

OST

Tunisian Social Observatory

MONTHLY REPORT

JANUARY
2025

**483 SOCIAL
MOVEMENTS**

**12 SUICIDE CASES
INCLUDING 7 STUDENTS**

MONTHLY REPORT

January

2025

COMMUNICATED

5

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THE RETURN TO PROTEST EMPLOYMENT AND PRECARIOUSNESS AT THE HEART OF THE SOCIAL MOVEMENT

Please note: From January 2025, the Tunisian Social Observatory will publish detailed data on protests, including data on the protest, its duration, date, form, actors, demands and region, in order to provide a more accurate qualitative reading of protests and facilitate the work of journalists, researchers, activists and the general public.

During January 2025, social movements gained momentum and the pace of protests accelerated further. Social actors regularly occupied the public arena, demanding regularization of professional status, an end to precarious work, the right to employment and an end to persistent unemployment. Unlike last year, the start of this year was marked by an upsurge in activism and demands, breaking with the unprecedented stagnation and decline seen in the first half of last year.

In terms of figures, the first month of the year saw a 252.5% increase in the pace of social movements compared to the same period last year, rising from 137 protest actions in January 2024 to 483 protest actions in January 2025.

This upward trend has been evident since the last quarter of the year, which saw an increase in the number of social movements.

The Tunisian Social Observatory's prediction of a return to dormant demands and ground protests, particularly those linked to unresolved post-2011 social issues, has been confirmed.

Protests linked to the resolution of professional status, the right to employ unemployed graduates, the improvement of working conditions, the payment of dues, the activation of mandates and the implementation of outstanding agreements made up 65% of the total movements recorded during January 2025.

The orientation of official authorities, including the presidency of the government and the presidency of the republic, towards resolving the issue of replacement teachers and professors, and following up on the settlement of the situation of site workers, served as a catalyst for a series of movements in sectors experiencing similar situations, including contract supervisors and guides at the Ministry of Education, who have been staging a sit-in since mid-January and will continue to do so throughout February, employees of the National Center for the Advancement of the Disabled, employees of specialized associations under the sectoral agreement for special education staff, female agricultural workers, and delegated accreditation agents of the Ministry of the Interior. .. In addition, site workers over the age of 45 continued to mobilize for a fair settlement of their case, and groups of teachers and substitute teachers took action after being excluded from the settlement following security searches.

Meanwhile, unemployed graduates returned to action in January. Their actions began with the organization of regional protests in various governorates of the Republic and culminated in the call for a large protest rally in Kasbah Square at the beginning of February.

The Tunisian Social Observatory team also monitored protests by citizens demanding basic commodities, notably domestic gas bottles, for which shortages coincided with cold snaps and low temperatures, creating a state of tension and anger in many

regions. Inhabitants mobilized to demand basic public services: drinking water, electricity, gas and sewerage, asphalted roads, road opening, waste removal, public transport, making educational establishments safe, distributing meals to pupils, improving health services, providing medical equipment and personnel and specialized medicines...

During January 2025, support for the Palestinian people continued, coinciding with the signing of a ceasefire agreement in the Gaza Strip. The month was also marked by demonstrations demanding the release of prisoners of conscience, political prisoners and those arrested for their civil activities. Human rights activist Sihem Bensedrine began a 16-day hunger strike to protest against her detention for over 160 days for what she considers an abusive case.

Protest momentum is mainly concentrated in Tunis, which alone recorded 116 actions, followed by Jendouba with 43 actions, Gafsa with 39 actions, Tataouine with 35 actions, Kairouan with 26 actions, Kasserine with 25 actions, Bizerte with 20 actions, Siliana and Sousse with 15 actions each, and Mahdia and Sidi Bouzid with 13 actions each.

The protests recorded during the first month of the year are not subject to a division between men and women, as 401 actions were organized with the participation of both sexes. In fact, 297 actions were organized with the participation of both sexes, while 62 actions were organized by men only and 20 by women only.

In contrast to previous months, social actors' use of the virtual space as their primary protest or demand framework decreased in January, accounting for just 104 of the total number of protest frameworks, divided between calls through the media, declarations and petitions. On the other hand, the number of actions on the ground and in the official arena increased to make up 81.53% of protest frameworks. Vigils were organized 109 times, sit-ins 50 times, strikes 44 times, hunger strikes 17 times and business interruptions 82 times. During the same period, 8 marches were organized towards the capital, 6 peaceful marches were organized, 5 days of anger were organized, a red badge was worn, 4 demonstrators burned tires, 2 classes were prevented, a boycott of classes was recorded, as well as roadblocks and exam boycotts.

Social actors, including workers, employees, residents, civil society activists, students, prisoners, teachers, professors, the unemployed, farmers, cab drivers, healthcare workers, students, journalists, construction workers, etc..., are mainly addressed to the central authorities, defined as the presidency of the Republic, the presidency of the government and the ministries and their various headquarters and departments, followed immediately by the regional authorities, namely governors and mayors, and in third place, the courts, judges and the security corps.

