

N°115



REPORT April 2023

239



Collective protests

12



Cases of suicide
and attempted suicide

1047



Migrants

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April 2023 report on migration and social movements



Introduction

A clear change began to appear in the forms and realms of protest movements during the month of April. This change is undoubtedly related to the political, social, and economic climate that marked this fourth month of the year.

This climate is characterized by the continuation and persistence of the state of economic and social exhaustion during the month of April which coincides with the month of fasting and celebration of Eid al-Fitr.

April data released by the NSI show a 1.5 percent increase in prices of some groceries and beverages, as well as a 3.9 percent increase in the price of fresh vegetables, 3.1 percent increase in the price of fresh fish, 2.3 percent increase in the price of fresh fruit, 1.7 percent increase in the price of lamb, 1.6 percent increase in the price of beef, and 1.5 percent increase in the price of edible oils.

Clothing and footwear prices also rose 6.7 percent in April.

On the other hand, the institute published other data, which examined the views of heads of industrial companies on the status and prospects of their companies, indicating that the situation has worsened due to difficulties in the supply of raw materials and distribution problems, which affects the social situation within the company, and pushes to make redundancies, despite the repercussions on the rate of unemployment and sales prices on the market.

This situation of social distress, where the economic future does not seem clear, is accompanied by a tense political climate, with an official discourse that causes fear and confusion among social movements, which is clearly reflected in the figures of protest movements that we have recorded.

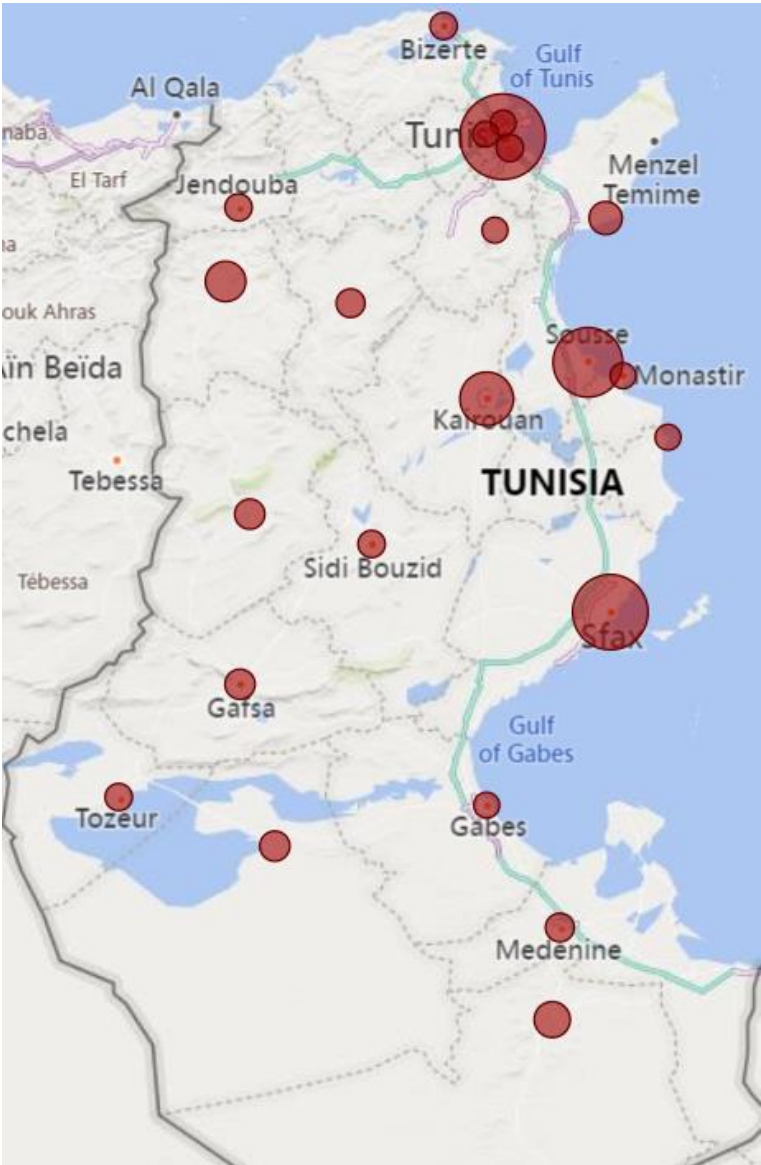
While the number of protest movements that were observed during the month of April does not exceed 239, the highest rate of arrivals of irregular Tunisian migrants to Italy was recorded during the same month, where more than 2900 people arrived at the Italian coasts irregularly, and 498 victims and people are

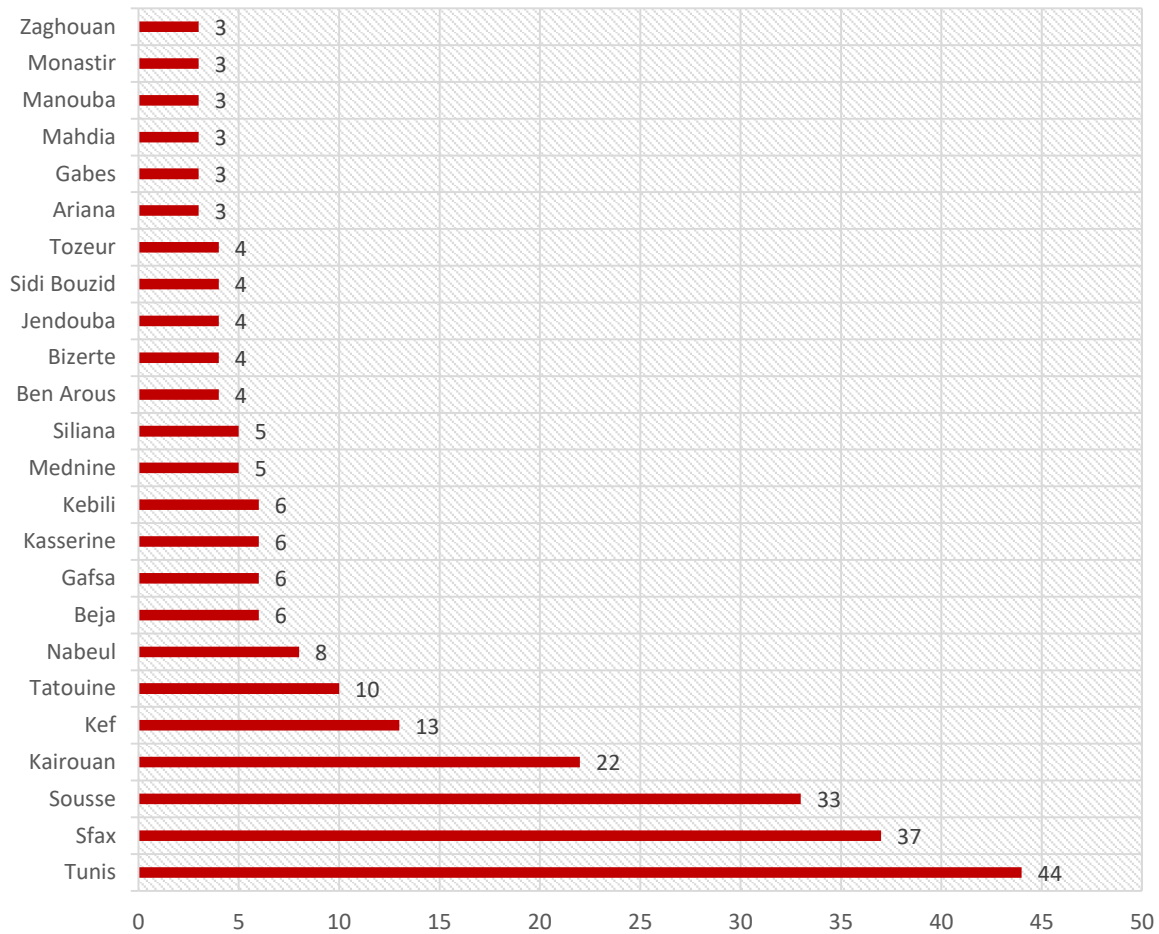
missing. Also, 12 cases of suicides and attempts were recorded during this month.

