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OST
Département

Tunisian Social Observatory

REPORT
MONTHLY

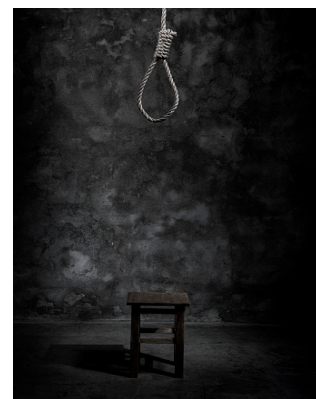
June
2023

234
PROTESTS

In July 2023, the number of protest movements reached 234, so the rate of protest continues to fall compared with June (307 movements) and May (348 movements). This is in line with the usual graph of social mobility during the summer months.

1769 MIGRANTS
A drop of 48% compared to June 2022

**10 case
of Suicide
and attempt
of suicide**





REPORT
JUNE
2023

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Introduction

The economic and social situation remained unchanged in July 2023. The bread crisis worsened, and people in every delegation of certain governorates went several days without bread. Shortages of basic foodstuffs such as flour, oil, sugar and coffee continued.

The feeling of injustice and dissatisfaction deepened among all Tunisians, men and women alike, during the intense heatwave of July and the frequent interruptions to drinking water and electricity that continued for more than a day in several governorates, namely Sidi Bouzid, Gafsa, Manouba and Kairouan. During July, most of the Republic's governorates experienced a state of congestion and tension, with roadblocks, protests and calls through the media demanding an end to these water and electricity interruptions.

On the other hand, the official political discourse continued to adopt conspiracy theories and hold other parties responsible for all the crises facing the country; the opposition, unpatriotic state officials, Speculators, infiltrators, and foreign parties... for the loss of foodstuffs and interruptions. These parties, according to this discourse, are responsible for the shortage of basic commodities, the interruption of water and electricity, the deterioration of the social situation and public services, and the situation of uncertainty and ambiguity.

The ruling power has clung to the rhetoric of discrimination and racism, and to its inhumane policy in dealing with irregular migration. Its handling of the violent incidents earlier this month between African immigrants from sub-Saharan countries and residents of the Sfax governorate testified to the extent of its clear adherence to the Italian far-right project in the Mediterranean region. The month of July 2023 saw mass expulsions of migrants by transporting them in buses and abandoning them at the Libyan or Algerian borders.

The Tunisian authorities have disavowed the various international treaties and agreements they have signed, and ignored all humanitarian approaches towards refugees, asylum seekers, vulnerable groups, women, children and pregnant women. Tunisian social networks and foreign and local media have reported terrifying news and painful images documenting the death of entire families and the bodies of children and women, as well as men lying in the desert from thirst and hunger.

So, instead of treating the situation better and more humanely, Tunisia opted to sign a new memorandum of understanding with the European Union that does not deviate from what was expected and customary, confirming and reinforcing the security role it plays in the region and its commitment to the mission of the vanguard of northern countries, while supporting it this time with a new mission, that of jailer.

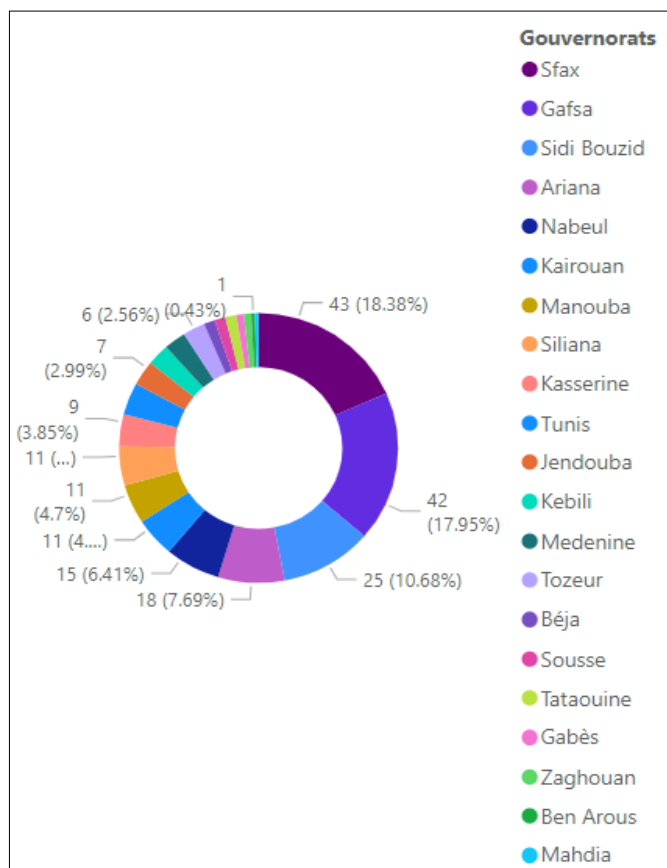
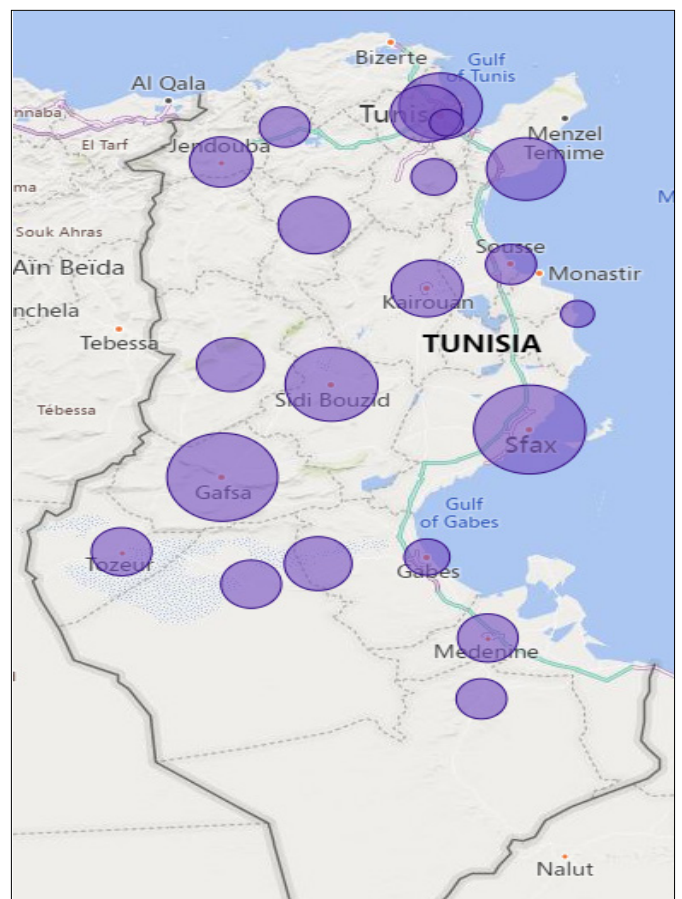
The financial aid promised this time by EU member states has been linked to the forced expulsion of migrants, whether Tunisians in the "Schengen" area or irregular immigrants who will be arrested at sea and sent back to their countries with the help of European funding, which will somehow make Tunisia a platform for sorting and expelling migrants.

