



N°128

# OST

Département

Observatoire Social Tunisien

MONTHLY REPORT  
**MAY**  
2024

**248**

**SOCIAL  
MOVEMENTS**

**686**

**MIGRATION  
NON-REGULATORY**

**8**

**SUICIDE CASES  
AND SUICIDE ATTEMPT**

REPORT  
MONTHLY

**MAY** 20  
24

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## **PROTESTS OF DEMANDS... AND A RETURN TO THE STREETS!**

**The month of May saw 248 social movements, recording an increase of around 21% compared to April, which recorded 195 movements. Consequently, this month was the most active in terms of protests since the beginning of the year.**

The claims based on defending rights dominated the protest scene in May. Most of these demands were related to the right to access justice, a fair trial, freedom of opinion and expression, and a free and independent press. After two incidents involving the intrusion of security forces into the headquarters of the National Order of Lawyers and the subsequent acts of violence, lawyers initiated a series of movements marked by strong resentment and indignation. This was expressed through gatherings in front of courts in different regions, culminating in a general strike where lawyers converged in large numbers in front of the court of first instance of Tunis, wearing their characteristic uniforms.

During the same month, hundreds of protesters took to the streets to protest

against the wave of arrests and detentions of activists, journalists, bloggers, lawyers, graffiti artists, and citizens, under the pretext of Decree 54 related to combating offenses related to information and communication systems, which has become a key tool for intimidation and silencing dissent.

Economic and social demands were not absent from the protest scene in May. The unemployed maintained their position as the second most active social group after lawyers. Protests were recorded among workers, teachers, and employees, reflecting a sense of frustration and dissatisfaction with the economic situation. Their actions were mainly about non-payment of salaries and financial benefits, improvement of working conditions, workers' rights, and condemnation of violence.

Without exception, protests affected all regions of the country, with the Gafsa region leading for the fifth consecutive month with 55 recorded movements, followed by Kairouan and Gabès with 20 movements each, while Tunis dropped to fourth place after recording 15 movements.

Lawyers were the most active actors with 75 movements, while the inhabitants ranked second, expressing their dissatisfaction with numerous issues related to basic services such as power outages, rising prices, deteriorating infrastructure, and other needs. Worker and employee movements were also present on the protest map.

Thousands of contract teachers led intense protest actions, threatening to leave institutions and schools and take to the streets again after delays in paying their salaries. Their case remains one of the most important unresolved issues for successive governments, which, despite promises and signed agreements, have not made the expected progress, creating tensions in the education sector, making students the main victims.

Protests related to the issue of migrants in Tunisia continued throughout May, expressing their refusal of the fluctuating management adopted by the government to handle a highly humanitarian issue and Tunisia's submission to European Union dictates, turning the country into a sort of trap for migrants.

Judicial institutions ranked first among the spaces recording the most protests, followed by public spaces, used 32 times by protesters, then the Gafsa Phosphate Company with the same number of movements, followed by workplaces with 26 actions, then streets and administrative institutions.

Social actors' protests took the form of manifestations, with 88 organized during May, and similarly, protesters resorted to strikes (82 strikes). On the other hand, sit-ins decreased, with 36 recorded, marking a decrease of about 50% compared to April, which had 72.

The increase in the number of demonstrations clearly reflects a return to the streets, which had seen a relative decline in previous months.

Protests focused on condemning judicial decisions, as well as intimidation and terror campaigns, with a return to revolutionary slogans demanding the right to opinion, expression, employment, and dignity.

As in previous months, organized demonstrations accounted for the majority of movements, reaching 93% of recorded movements, compared to only 7% in an unorganized form.

Out of 245 collective manifestations, only 3 were individual. Most movements saw balanced participation from both sexes. Additionally, 3 actions were primarily female, demanding the right to drinking

water in Gafsa and an end to environmental violations and assaults in Kairouan.

In contrast to the increase in protests, May recorded a decrease in the number of suicides and suicide attempts, with 8 cases, all male, including 5 young people and 3 children, averaging one case per governorate: Kairouan, Monastir, Jendouba, Bizerte, Sidi Bouzid, Sfax, Gabès, and Kébili. Suicide resulted in death in 75% of cases recorded in May.

The rates of violence maintained their usual high level in May, with cases of murder, death threats, robberies, harassment, rape of women and children, as well as attacks in public and private spaces. Community violence also spread, with the main goal being to impose influence and eliminate the other. Men

represented 64.82% of the aggressors compared to women who represented 16%, while 19% of violent acts were collective.