These figures reflect a tendency to seek alternative solutions for individual salvation in the face of uncertainty and lack of horizon. Suicide, suicide attempts and irregular migration remain the most widespread solutions for individual salvation, rather than protesting and raising demands that remain unheard. The authorities no longer interact with the movements but respond with stigmatization and criminalization in the official discourse.

April Protests

The number of protests observed during the month of April reached 239. The main cities represented the most important protest areas: Tunisia, Sfax and Sousse, with 47.6% of the total protests observed. Kairouan experienced 22 movements, Kef 13 movements and Tatawine 10 movements, while the number of protests in the rest of the governorates were less than 10 during April.





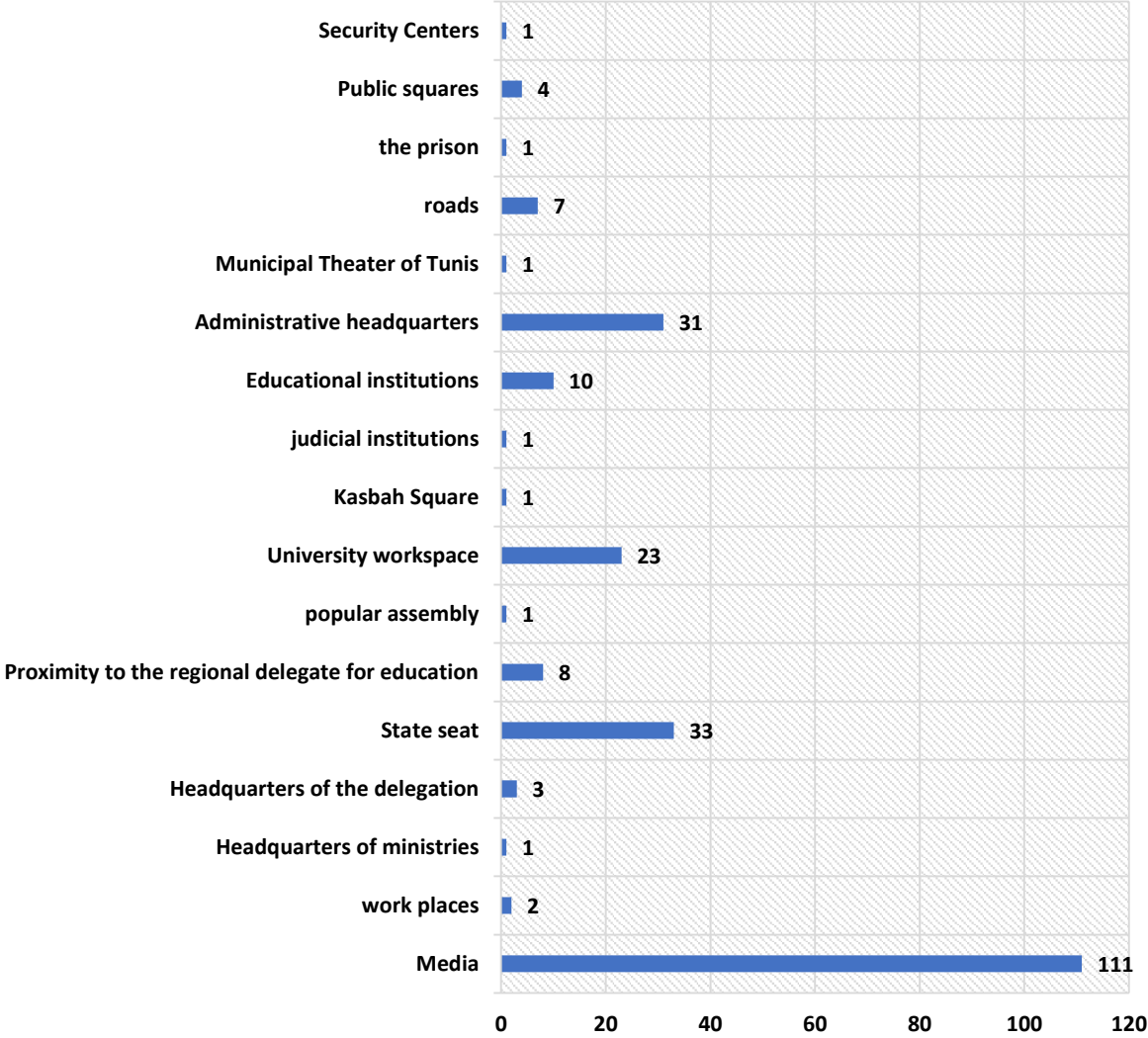
This observed change in the map of protest was also accompanied by a change in the spaces of protest where the media became the most important space of protest, since they hosted 46.6% of movements in April. The seats of the governorates and administrations come after.

Only 7 protest movements were observed on the roads, which is related to the confusion and fear that emerged among rights seekers as well as the criminalization and prosecution that targeted them.

Sovereign institutions such as the Assembly of People's Representatives, Kasbah Square and the headquarters of ministries have also declined as spaces for protest. This can be explained by two hypotheses: The first hypothesis is the divergence between the demanders and these institutions, since social movement actors have already knocked on the door of these institutions to express their demands and present their proposals and alternatives to solve their problems, and they are now starting to lose confidence in the ability of the officials of these spaces to respond to their demands and interact with their proposals. The second hypothesis is related to the discourse of stigmatization

and criminalization, which has led social movements and claimants to turn their backs to these closed doors and look for alternative spaces to represent their causes and have chosen the media and local official seats as an alternative destination.