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

234 Movements

Geospatial Distribution

In July 2023, the number of protest movements reached 234, so the rate of protest continues to fall compared with June (307 movements) and May (348 movements). This is in line with the usual graph of social mobility during the summer months. However, at the same time, there were movements that clearly reflected the state of frustration and



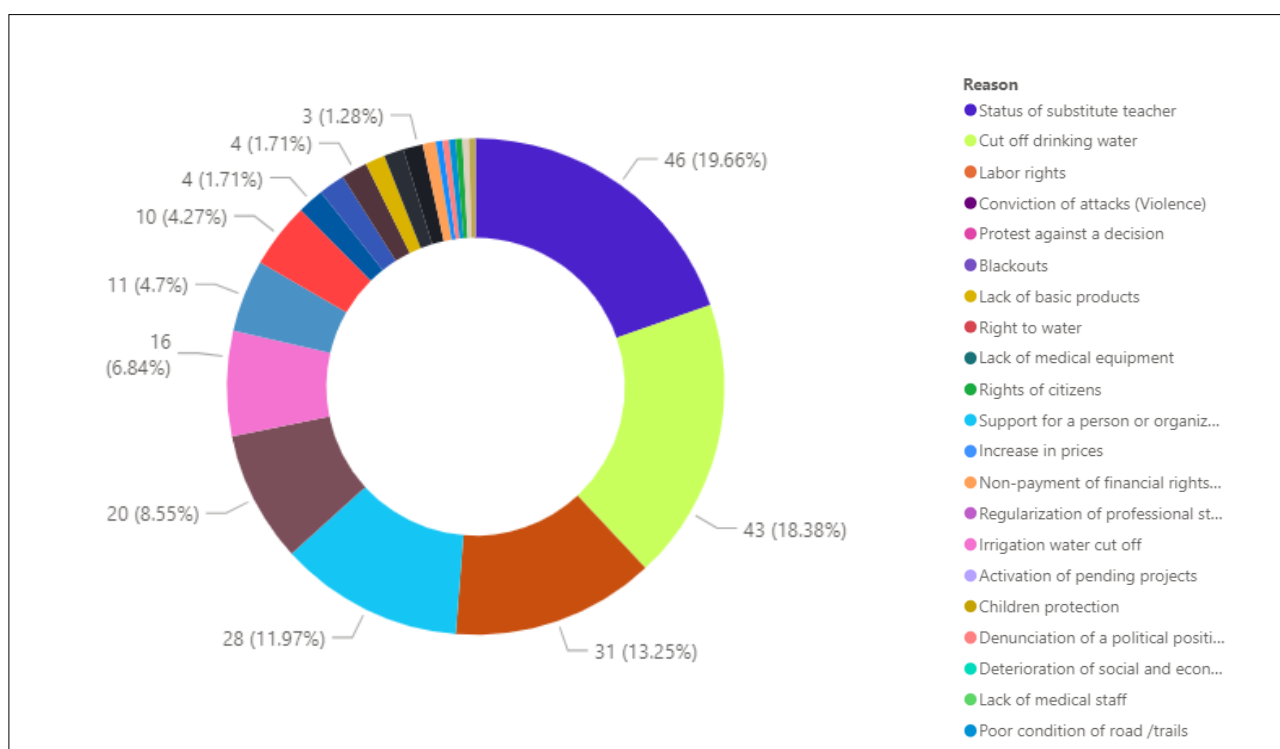
anger that prevailed among all Tunisians. The governorate of Sfax saw the majority of these movements, recording 43 protests, followed by the governorate of Gafsa with 42 and Sidi Bouzid with 25. The governorates of Sousse, Zaghuan and Gabes recorded the fewest protest movements.

Les revendications des mouvements sociaux

25% of social movements in July were linked to demands for the right to water, an end to frequent interruptions to drinking water supplies and the supply of irrigation water to farmers. 20% of the movements called for the regulation of the professional situation of assistant teachers, and 15% demanded workers' rights, notably the payment of monthly salaries.

Other protest movements called for the supply of basic materials, an end to power cuts, the denunciation of violent assaults, the deterioration of economic and social conditions, the control of price rises, the completion of blocked projects, the improvement of road conditions and the recruitment of medical and paramedical staff.