Murder and attempted murder were the most frequent forms of violence during the month. We also recorded a return of crimes due to disputes, parental conflicts between fathers and sons, as well as between relatives or neighbors.

There was a high frequency of thefts and robberies, as well as assaults and sexual harassment against minors, and cases of violence against workers and employees, such as the assault on a lawyer in Kasserine and attacks on teachers in educational institutions, provoking a wave of anger among teachers who came out to condemn the aggravation of these practices and demand an end to them.

FROM THE  
RIVER  
TO THE SEA  
PALESTINE  
WILL BE  
FREE

**01**

**SOCIAL  
MOVEMENTS**

**248  
PROTESTS**

Photo credit: Hsan Mrad

## 1.1 DISTRIBUTION Geospatial

Gouvernorates	Total
Gafsa	55
Kairouan	20
Kebili	20
Tunis	15
Nabeul	12
Sfax	12
Béja	10
Siliana	10
Kasserine	9
Bizerte	8
Jandouba	8
Sousse	8
Tataouine	8
Gabès	6
Ariana	5
Kef	5
Mahdia	5
Manouba	5
Medenine	5
Sidi Bouzid	5
Tozeur	5
Ben Arous	4
Monastir	4
Zaghouan	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>248</b>

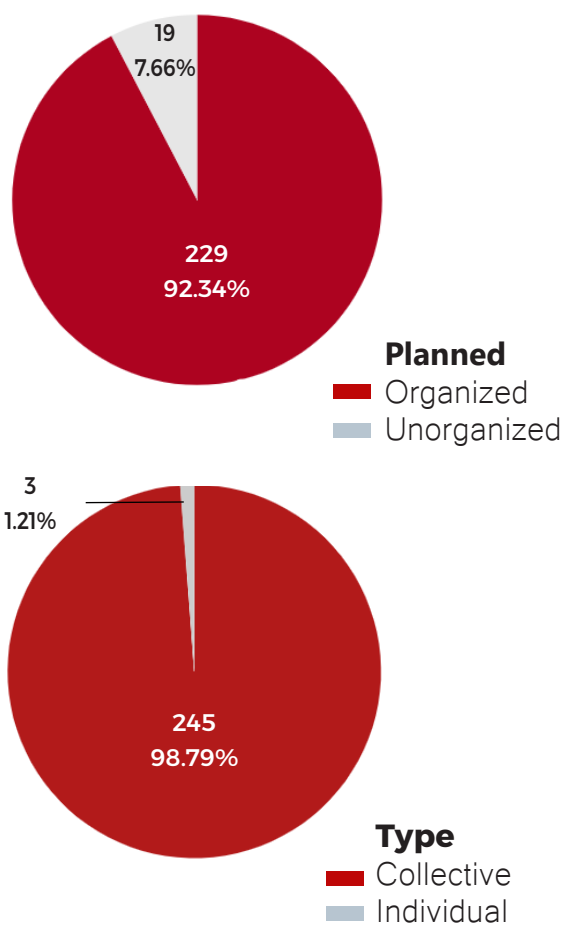
## 1.2 SPACE of Social Movements

Space	Total
Judicial institutions	75
Public spaces	32
CPG	32
Workspaces	26
Roads	22
Administrative headquarters	16
Medias	15
Governorate headquarters	8
Educational institutions	6
Headquarters of the Presidency of Government	4
Headquarters of delegations	4
Ministry headquarters	2
Avenue Habib Bourguiba	1
Hospitals	1
SONED	1
STEG	1
Security posts (police, army, etc.)	1
Headquarters of municipalities	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>248</b>

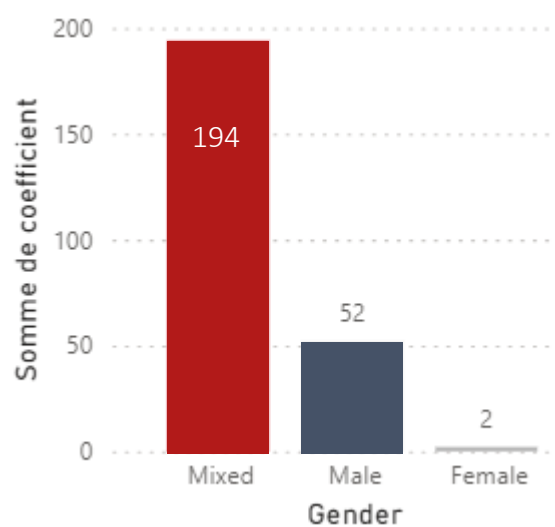
## 1.3 ACTORS for Social Movements

Actors	Total
Lawyers	75
Resident	36
Unemployed	31
Activists	30
Teachers	25
Workers	24
Taxi Drivers	5
Employees	5
Family	4
Medical service employees	3
Urban workers	3
Unemployed graduated people	2
Farmers	2
Traders	1
Students	1
Journalists	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>248</b>