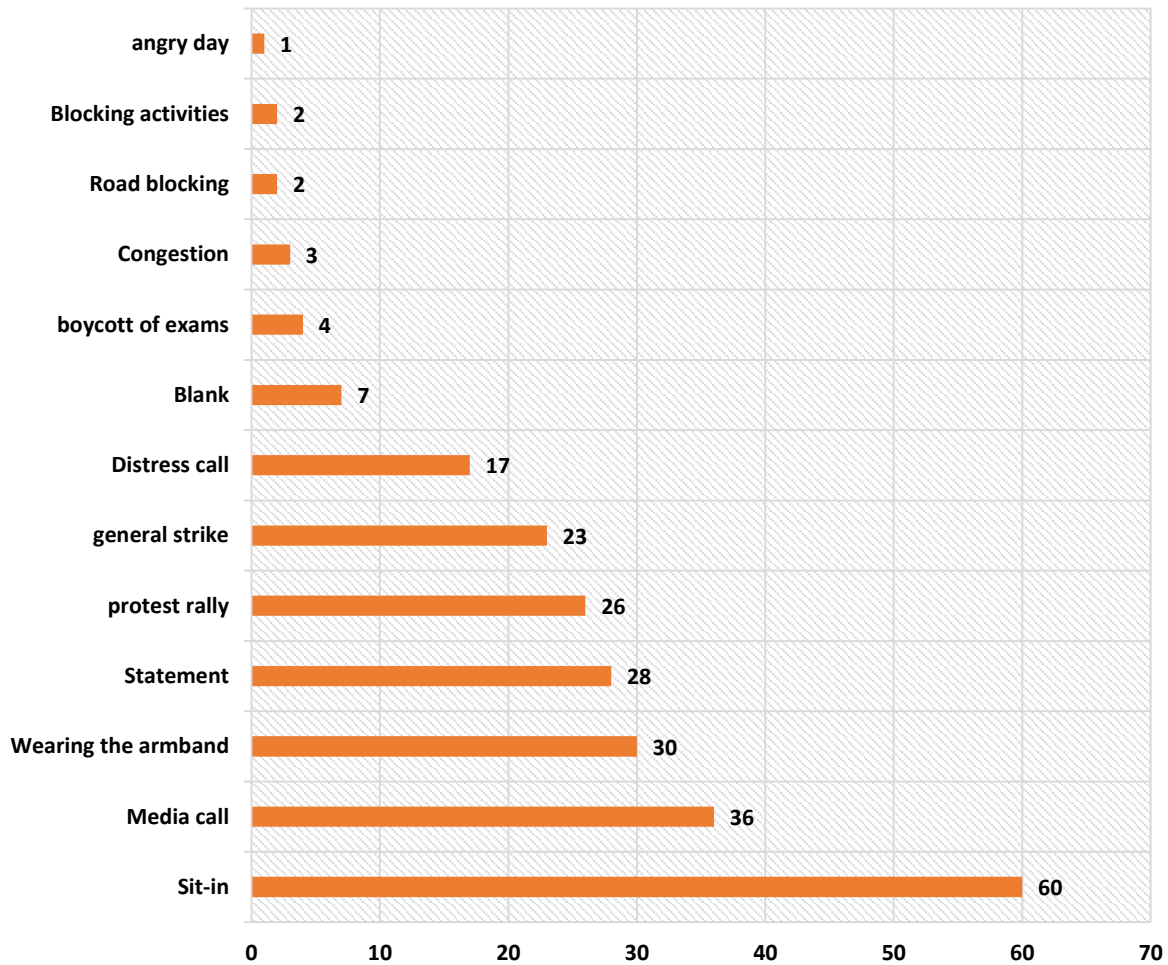
The space



Forms and claims of protest

Most of these demonstrations took the form of sit-ins (60 sit-ins) and distress calls broadcast by the media (54 distress calls). We also recorded vigils, declarations, disruptions of activities and demonstrations on roads and other places...

Forms of protest



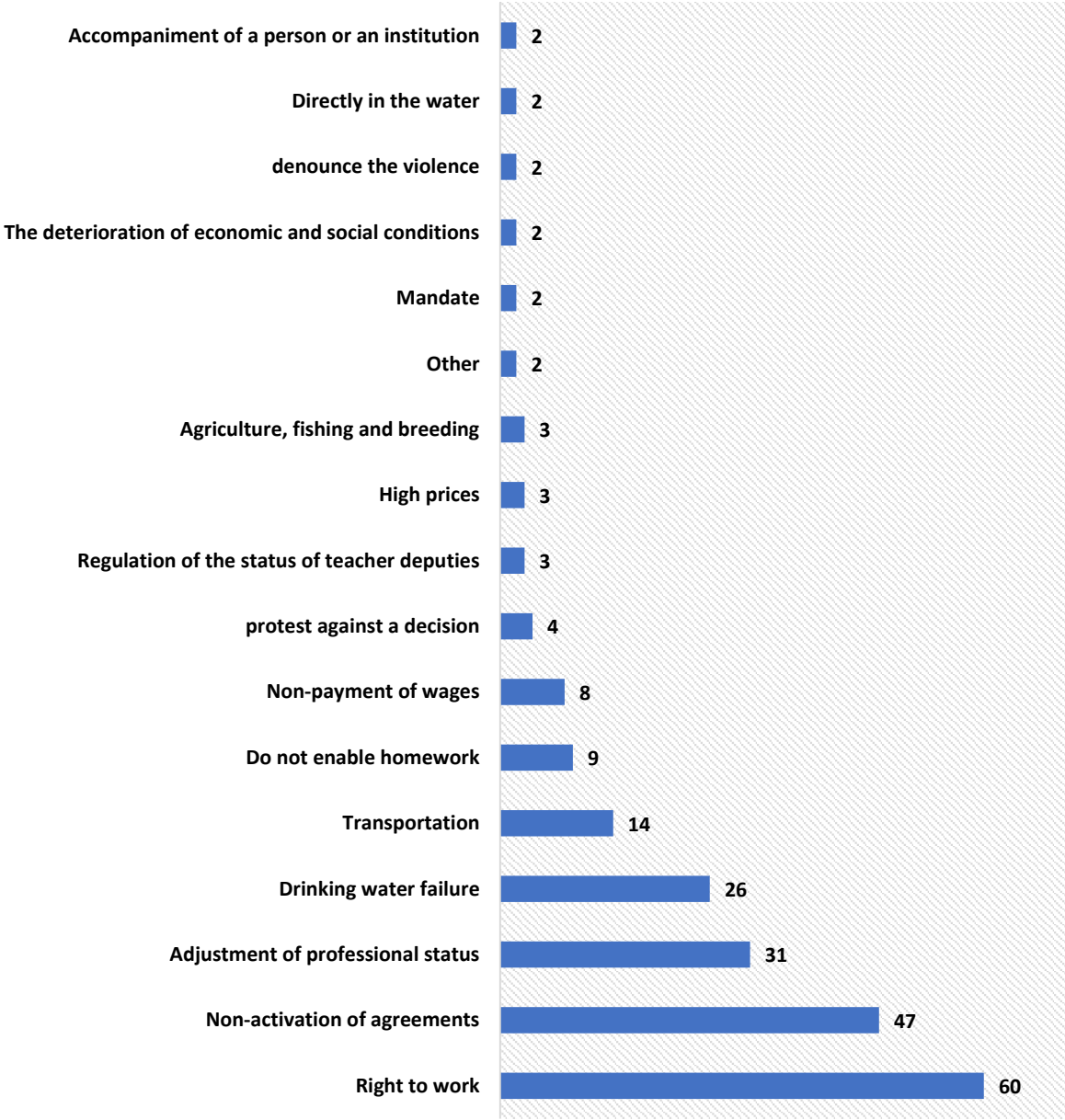
Most of these demonstrations were mixed (229 protest movements) and collective (234 protest movements).



The right to employment was the most important demand (60 protest movements) followed by the non-operation of conventions (47 protest movements) and the regularization of professional situations (31 protest movements).

The right to water and the thirst crisis rise in rank with respect to the claims of protest movements (26 movements). These demonstrations were recorded in Ariana, Kasserine, Kairouan, Monastir, Mahdia, Baja, Ben Arous and Bizerte. The persistence and recurrence of this demand is expected following the evolution of the thirst crisis.

In Tunis and Gafsa, 3 protest movements denouncing price increases and deteriorating living conditions have also been observed, while the rest of the demands have been isolated and scattered, with the clear absence of development demands, which was a main demand on the protest map for many years.