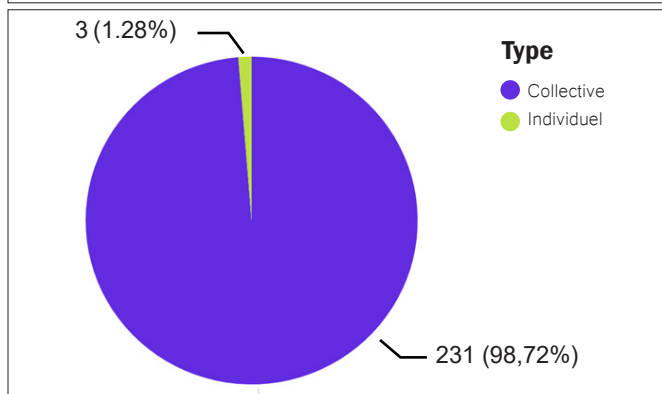
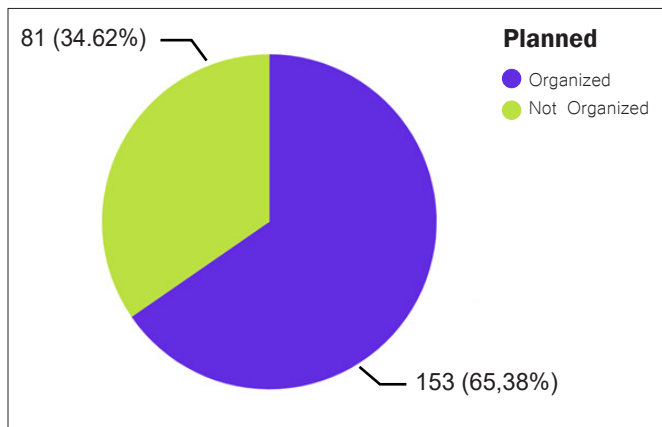
Reason	Total
Status of substitute	46
Cut off drinking water	43
Labor rights	31
Conviction of attacks (Violence)	28
Protest against a decision	20
Blackouts	16
Lack of basic products	11
Right to water	10
Lack of medical equipment	4
Right of citizens	4
Support for a person or organization	4
Increase in prices	3
Non-payment of financial rights	3
Regularization of professional status	3
Irrigation water cut off	2
Activation of pending projects	1
Children protection	1
Denunciation of social and economic conditions	1
Deterioration of social and economic conditions	1
Lack of medical staff	1
Poor condition of road/trails	1
Total	234



Type of protest movements

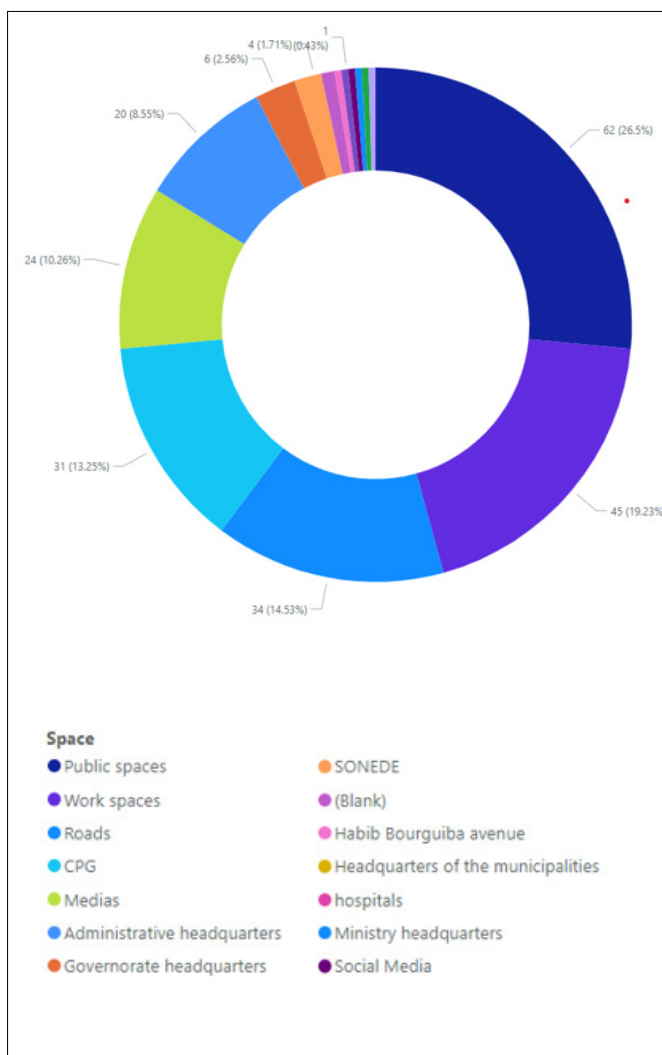
Protest movements recorded during July were dominated by their collective nature, reaching 98.72% of the total, compared with 1.28% individual.

In 65% of their movements, social actors made their demands within the framework of a framed and organized movement, while in the remaining 35%, they took the unframed, unorganized, sudden form, generally presenting themselves as a reaction and a state of anger resulting from the absence of a service or mistreatment.