## 1.4 NATURE of Social Movements



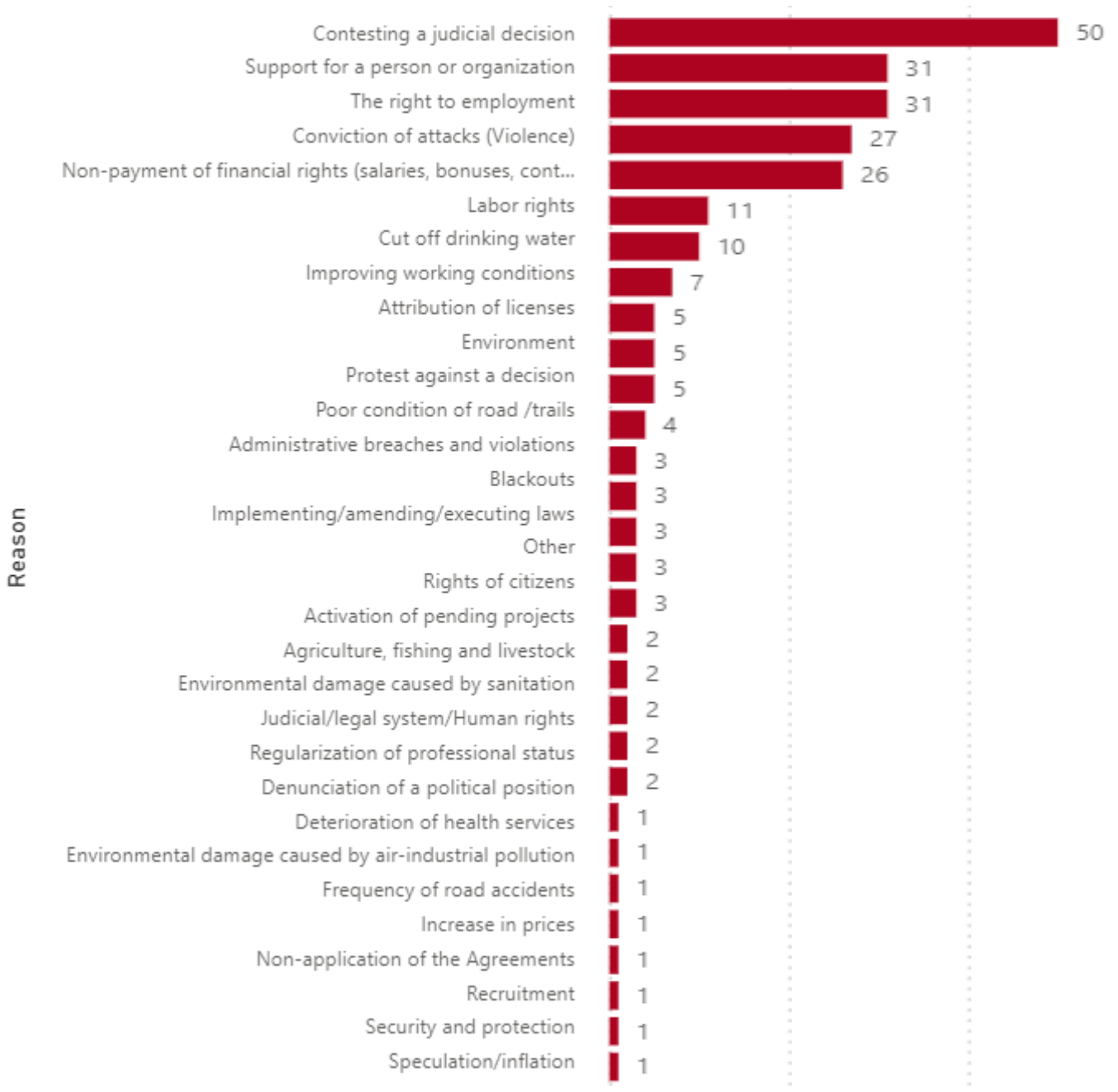
## 1.5 DISTRIBUTION Gendered





# 1.6 REASONS for Social Movements

## Total par Reason





May 2024

# IRREGULAR MIGRATION

**686**

Migrants arriving on Italian coasts  
during the month of May 2024

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## 2.1 Comparison In the same period during the years 2022-2023-2024