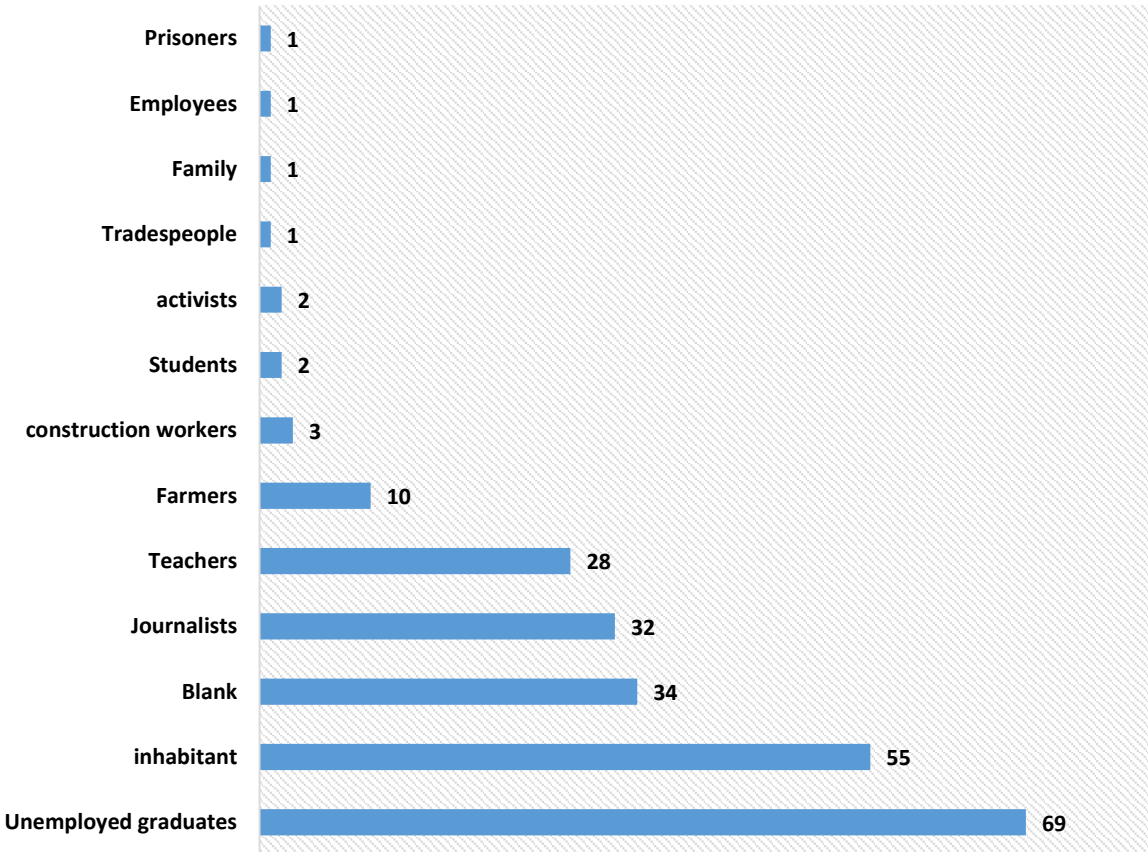


The Actors

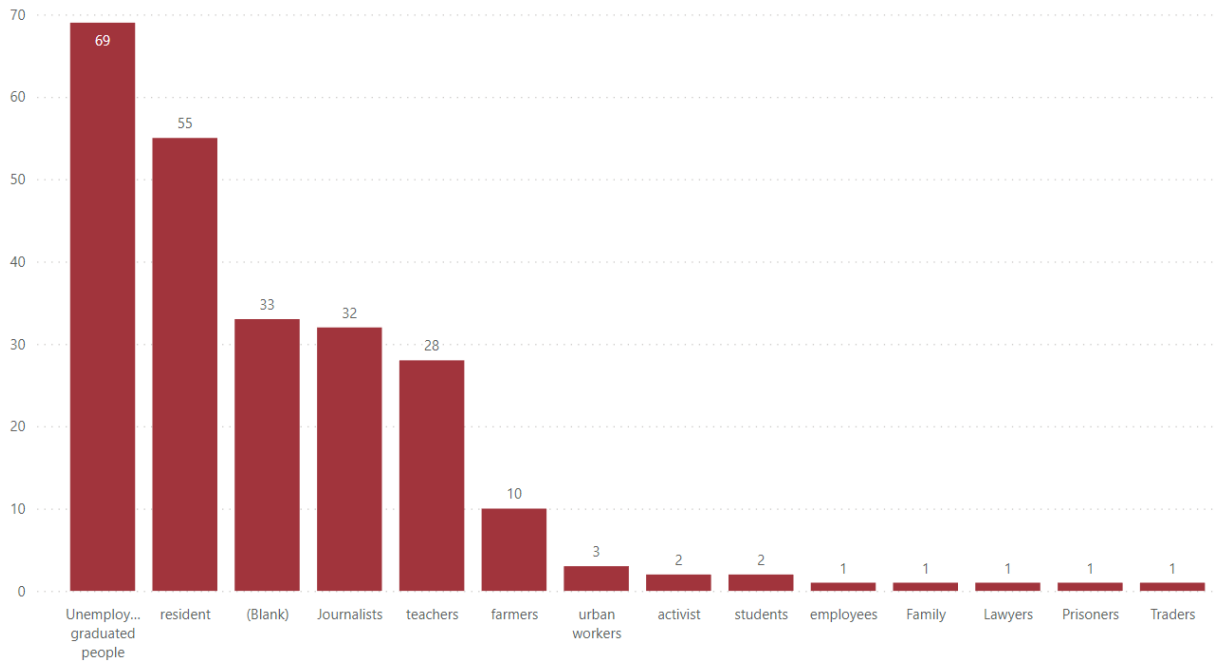
Unemployed graduates were the main actors in the April protests. They organized and participated in 28.8% of the total number of protests observed. Most of the movements of unemployed graduates emerged in the governorates of Sousse, Sfax and Kef.

Secondly, the inhabitants of the neighborhoods, cities and spaces that witnessed protest movements, were the most important actors of the protest scene (55 protest movements). The inhabitants were the main actors of 17 protest movements in Kairouan, 4 protest movements in Tunis, Sfax and Nabeul and 3 protest movements in Gafsa, 2 protest movements in Kef, Ben-Arous, Bizerte and Siliana and one protest movement in Ariana, Kasserine, Monastir and Mahdia.

The Actors



Journalists played a key role in 32 protest movements and their demands were mainly related to the changing professional and social situation of the sector in light of the ongoing prosecution of journalists against the backdrop of Decree Law 54.



In conclusion, although the protest scene observed throughout the month of April was certainly related to the nature of political, security, legal, economic and social developments in the country, it was also the result of all these factors. This situation is likely to evolve according to existing variables.