Spaces and forms of social movements

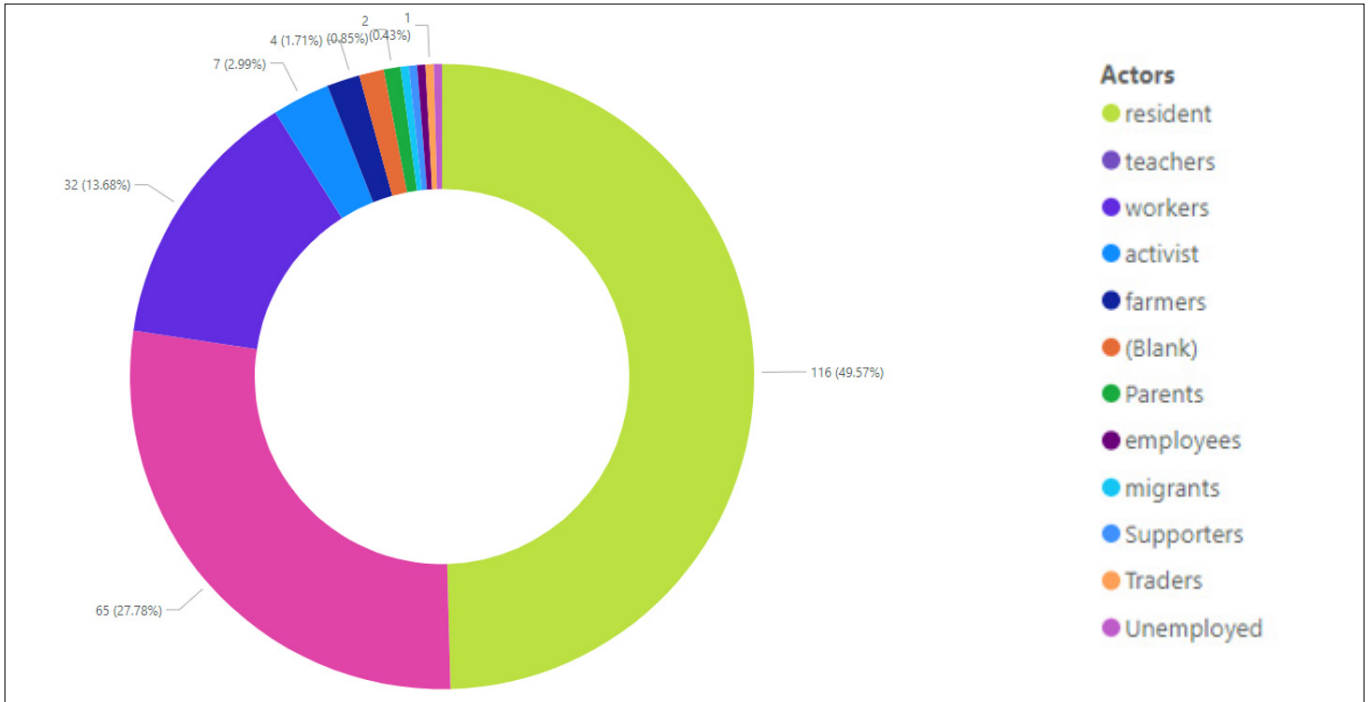
The spaces for activism by social actors were varied and distributed between public spaces, on the roads, inside workplaces, or through the media and social networks, or in front of administrative headquarters (the Tunisian company of electricity and gas distribution, the Tunisian company of water exploitation and distribution and the company of Phosphates of Gafsa) and in front of hospitals and the capital's municipal theater. Social actors also tried to diversify the forms of protest, with 39% of movements taking the form of rallies or protest vigils, while sit-ins accounted for 22.6%. Tension characterized 14.53% of movements, while 13% took the form of distress calls. Road blockades accounted for 5.13% of movements, while the remainder took the form of business disruptions, suicide threats, tire burning and a day of anger.



Social actors

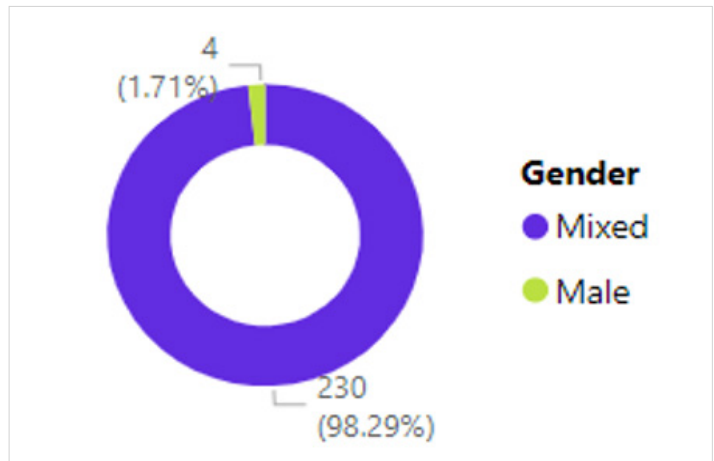
The population, the public, was the main actor in 49.57% of the protest movements observed in July, followed by teachers and professors in 27.87% of movements, fol-

lowed by workers in 13.68% of movements, followed by activists, farmers, parents, shopkeepers, unemployed, immigrants and employees.



Gender distribution

In terms of the gender of participants in protest movements, 98.29% of movements were mixed during the month of July, or female and male social actors had equal presence and power of action. 1.28% of movements were predominantly male.



Clandestine Migration



July 2023 saw the signing of a memorandum of understanding on a "global partnership" between Tunisia and the European Union in the fields of migration, the economy, agriculture, trade, energy and digital transition. The memorandum of understanding provoked strong reactions both internally and externally, particularly on the point relating to immigration and movement. The event aroused great interest in public opinion and on virtual networks, particularly with the continuing migrant crisis at the Tunisian-Libyan border.

The Migration Department of the Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights observed the arrival of 1,769 irregular Tunisian migrants on the Italian coast, with an estimated drop of 48.8% compared to the same period last year,

bringing the number of arrivals of Tunisian nationality in Italy since the beginning of the year to 6087 irregular Tunisian migrants out of a total of 88874, i.e. 7%, recording a drop of 18.3% compared with the same period last year, when the number stood at 7458 Tunisian migrants.

The Tunisian authorities have withheld quantitative data for the month of July on prevention and arrest operations along the Tunisian coast, and we were only able to record 37 foiled crossing operations and 848 migrants prevented from reaching the Italian coast. The data collected does not allow us to present an objective reading of the operations foiled during this month. On July 26, at a session of the Assembly of People's Representatives, the Tunisian Minister of the Interior presented quantitative data on irregular migration. Official data indicate that over 900 corpses have been found along the Tunisian coast. Regardless of contradictory official data and statements by officials, the human tragedy continues along the Tunisian coast, which could make this the most tragic year since the phenomenon began. The state is not doing enough in terms of search and rescue, and, thwarting forced crossings often causes tragedies, according to the testimonies of some survivors.