The month	2022			2023			2024		
	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	Number of frustrating passes	Number of passersby suspended
January	382	124	1155	341	85	2304	258	76	1630
February	308	95	1036	770	177	5147	440	64	1478
March	224	58	886	777	241	7494	673	171	5424
APRIL	345	87	1515	1047	170	4081	853	209	8249
May	1024	172	2658	613	180	4075	686	68	*451
Maritime Guard Data								**453	13049**
<b>Total</b>	<b>2283</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>7250</b>	<b>3548</b>	<b>853</b>	<b>23101</b>	<b>2910</b>	<b>1041</b>	<b>30281</b>

## 2.2 Distribution of arrivals to Italy by months

The month	Number of arrivals	Men	Women	Accompanied children	Unaccompanied and separated children
January	258	187	15	24	32
February	440	281	22	24	113
March	673	483	34	58	98
April	853	518	63	87	185
May	686	475	38	44	129
<b>Total</b>	<b>2910</b>	<b>1976</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>523</b>

## 2.3 The tragedies of irregular migration on the Tunisian coasts

The month	The number of victims and missing
January	37
February	67
March	53
April	87
May	98
Data*	136
<b>Total</b>	<b>462</b>

\* The data was provided in statements from the Ministry of Interior and has not been detailed

The number of dead and missing on the Tunisian coast	The number of dead and missing in the Central Mediterranean Basin
617	462

The absence of comprehensive information from the Ministry of Interior complicates monitoring. According to the Ministry of Interior, since the year's beginning, it has stopped 30,281 individuals from reaching the Italian coast and thwarted 1,041 crossings. The Forum kept track of 686 migrants from Tunisia who arrived on the Italian coast. At 14%, Tunisian nationality comes in third among irregular arrivals in Italy. Women make up 6.5% of all arrivals from Tunisia, while minors make up 25.5%.

In addition, the Ministry of Interior declared that, excluding the missing, 462 bodies have been recovered since the year's beginning. Tunisia's coasts will face extreme difficulties during the summer months because of the criminalization of support for migrants and the increasing vulnerability of refugees and asylum seekers as a result of the disruption of the work of organizations that provide aid to them.