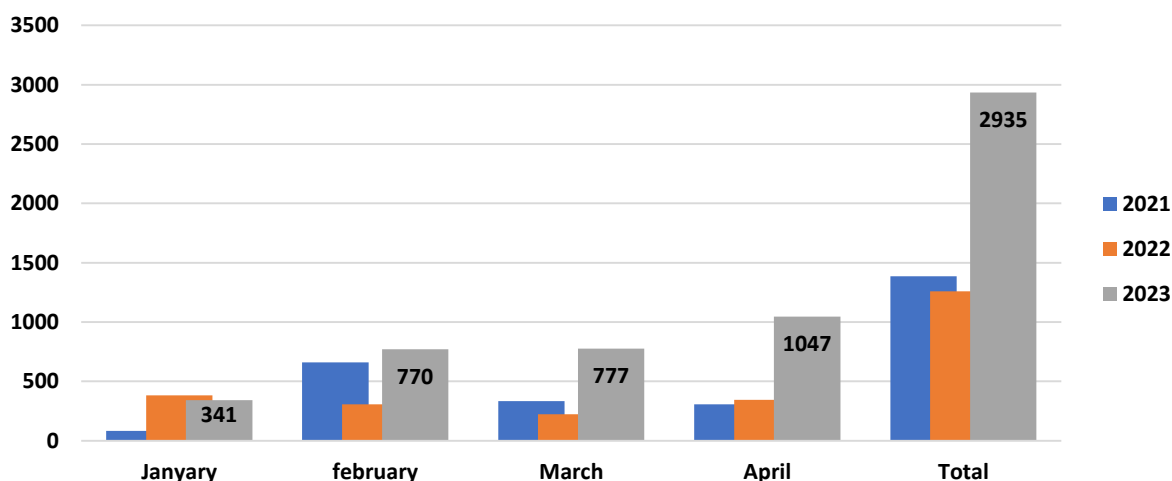
Irregular Migration in April 2023



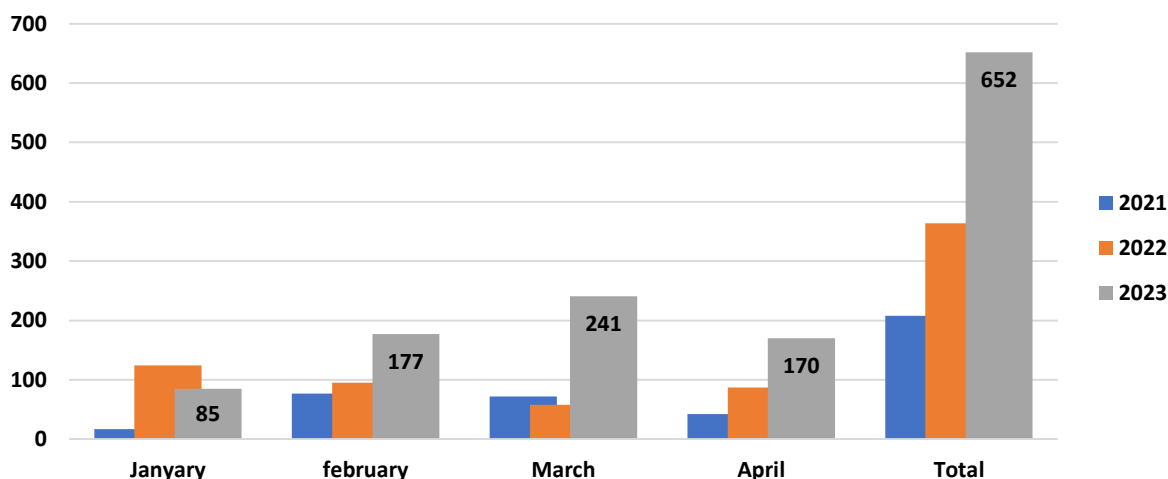
Comparison In the same period during the years 2019–2020–2021 - 2022

The month	2021			2022			2023		
	The number of arrivals to Italy	Number of frustrating passes	Number of passersby suspended	The number of arrivals to Italy	Number of frustrating passes	Number of passersby suspended	The number of arrivals to Italy	The number of arrivals to Italy	Number of frustrating passes
January	84	17	463	382	124	1155	341	85	2322
February	660	77	1273	308	95	1036	770	177	5147
March	334	72	882	224	58	886	777	241	7494
April	307	42	409	345	87	1515	1047	170	4081
Total	1385	208	3027	1259	364	4592	2935	652	19044