According to the sample observed, suicides and attempted suicides are on the rise again in January 2025, after declining in

previous months, when 12 cases of suicide and attempted suicide were observed by the Tunisian Social Observatory team, 8 of which ended in death and the others were saved.

In 6 of the suicide attempts, the perpetrators resorted to self-immolation as a form of protest against family, police authorities or the socio-economic situation. Three students took drugs in an attempt to commit suicide, and three others hanged themselves.

Students accounted for half of all suicides in January, young people for four and a 40-year-old woman for one. The private space, the home, was the scene of 8 of the suicides, while the educational establishment was the scene of 2 suicides and the public space recorded the remaining 2 cases.

The governorate of Sidi Bouzid recorded 4 cases and attempts of suicide, followed by Kairouan with 3 suicides, Tunis with 2 suicides, and Ben Arous, El Kef and Kasserine with 1 suicide each.

The Tunisian Social Observatory warns of the need to give this behavior the necessary importance and attention from the official structures concerned, while specifying that it is likely that this behavior cannot be studied and deconstructed without the opening of a broad and comprehensive debate in which taboos and prohibitions are put on the table, especially in the light of the social stakes and risks that this phenomenon poses to the public health of citizens.

The violent incidents of January 2025 repeat the same general characteristics as in previous months, and spare no region in terms of their level of dissemination. In its details, the violence retains the same concern for revenge and pride, and the desire to minimize and devalue others. The Zanoush region in the Gafsa governorate, for example, was the scene of an incident in which a father massacred his wife and son. An elderly man stabbed his father in the Nabeul governorate, and a young man deliberately poured petrol on a nurse at the Sakia Sidi Youssef regional hospital and set fire to it, inflicting severe burns, and in Monastir, a young man killed his brother, and in the town of Kelibia, a young man poured an incendiary substance on his mother and set fire to it, leading to her death.

Violence is not confined to public and private spaces, but extends to educational establishments, hospitals, administrations and production facilities. Men account for 46% of victims and 82% of perpetrators of violence, while women represent 36% of victims and 11% of perpetrators, with the remainder of violence occurring in a mixed form between men and women.

In 75% of the incidents monitored by the Tunisian Social Observatory team, the violence takes a criminal form, followed by institutional violence (15%) and economic violence (5%). The main motive for violent incidents is to assault the victim, followed by theft as the second motive, revenge as the third motive, sexual assault and protest.

