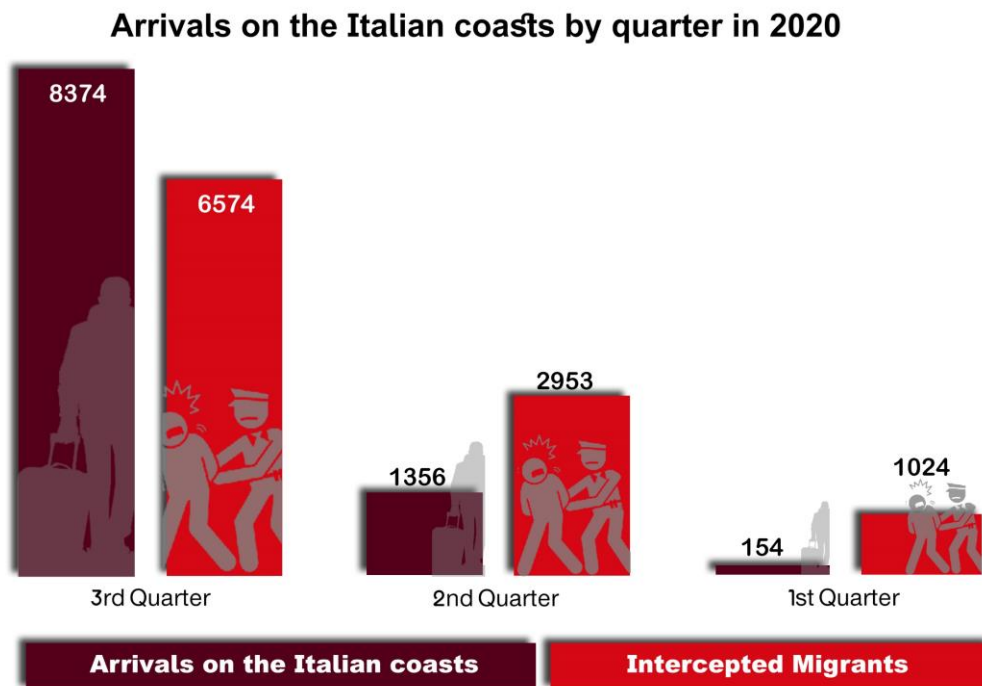


Monthly arrivals on Italian coasts in 2020

Month	Unaccompanied minors	Accompanied minors	Females	Males	Total
January	12	10	4	42	68
February	5	0	0	21	26
March	17	0	1	42	60
April	6	2	1	28	37
May	42	3	6	443	494
June	28	19	23	755	825
July	371	100	99	3575	4145
August	333	98	72	1803	2306
September	172	63	69	1619	1923
Total	986	295	275	8328	9884

The rate of women did not exceed 2.8%, while the rate of minors was 12.9% in the first nine months of 2020. This percentage decrease compared to previous

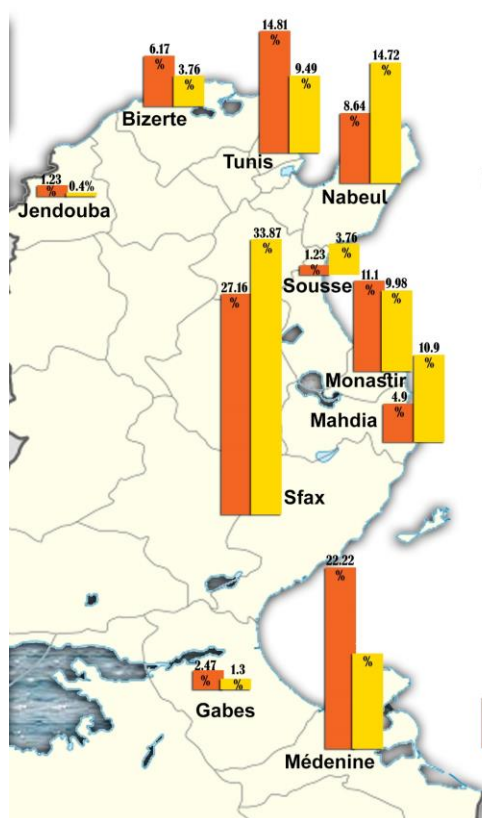
years is explained by the fact that the intense migration waves target male adolescents and the notable change in this period has occurred among accompanied minors, as a result of the intensification of family migration during this period.