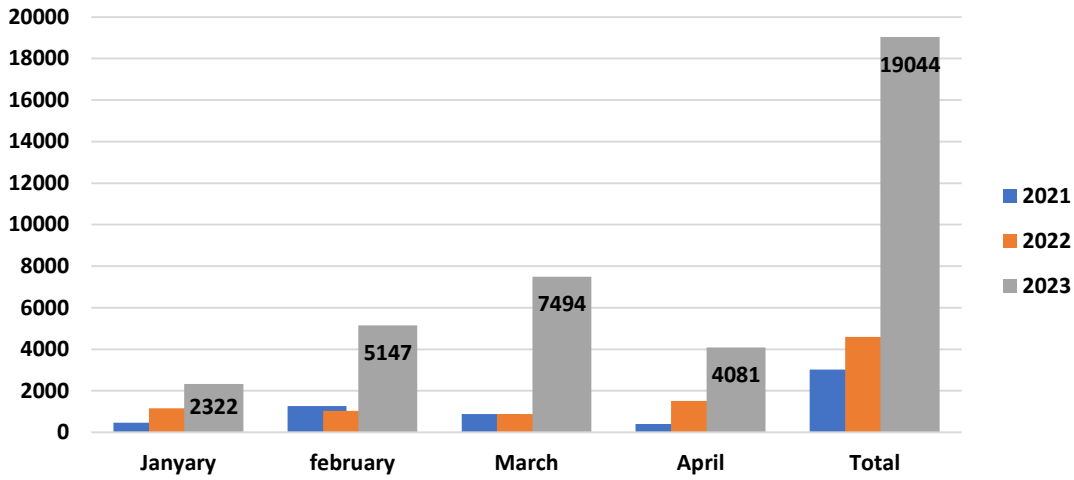
The number of arrivals to Italy



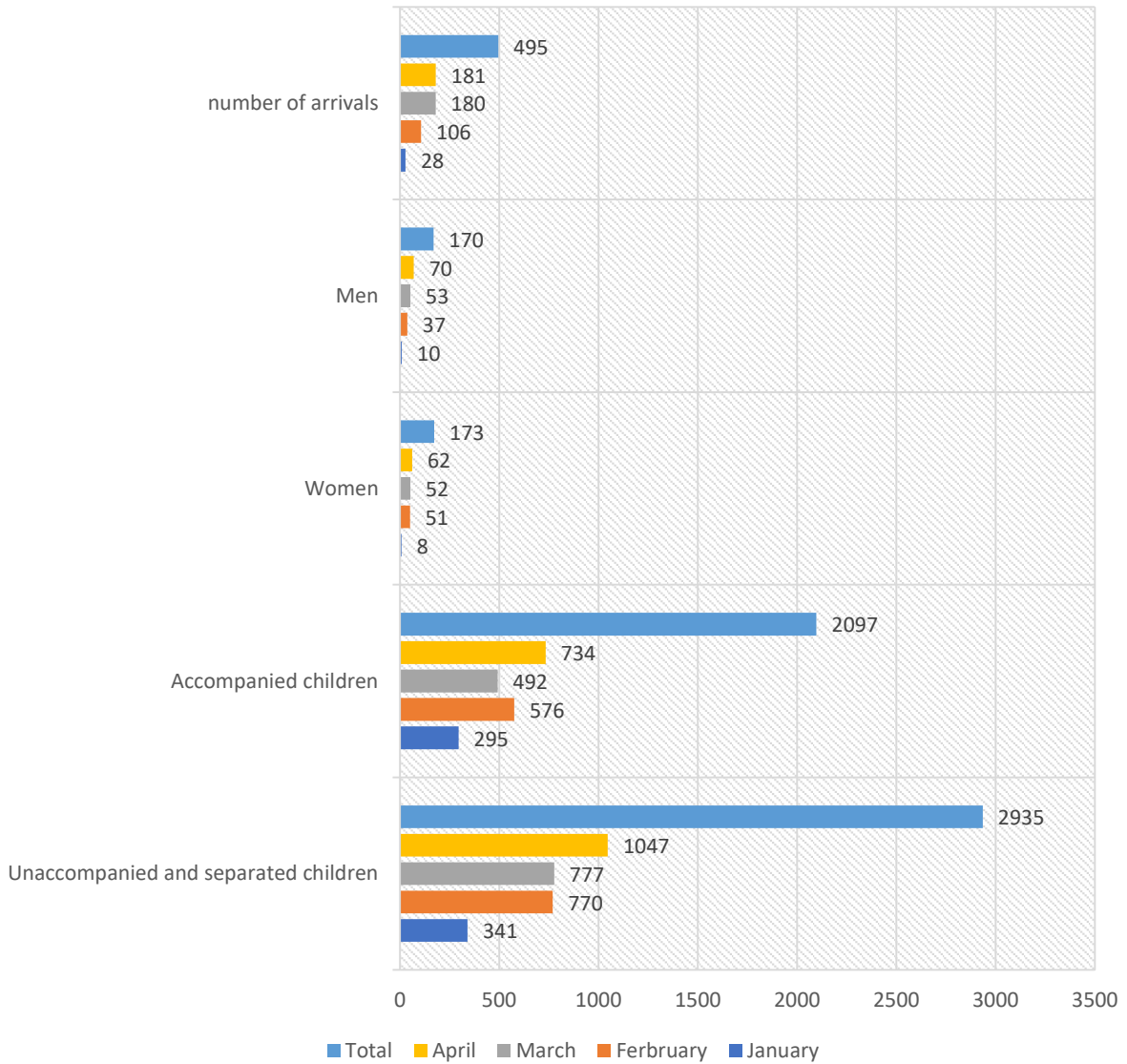
Number of frustrating passes



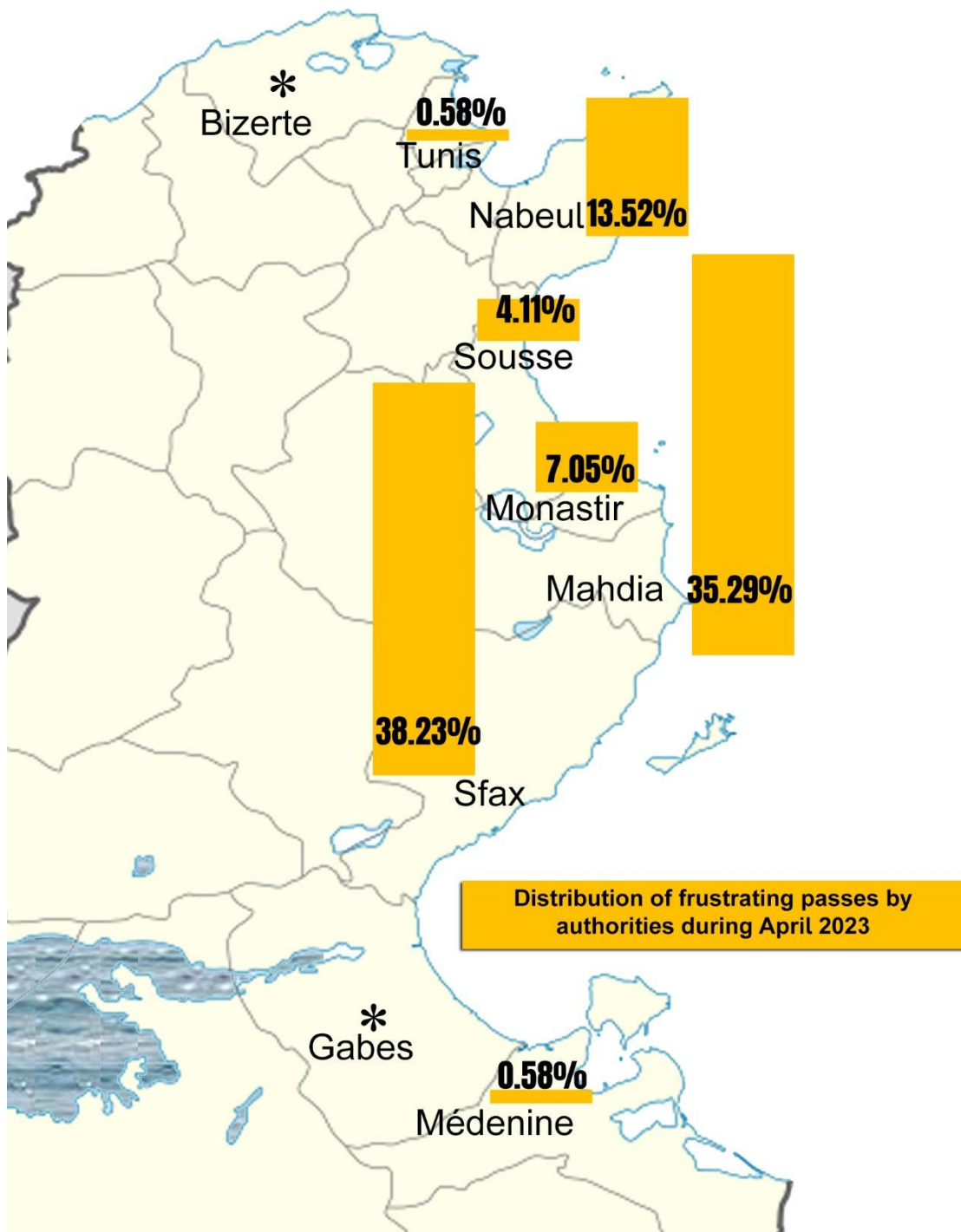
Number of passersby suspended



Distribution of arrivals to Italy by months during 2023



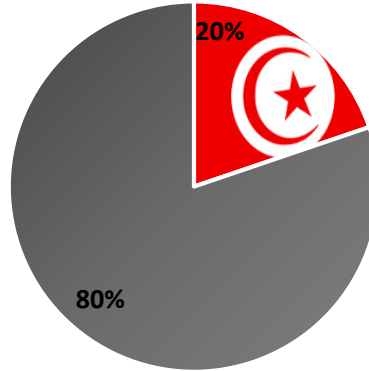
Distribution of frustrating passes by authorities during April 2023



*The presence of this sign does not mean that these authorities do not witness crossings, but the official data published in the notifications did not include frustrating crossings in these bodies.

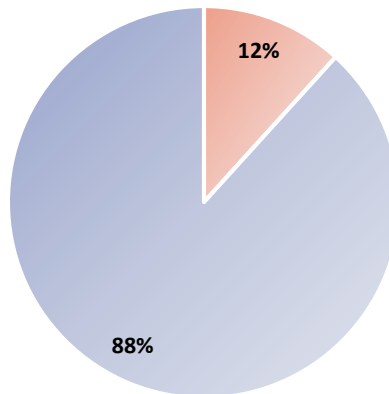
Distribution of passers-by by nationalities During April 2023

■ Tunisians ■ Non-Tunisian



Distribution of frustrating passes during 2023

■ land ■ the sea



The tragedies of irregular migration on the Tunisian coasts during 2023

The month	The number of victims and missing
January	28
february	7
March	92
April	371
Total	498

The number of dead and missing on the Tunisian coast during 2023	The number of dead and missing in the Central Mediterranean Basin during 2023
498	879

violence April 2023



Introduction :

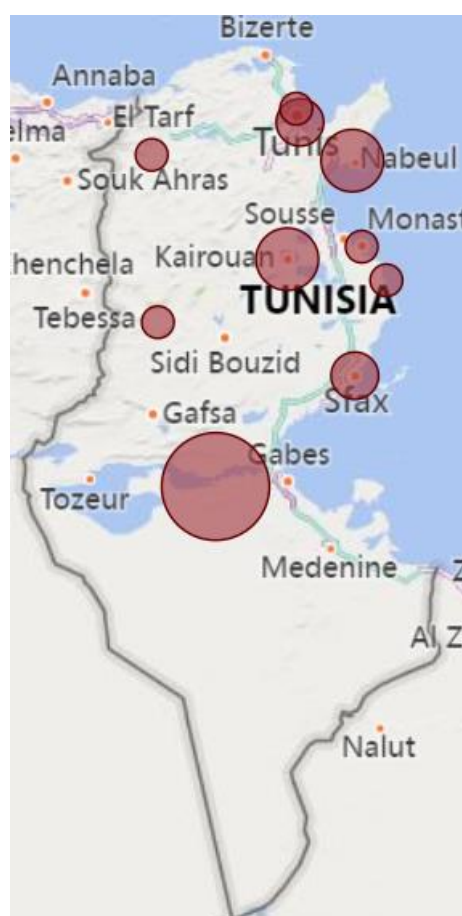
The month of April 2023 was marked by a sharp increase in violence against women. Multiple cases of uxoricide were recorded in a period of no more than 48 hours.