Comparison of the same periods during 2020 – 2021 – 2022 - 2023

THE MONTH	2020			2021			2022			2023		
	The number of arrivals of Italy	The number of frustrating passes	The number of passersby suspended	The number of arrivals of Italy	The number of frustrating passes	The number of passersby suspended	The number of arrivals of Italy	The number of frustrating passes	The number of passersby suspended	The number of arrivals of Italy	The number of frustrating passes	The number of passersby suspended
JANUARY	68	22	316	84	17	463	382	124	1155	341	85	2322
FEBRUARY	26	25	571	660	77	1273	308	95	1036	770	177	5147
MARCH	60	4	137	334	72	882	224	58	886	774	241	7494
AVRIL	37	6	99	307	42	409	345	87	1515	1047	170	4081
MAY	494	60	1243	601	95	2487	1024	172	2658	497	180	4057
JUNE	825	119	1611	977	143	2120	714	175	2086	770	123	3528
JULY	4145	245	2918	044	211	2993	3461	226	3226	1769	37	848
*DATA											334	7664
TOTAL	5655	481	6895	7007	657	10627	7458	937	12562	6087	1326	35141

* Data reported by National Guard spokesperson and not collected by FTDES

Crossing operations intercepted by region during July 2023

THE MONTH	Médenine	Gabes	Sfax	Mahdia	Monastir	Sousse	Nabeul	Tunis	Bizerte
JULY	2.7	*	83.78	*	2.7	*	2.7	*	2.7

* *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.

Arrivals by nationality during July 2023

THE MONTH	Tunisians	No Tunisians
January	19.18%	80.82%
February	15.58%	84.41%
March	5.5%	94.5%
Avril	19.79%	80.20%
May	22.18%	77.82%
June	16,89%	83,11%
July	20,92%	79,07%
Total	17.14%	82.85%

Les arrivants sur les côtes italiennes Juillet 2023

THE MONTH	The number of arrivals	Men	Women	Accompanied children	Unaccompanied and separated children
January	341	295	8	10	28
February	770	576	51	37	106
March	777	492	52	53	180
Avril	1047	734	62	70	181
May	497	390	25	27	55
June	770	366	95	73	236
July	1769	1166	121	140	342
Total	6087	3948	446	495	1198

The persistence of the political, economic, and social crisis in Tunisia and its repercussions on the most vulnerable groups reinforces the motivation to migrate, despite all the security approaches adopted on the coasts and

despite "readmission" policies. We can expect to see a return to irregular migration by Tunisians in the coming period, especially given the stability of climatic factors and the security situation, especially after the crisis in Sfax.

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
Avril	373
May	34
June	114
July	22
Data*	235
Total	903

*Data declared by the Minister of the Interior and not collected by the FTDES

Distribution of frustrating passes during JULY 2023

THE MONTH	Land	The sea
January	88.24%	11.76%
February	78.53%	84.41%
March	5.5%	94.5%
Avril	19.79%	80.20%
May	22.18%	77.82%
June	16,89%	83,11%
July	20,92%	79,07%
Total	17.14%	82.85%

Nombre de victimes et de personnes disparues sur les côtes tunisiennes 2023	The number of dead and missing in the Central Mediterranean Basin during 2023
903	1290

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.



July was another violent month, with an increased spread of violence in various regions, affecting both sexes and people of all ages. Violence has thus become a social dilemma with psychological, social, economic and political motivations, in the absence of any official plan to reduce it as a direct threat to civil peace and the security of individuals and groups.

This violence is undoubtedly fueled by a range of factors, the most important of which is the way in which individuals deal with the economic, social and life crises they face. Reactions are often violent in nature and, in the absence of support and guidance, blocked horizons and lack of clarity about the future and employment prospects, the individual often loses hope and resorts to individual salvation, through theft and robbery under threat, intimidation, extortion, suicide and addiction.

This violence is also fueled by a violent public atmosphere in which official discourse has played an important role in stigmatizing migrants, opening the door to a current of racism and hate speech leading to direct attacks on migrants and the publication of videos documenting these attacks. The existing tension led to the death of a young Tunisian man who was stabbed to death by an illegal immigrant.

The authorities do not seem to have a clear plan to contain this violence, which reflects latent social tension in the face of deteriorating conditions and the high cost of living. Faced with deteriorating living conditions, shortages of basic foodstuffs and medicines, the deterioration of basic services, the lack of basic necessities for a decent life, the absence of spaces for free expression and the lack of official interaction with the needs of the population, many have reacted angrily in their private spaces, a reaction against themselves and others.

Violence and its spread in its current spectacular form are but one indication of a dangerous social tension that reflects the narrowness and obstruction of the horizon before the individual and the group. It's an indicator that the authorities don't seem to have understood and are striving to respond to its motivations with urgent, strategic solutions accompanied by clear,

reassuring rhetoric. This inability to contain the violence, which has affected the most secure spaces, such as the family, has opened the door to the unknown in terms of social peace.