Arrivals on the Italian coasts by quarter in 2020

	1st Quarter	2 nd Quarter	3rd Quarter
Arrivals on the Italian coasts	154	1356	8374
Intercepted Migrants	1024	2953	6574

The third quarter not only represented the peak of the negative economic indicators but it is also the most significant quarter since 2011 in terms of the number of entries at a daily rate of more than 93 migrants reaching the Italian coasts and 73 intercepted given the favorable weather conditions. The intensified security efforts at the main departure points did not prevent this high number from being recorded and was fueled by the political crisis that reached its climax during this period.



Intercepted operations by region from January 1 to September 30, 2020

**Total
Intercepted operations**

842

**Intercepted operations
in September**

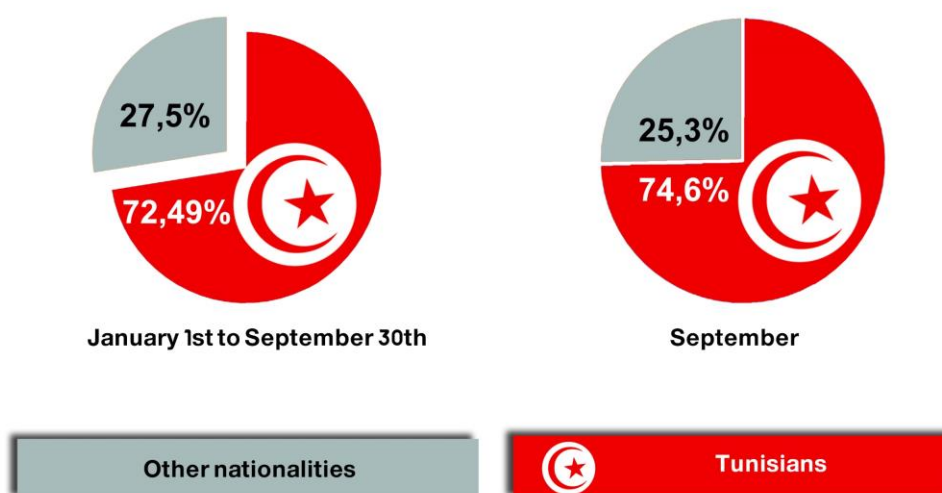
**Intercepted operations
from January 1 to September 30, 2020**

Intercepted operations by region from January 1 to September 30, 2020

	Jendouba	Bizerte	Tunis	Nabeul	Sousse	Monastir	Mahdia	Sfax	Gabes	Medenine
September	1.23%	6.17%	14.81%	8.64%	1.23%	11.1%	4.9%	27.16%	2.47%	22.22%
9 months	0.4%	3.76%	9.49%	14.72%	3.76%	9.98%	10.9%	33.87%	1.3%	11.78%

The month of September was marked by the emergence of the Greater Tunis region as the third zone of intercepted crossing operations which included not only operations intercepted in the ports of Rades and La Goulette but also operations thwarted from the coasts of the southern suburbs of the Capital and from the coasts of the governorate of Ariana. Due to the intensification of security surveillance in the traditional areas of departure and in the face of the collective will to migrate, the migratory reservoir of the regions surrounding the Capital has resorted to alternative solutions such as attempts to infiltrate the commercial ports or ports of departure from the coasts of the Capital.

Migrants by nationality



Migrants by nationality

	Tunisians	Other nationalities
September	74.6%	25.3%
January 1st to September 30th	72.49%	27.5%

While the percentage of migrants from Sub-Saharan Africa represents only the number of migrants intercepted, this figure had not been recorded before, as more than 2,600 non-Tunisian emigrants were intercepted.

While Tunisians are obsessed by attempts to reach the Sicilian coast with minimal security conditions as they prefer small boats with groups of 8 to 15 participants, non-Tunisian migrants are more under pressure from smugglers so the average number of people on board the boats is over 20.

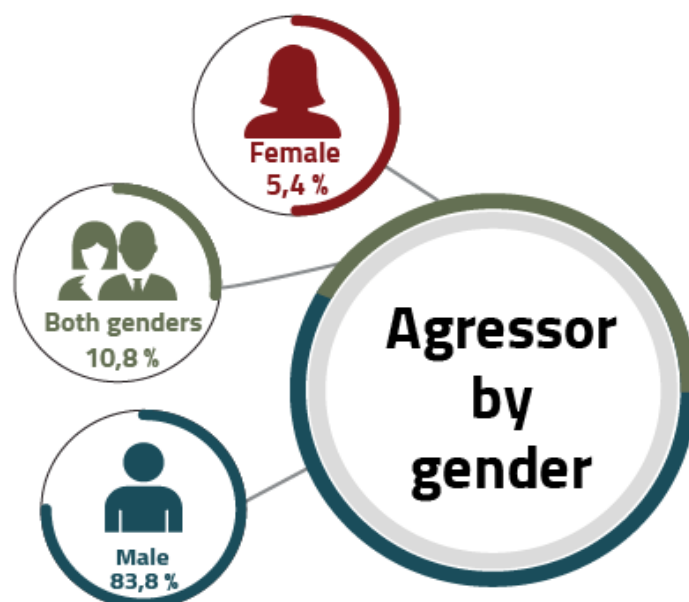
Migration flows will gradually decrease over the next period due to climatic factors in particular, but the most determining factors motivating the migration project will intensify so the waves of migration will return with new tactics and methods.