In parallel, the month was also marked by sexual violence, violent revenge, and acts of humiliation and contempt. Violence motivated by violence itself was the most prevalent form.

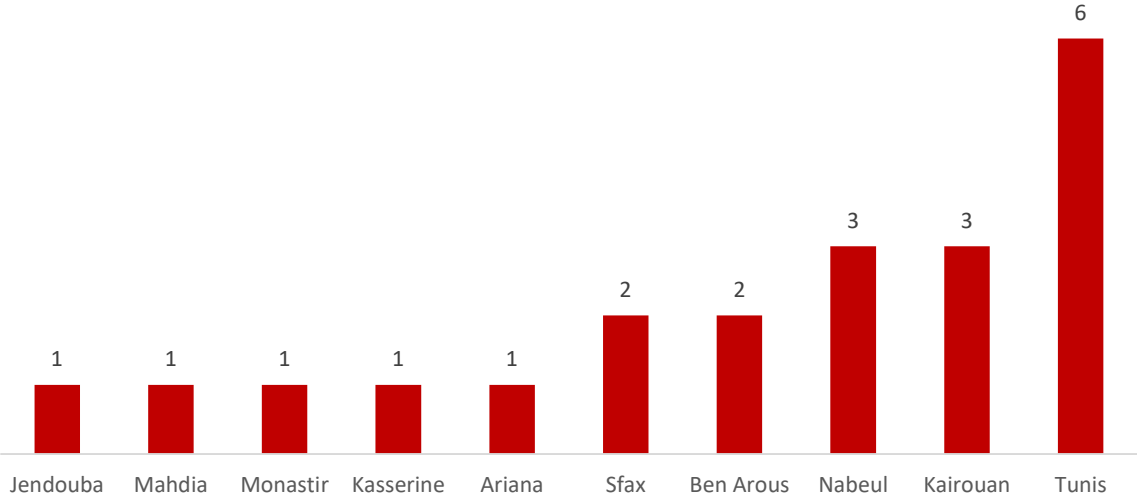
Cyberspace is the most prevalent setting for manifestations of violence, hate speech, discrimination, distortion, and criminalization. The violence targets different ages and social groups and spreads to all governorates of the republic.

Geospatial distribution of violence :

The Grand Tunis is in the lead, recording 28.57% of cases of violence observed during the month of April, followed by the governorates of Kairouan and Nabeul which have each recorded about 14.29% of the total number of cases of violence observed. The governorate of Ben Arous recorded 9.52% of cases of violence, the same rate recorded in the governorate of Sfax, while the governorates of Ariana, Kasserine, Monastir, Mahdia and Jendouba have recorded the same rate of violence, amounting to 4.76%.



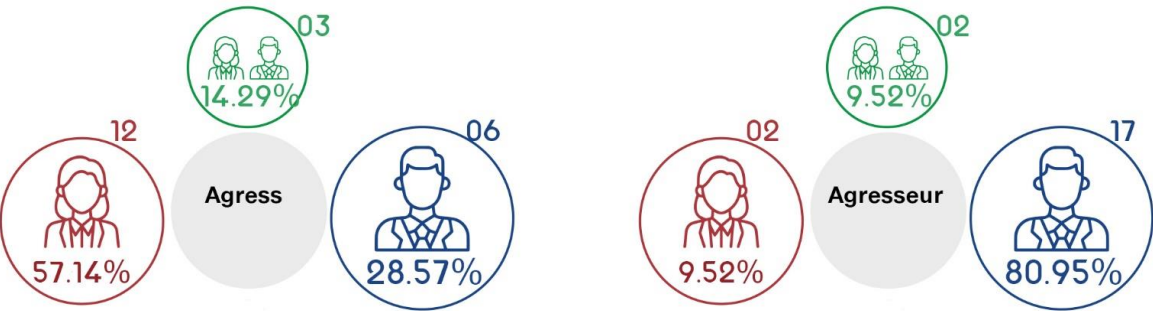
The rest of the governorates have not experienced violent incidents during the month of April .



Gendered Distribution :

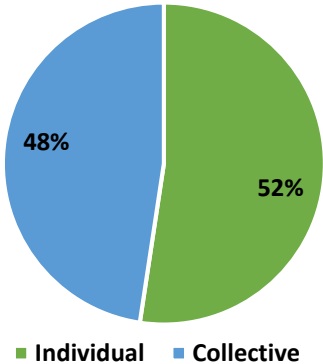
Women were the victims of 57.14% of the recorded incidents of violence and the perpetrators of 9.52% of the recorded cases.

Men were the victims of 28.57% of the observed events and represented 80.95% of the perpetrators. The rest of the events took mixed forms.



Types of violence:

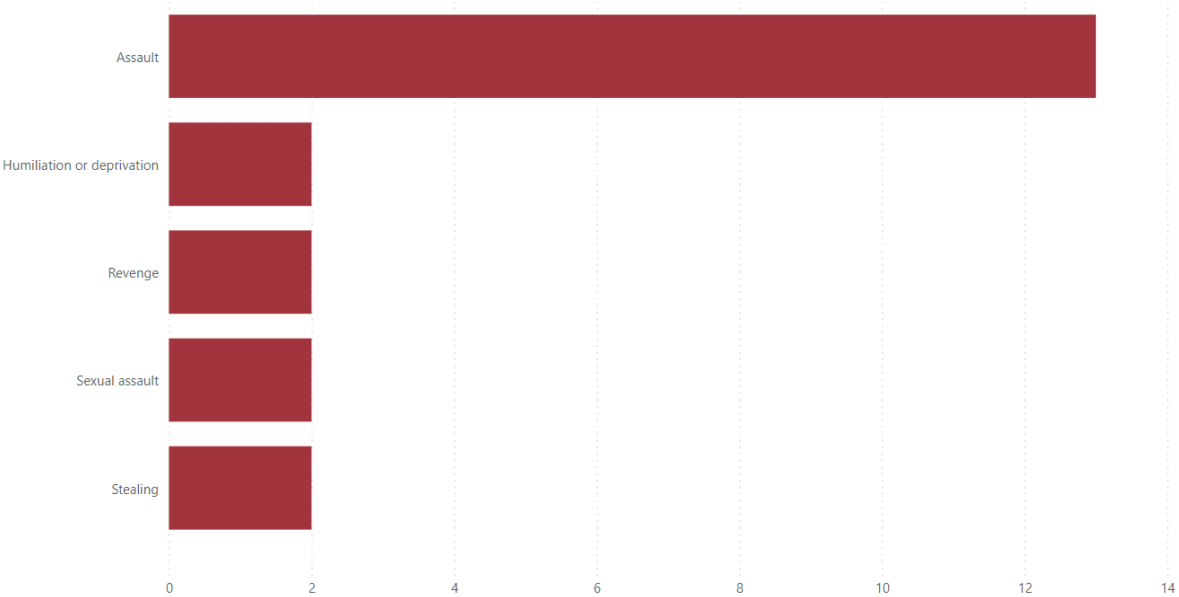
Most of the violence recorded during April occurred in collective form at a rate of 52.38%, while individual violence was around 47.62%. This trend differs from previous months, in which violence was mainly individual.