## 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.

### **FRUSTRATED 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...)

### **RRIVALS 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.

### **AINVISIBLE 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.

**03**

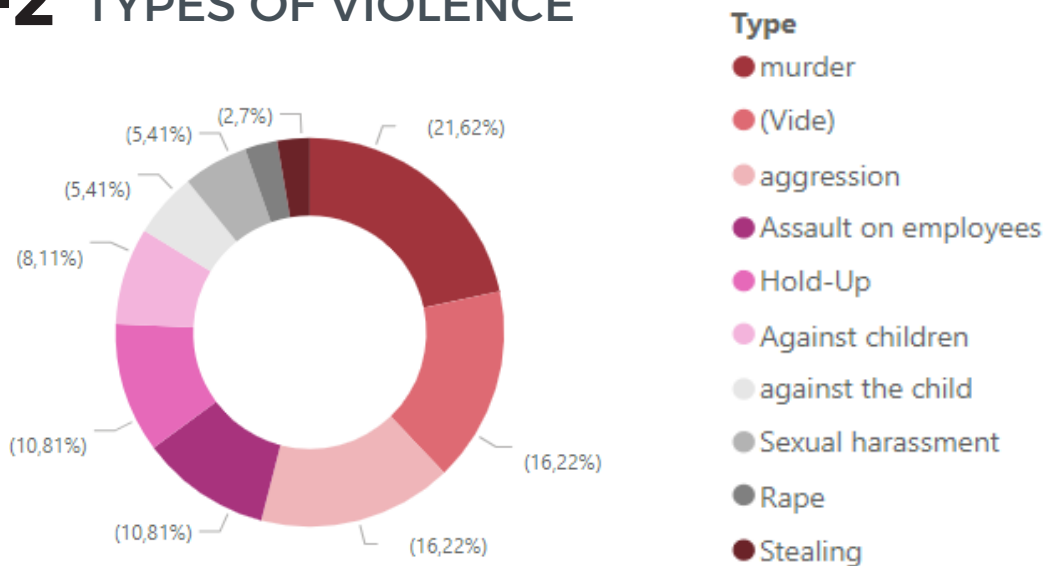


# **VIOLENCE**

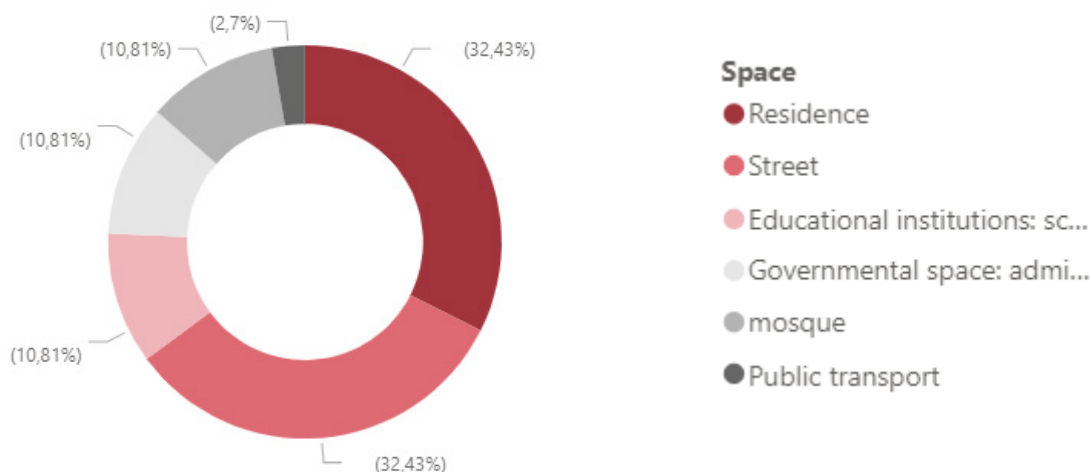
### 3-1 PROFILES ACTORS

	AGGRESSORS	AGGRESSED
	<b>81.08%</b>	<b>64.86%</b>
	<b>8.11%</b>	<b>18.92%</b>
	<b>10.81%</b>	<b>16.22%</b>