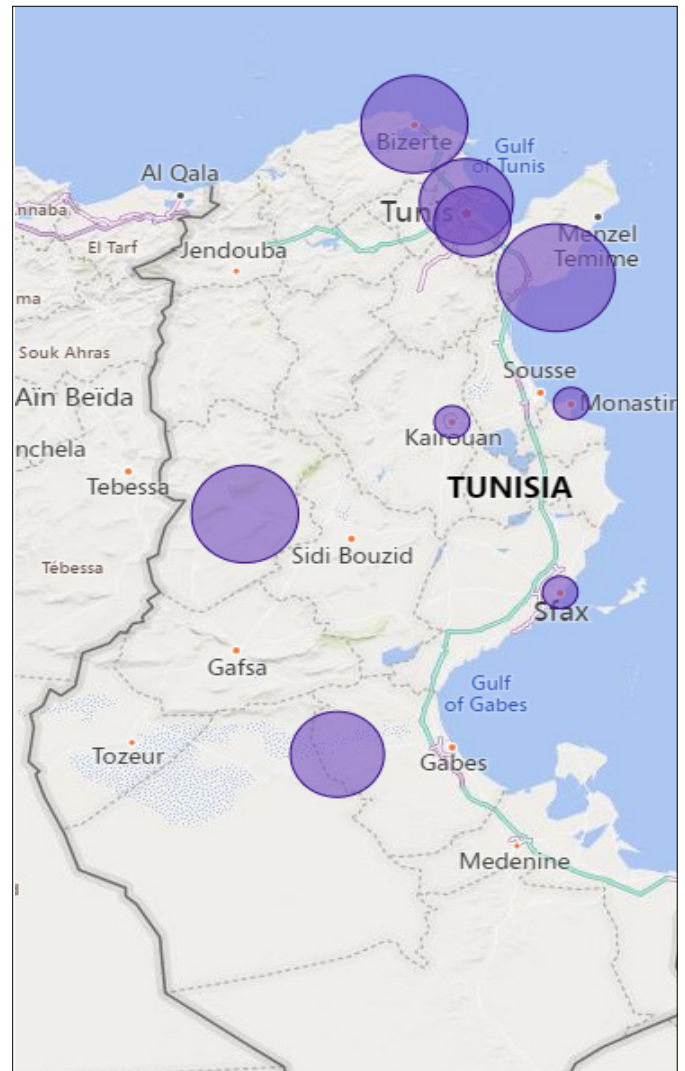
It is impossible to talk about violence as a social phenomenon without understanding the factors that feed it, which are mainly economic and social.

Geographic distribution of Violence

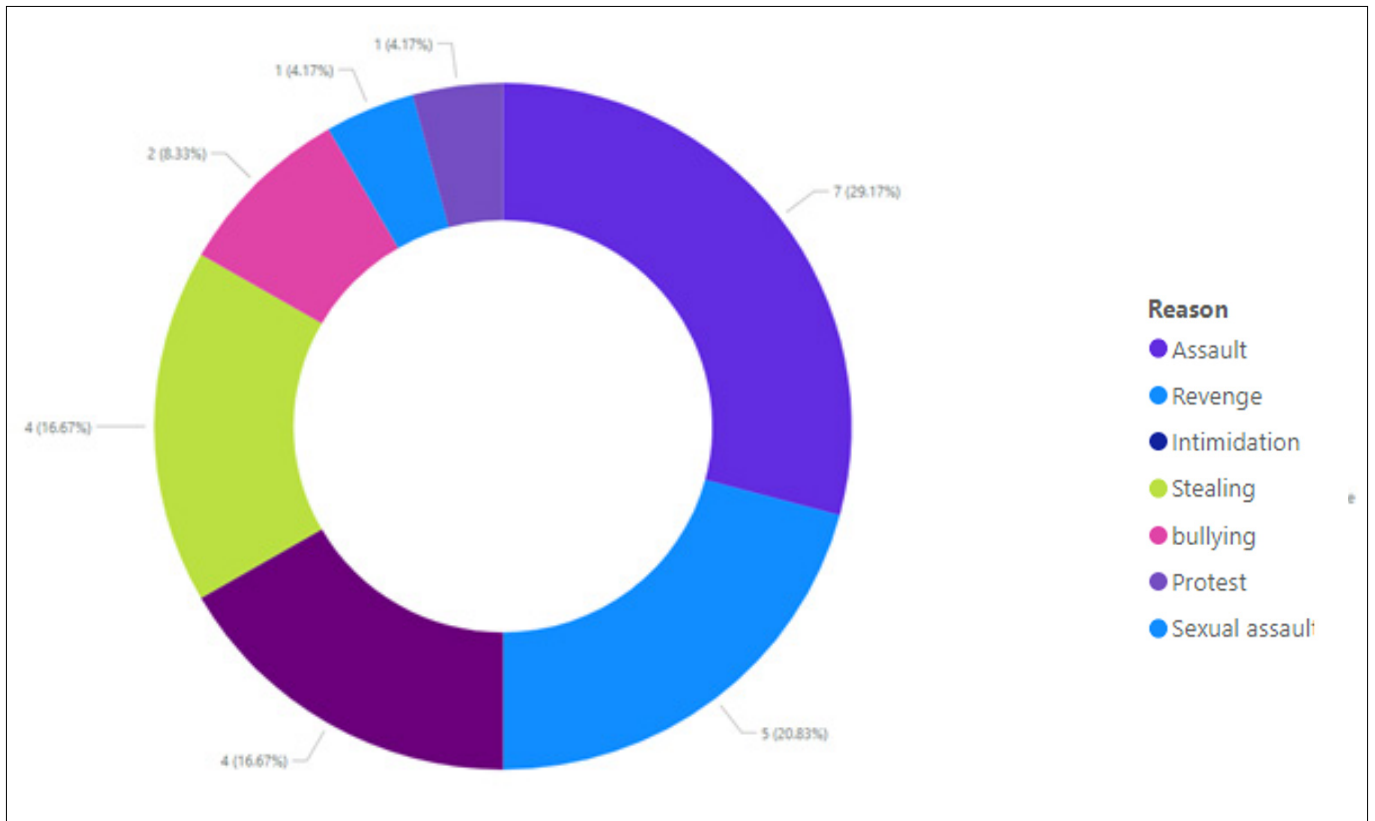
The governorate of Nabeul topped the list of areas with violent incidents throughout July, with a rate of 20.83%. This violence generally occurred during robberies, or in a context of revenge and aggression. The governorate of Kasserine came second, with a rate of 16.67% of violent incidents occurring in the context of robberies and assaults. Authorities observed one incident where a father assaulted his two daughters, resulting in the death of one and serious injury to the second, as well as one incident where a young man killed his neighbor who intervened to resolve a dispute between him and his father.

The governorate of Bizerte ranks equally high, with a rate of 16.67%, and individual violence, such as aggression and revenge, represented the most important motive.

In the next rankings, the three governorates in the capital region, Ariana, Ben Arous and Tunis, came in with a combined rate of around 33 percent (12.5 percent in Ariana and Tunis, and 8 percent in Ben Arous). Among the incidents recorded, we observed a case of human trafficking where female workers were forced to satisfy the sexual desires of customers under threat and harassment from a group of offenders and their boss, the owner of a massage center.