Forms of violence:

Violence varied in its forms between sexual assaults, assaults for the purpose of humiliation or deprivation, assaults for revenge, or for theft in the form of robberies. General assaults without clear motives, which spread in the public space, remained the most widespread and frequent during the month of April.

This month recorded cases of stabbing and strangulation targeting women, as well as cases of mutual violence, threats of murder and violent conflicts in private and public spaces.

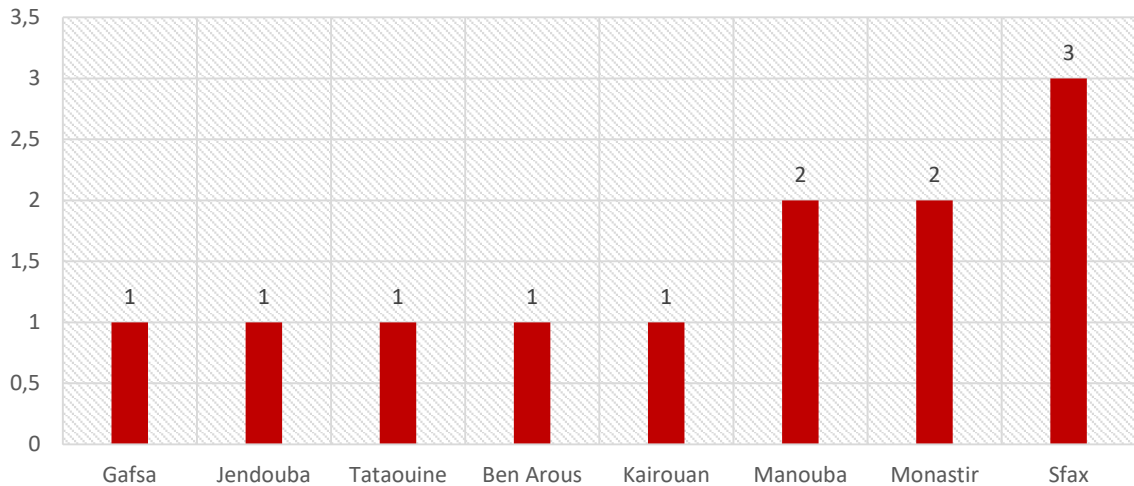


Suicide and attempts of suicide In April 2023



The month of April recorded 12 cases between attempts and cases of suicide, an increase of about one third compared to the previous month. The governorate of Sfax has experienced 3 cases and the governorates of Manouba and Monastir have recorded 2 cases of suicide. The governorates of Kairouan, Ben Arous, Tataouine, Gafsa and Jendouba, have each recorded a case of suicide or attempted suicide.





Gendered Distribution:

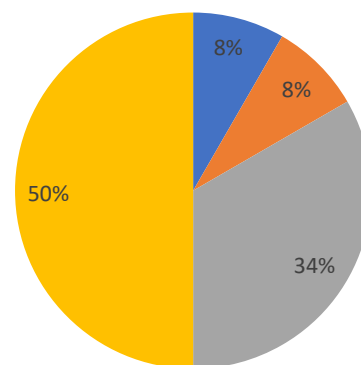
75% of those who committed or attempted suicide in April 2023 were men, while the percentage of women was about 25%



Spaces:

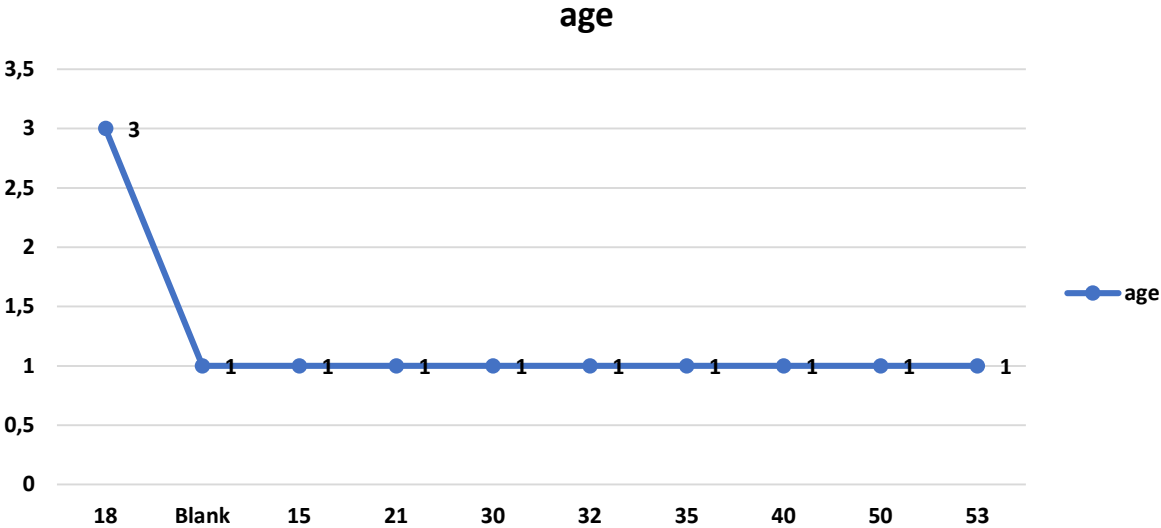
50% of the observed suicides and suicide attempts were recorded in publicly exposed public spaces, while 33.33% took place in private spaces and inside residences. 8.33% of suicides and suicide attempts were observed in educational institutions, schools or institutes. The same percentage, 8.33% of suicides, were observed in public institutions.

Public institution Educational institutions
Home Public space



Age groups of the victims:

50% of the suicide cases and attempts, or 6 cases, were observed in the youth age group. The elderly group recorded 25% of the number of suicide cases, or 3 cases. The month of April also saw one case of suicide recorded among construction workers (precarious work) and two cases of suicide among two students. The ages of those who committed suicide ranged from 15 to 53 years old, and three victims were 18 years old.



Monitoring methodology for irregular migration:

The totality of the data contained in this report represents what the Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights has been able to gather from various sources and by the available means. The digital data remains incomplete, not detailed and subject to updating and may not fully reflect reality, but in the absence of detailed and updated information from the Tunisian official side (number of passes - number Passengers - their distribution according to age groups and gender - defining where they come from - their social status - the number of missing persons...) These data may contribute to a clearer understanding of migration dynamics and significant transformations.

- **Frustrating Passes:** Reliance is placed on the Ministry of Interior's communiqués and the statements of the spokesperson of the National Guard in the various media. Most of them do not contain detailed data (sex, age groups, the parties from which the immigrants come...)
- **Arrivals to European coasts:** Many structures that emit digital data about arrivals to Europe, such as UNHCR, IOM, European countries' ministries of the interior and the European Coastal Control Agency.

The figures provided remain approximate and require continuous updating according to figures from official and civil structures that may be issued in subsequent reports but provide a reading of the evolution and change in the dynamics of irregular migration.

Invisible numbers: It's the number of migrants arriving in Europe across different routes without passing through local authorities or international structures does not have any effect on the census, which is important and varies according to the tactics of migrant smuggling networks. It also includes departures from the Tunisian coasts, which succeed in evading strict security controls, or those that are prohibited from passing them without issuing or without being announced.