Violence during the third quarter of 2020 (July, August and September)

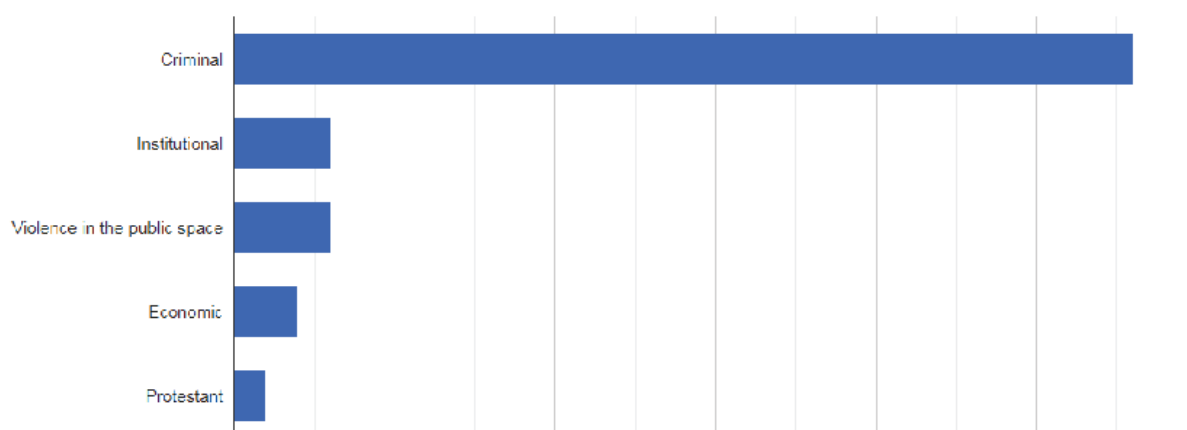
The level of violence in all its forms has increased in the last three months and the events of July, August and September have surfaced with numerous crimes, assaults, blockades and stories of beatings and violence both in family and public spaces.

The incidents were classified, in large part, as part of the social and economic repercussions of the emerging Corona virus; especially since this is the quarter during which the economic crisis intensified and during which a significant proportion of Tunisians lost their jobs and livelihoods, as it occurred directly after the period of complete and partial containment that Tunisians went through from March to June 2020 with the restrictions it generated and feelings of fear and panic about the future.

According to the work of the Tunisian Social Observatory, women and children's groups were the most affected by the violent events that took place during the third quarter of the year 2020. In addition to domestic violence, this increased according to all studies by 7 times during the months of confinement and continued beyond the period of confinement. The group of women was the most important target of robberies and attacks in public spaces and roads.