Also during the month, we recorded the rape of a minor under threat as she made her way to the Sidi Bou Said train station to return to her family home in the capital. The capital region also recorded a case of extortion of a woman by her daughter's boyfriend,



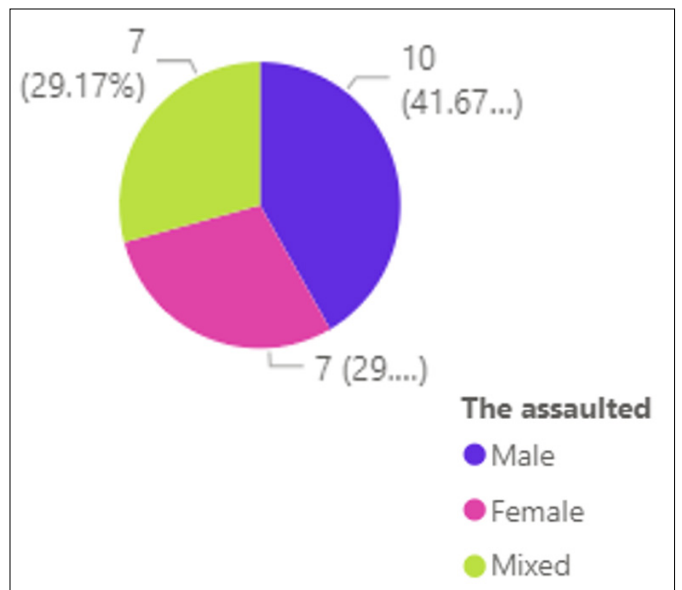
who demanded 11,000 dinars in exchange for not publishing photos of her daughter on social networks. In Sfax, violence took the form of racist behavior, stigmatization, intimidation and violence against migrants from sub-Saharan countries. The region also saw clashes between the local population and

migrants, resulting in the death of a young man from the town of Sfax, who was stabbed by a migrant. This incident was followed by random arrests and forced expulsions. Tunisian authorities have also been taking and abandoning groups of irregular migrants at the Algerian and Libyan borders.

Gender distribution

Men accounted for 41.67% of all victims of violence during July, while women represented 29% of all victims. Violence also affected both sexes, with an equal rate of 29.17%.

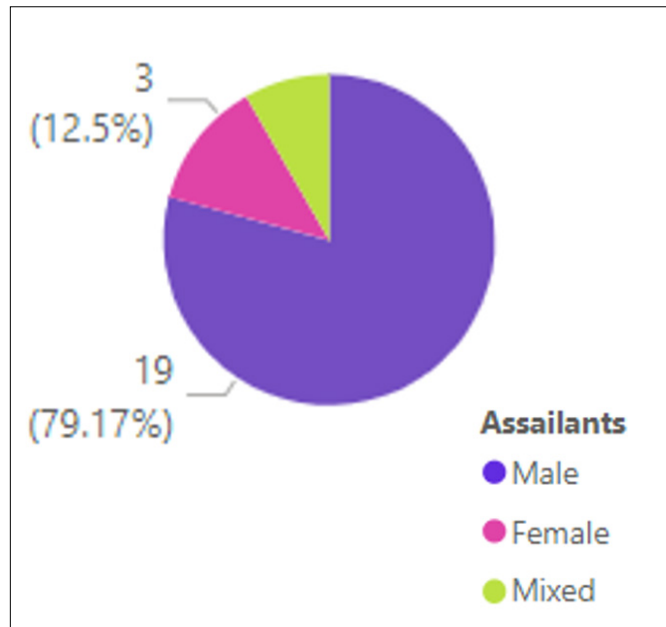
Women were victims of crimes of aggression, revenge, intimidation, harassment, and sexual assault. Among the most notable incidents of violence observed, female job seekers were lured and killed by an offender who deliberately posted false job offers on the Internet, then lured female job seekers and killed them. His victims totaled 3 young girls.



Men were the victims of crimes of aggression, revenge, intimidation, and theft, as well as protest reactions, including a young man pouring petrol on his friend in Bizerte and burning him after a serious argument between them. As for joint violence, it was mainly linked to aggression, threats, and intimidation.

Men were the perpetrators of 79.17% of violent incidents, while women were responsible for 12.5%.

79,17% d'incidents violents, tandis que les femmes étaient responsables de 12,5 % de ces incidents.