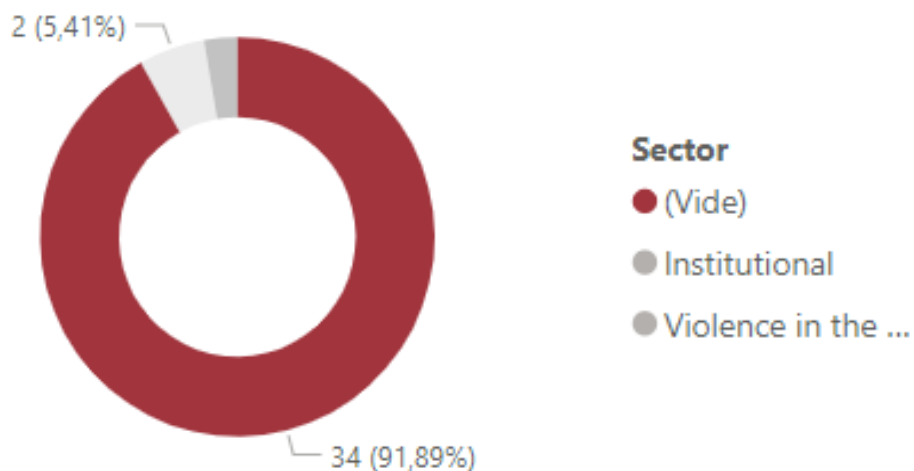
### 3-2 TYPES OF VIOLENCE



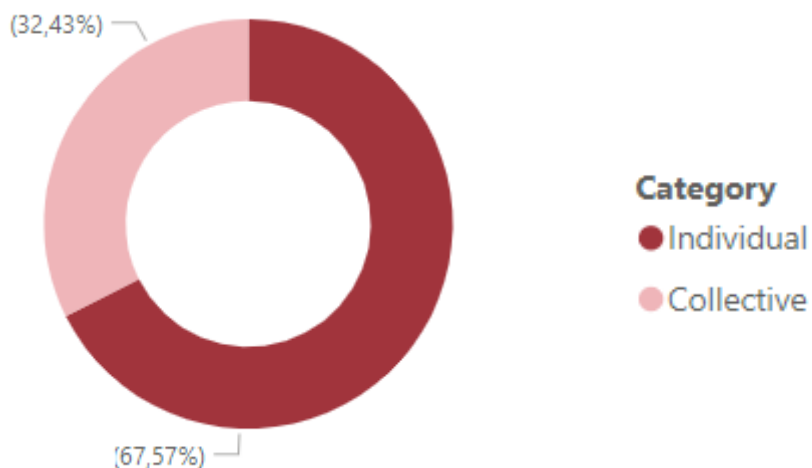
### 3-3 SPACES OF VIOLENCE



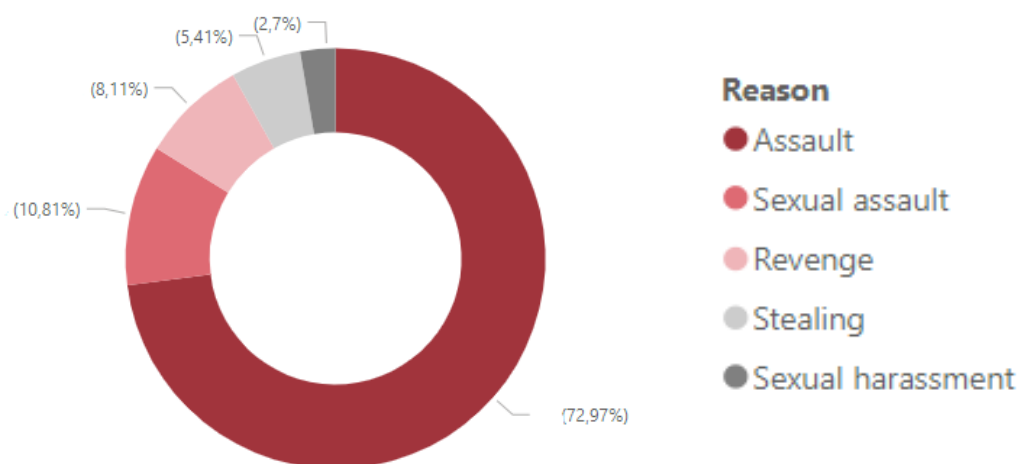
### 3-4 SECTORS OF VIOLENCE



### 3-5 CATEGORY OF VIOLENCE



### 3-6 REASONS FOR VIOLENCE







# **SUICIDE & ATTEMPT OF SUICIDE**

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**8 CASES**  
RECORDED  
in May 2024

## 4-1 DISTRIBUTION

Geographical

Gouvernorates	Total
Sidi Bouzid	1
Sfax	1
Monastir	1
Kebili	1
Kairouan	1
Jandouba	1
Gabès	1
Bizerte	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>

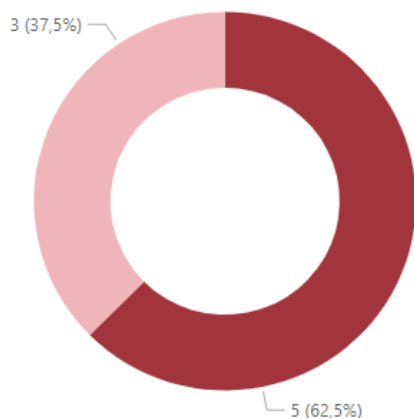
## 4-2 DISTRIBUTION

Gendered



## 4-3 ACTORS

of suicide

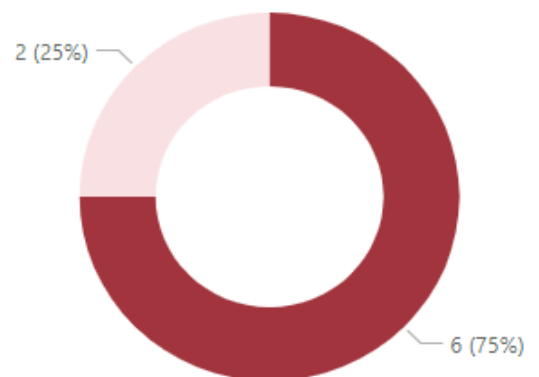


### Actors

- young man / woman
- Child

## 4-4 CASES

of deceased



### Death

- Yes
- No