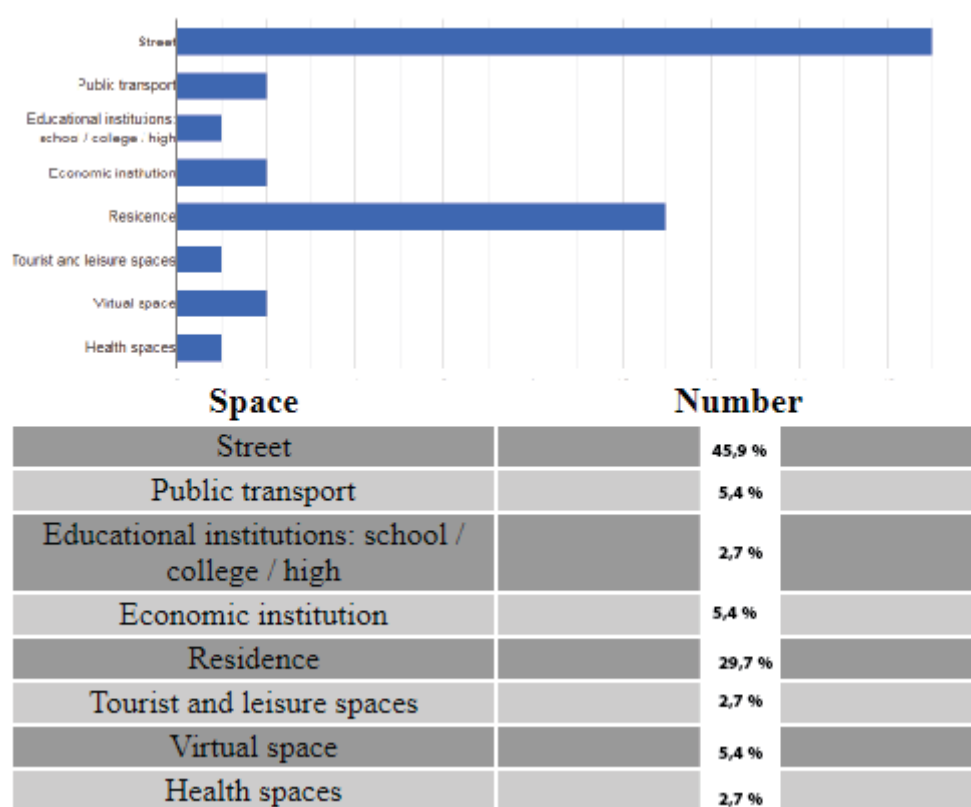


In the last three months, criminal violence has been at the forefront of the observed violence. During the month of July, it constituted a third of the volume of violence recorded by the Tunisian Social Observatory.



Sector	Number
Criminal	%75,6
Institutional	%8,1
Violence in the public space	%8,1
Economic	5,4 %
Protestant	2,7 %

In August, criminal violence accounted for about 97% of the total violence recorded, followed by institutional violence with 24% and economic violence of about 3%. During the month of September, the criminal violence rate reached 75.6%, followed by institutional violence and violence in the public sphere, and economic violence which increased compared to the previous month to reach 5.4%.



As in previous months, the public space was the most important area in which various forms of violence took place during the month of September 2020, with about half of the violence observed, followed by the family space with 29.7% of the violence observed, followed by economic institutions, public transport and virtual space on sites and social networks.

Collective violence



64,9%

Individual violence



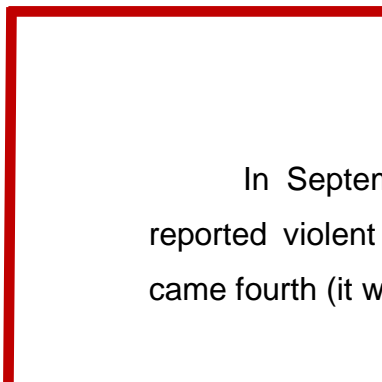
35,1%

Contrary to the previous two months, collective violence in September preceded violence in its individual form and was of the order of 64.9%, while individual violence was more important than collective violence in July and almost the same in August.

During these three months, men were the most involved in the violent incidents monitored by the Tunisian Social Observatory team and were active in more than 80% of violent incidents of all kinds.

L'Ariana	2,7%	Ben Arous	0%
Bizerte	0%	Tunis	21,6%
Zaghouan	0%	La Manouba	0%
Nabeul	5,4%	Béja	0%
Jendouba	2,7%	Siliana	2,7%
Le Kef	5,4%	Sousse	21,6%
Sfax	0%	Monastir	13,5%
Mahdia	8,1%	Sidi Bouzid	2,7%
Kasserine	2,7%	Kairouan	8,1%
Tataouine	0%	Gabès	2,7%
Medenine	0%	Tozeur	0%
Kebili	0%	Gafsa	0%





In September, the governorate of Tunis recorded the highest rate of reported violent incidents followed by Sousse, Monastir and Kairouan which came fourth (it was ranked first in August), followed by Nabeul.

Various organizations and economists believe that the coming months could see an increase in the pattern of economic and social violence resulting from the escalating repercussions of the economic and social crisis related to the Corona virus, which will undoubtedly have effects on various other forms of violence, including domestic violence, robberies and violations.

Conclusion

Tunisia is going through an unprecedented global crisis that could lead to an unprecedented social tension in the coming days. The turmoil continues today as work and production are disrupted and development is missing. On the other hand, people feel threatened by the spread of infection by the Corona pandemic and by the absence of health services and the near exhaustion of hospitals' capacity to receive and provide services to the sick and injured. In the absence of a clear and transparent government discourse and in the light of the existing political debate, social tensions would increase and could threaten social peace by the end of this year unless the government corrects and diagnoses the situation realistically and sets a clear program of action with short and medium-term objectives.

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.

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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.