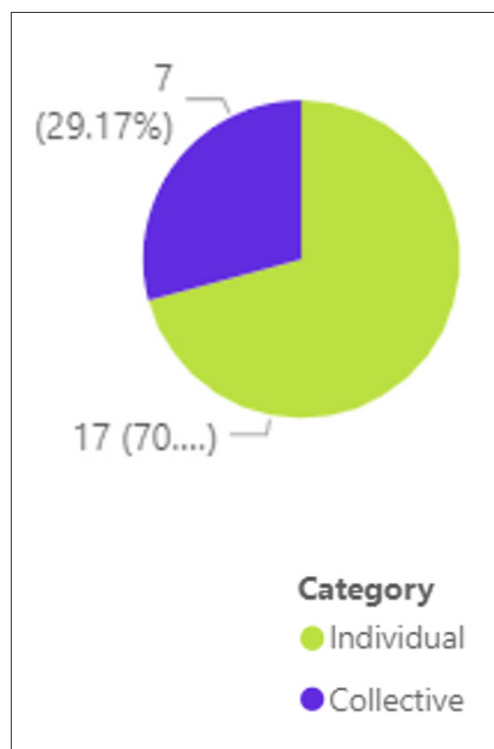
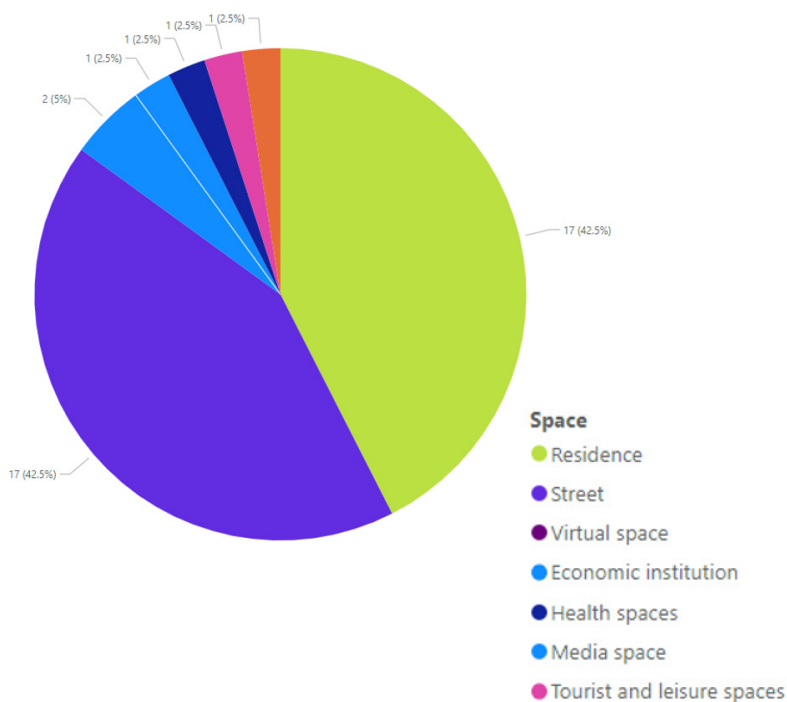


Forms and spaces of violence

The street and public and private spaces were the scene of this violence. Social networking sites, mainly Facebook, have also become a major platform for the dissemination of violent, hateful, racist and stigmatizing language, intimidation and incitement to violence, particularly against migrants, human rights ac-

tivists and anyone with different opinions.

Stabbing was the most common form of violence observed. We also recorded cases of vitriol, notably that of a former municipal official who was attacked with acid in Nabeul. Cases of electronic extortion and threats to publish photos were also recorded.



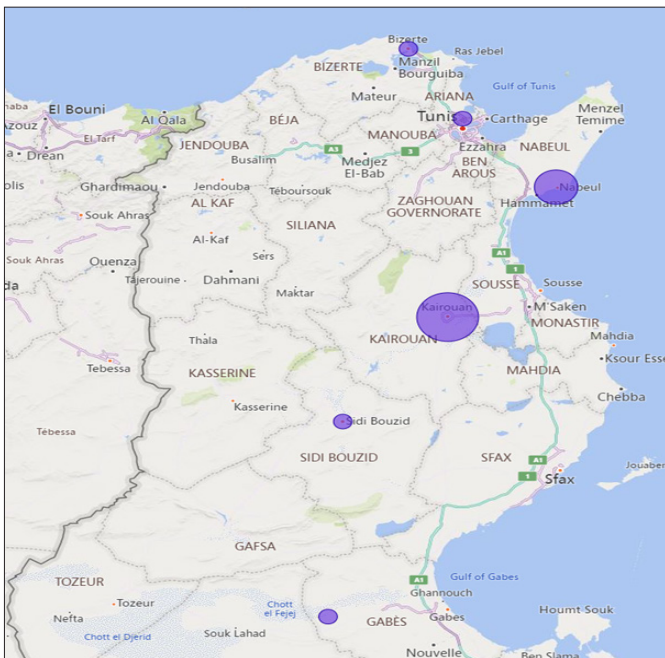
Suicide and suicide attempts



Ten (10) suicide cases and attempts were recorded in July. The number of suicide cases and attempts fell from 12 in April to 15 in May, 18 in June and 10 in July.

In parallel with the increase in the suicide rate over the last three months, the mortality rate of victims has also risen, from 66% in April to 80% in May and 83% in June. In July, this percentage dropped to 50%. Noting that no official strategy has yet emerged to combat suicide, prevent it and protect the victims' entourage, given that suicide is contagious.

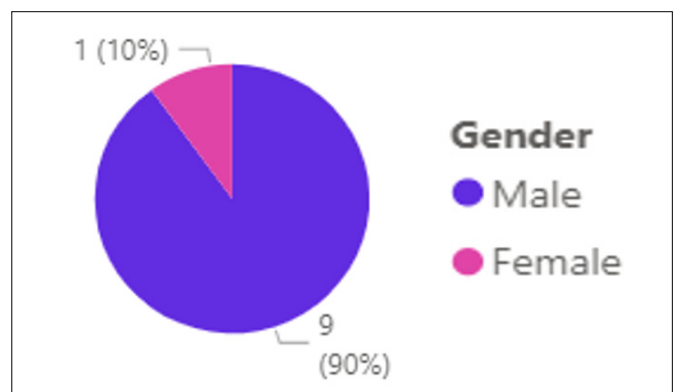
Geospatial distribution



cases observed throughout July. This was followed by Nabeul Governorate, with two cases of suicide, and Ariana, Bizerte, Tunisia and Sidi Bouzid Governorates, with one case of suicide in each region.

Gender distribution

Men accounted for 90% of all suicide and attempted suicide victims in July, while women accounted for 10%.



The Governorate of Kairouan topped the list of regions with suicide cases and attempts, with four cases recorded, representing around 40% of the total number of

Age distribution of victims

Young people were the most suicidal category with 40%, followed by adults with 30%, then the elderly. Thus, all age groups were affected by suicide and suicide attempts. Economic and social fragility and the absence of hope and horizons for the 25–40 age group are the main reasons for suicide.

70% of suicide cases and attempts took

place in the victims' residential spaces, which can be understood as narrowness of space for those with such intentions and the absence of family protection or, indirectly, the economic fragility and social challenges facing families.

Public spaces were also used for suicides and suicide attempts in 2% of cases recorded throughout July.