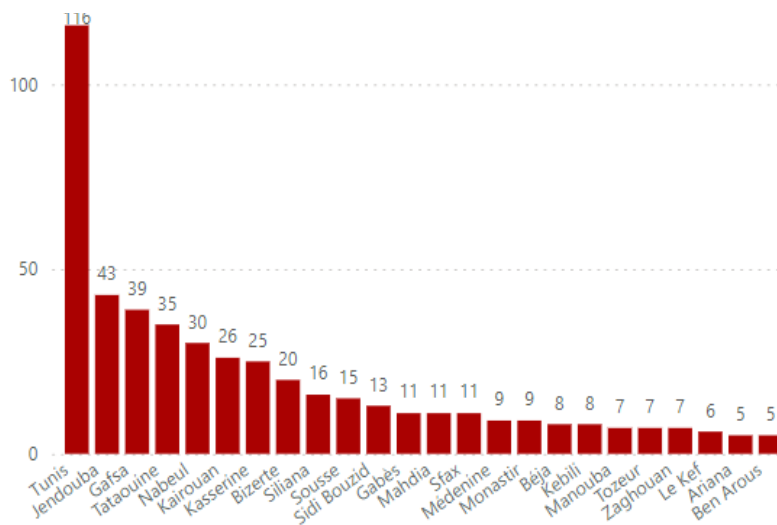
01

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

483 PROTESTS



1.1 GEOSPATIAL Distribution



1.2 DIMENSION of Social Movements



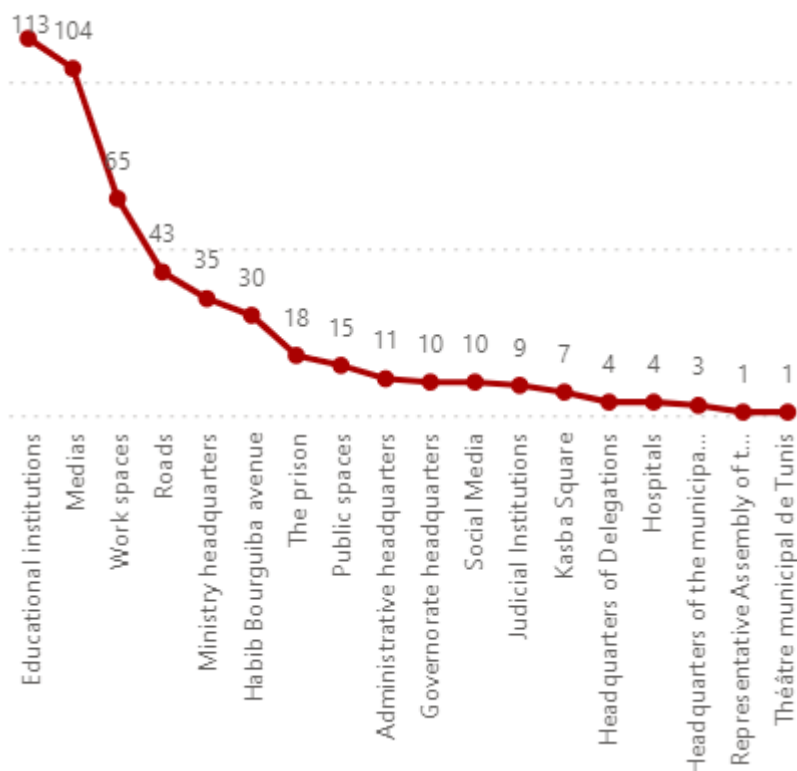
99.17%

Local

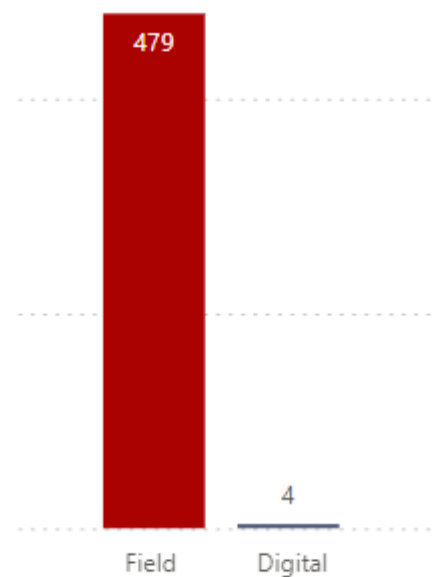
0.83%

Global

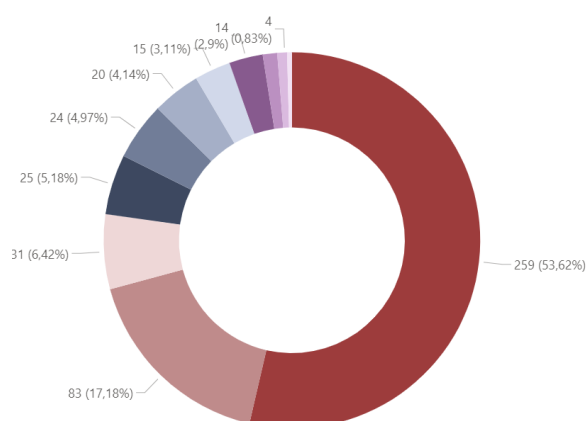
1.3 SPACE of Social Movements



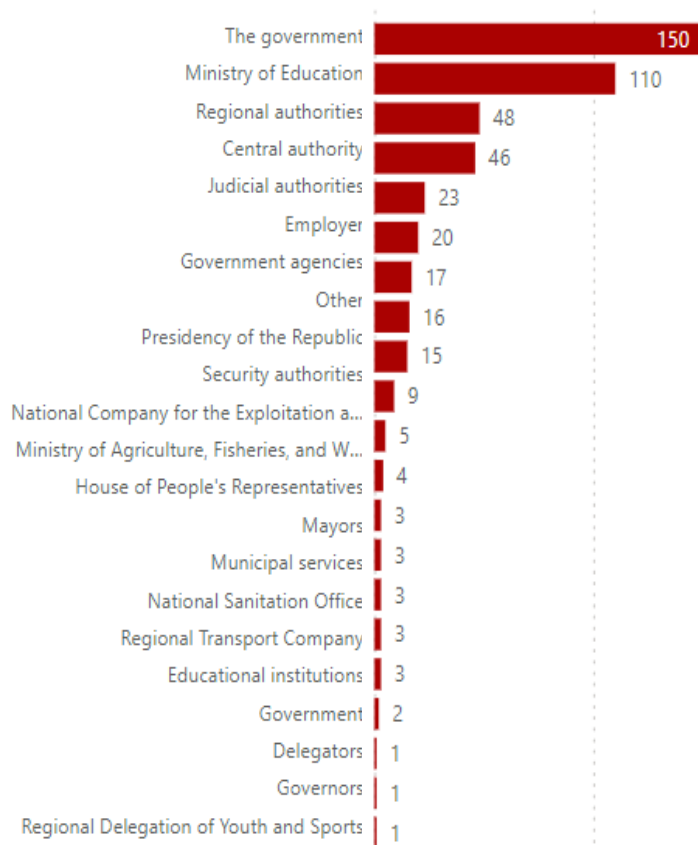
1.4 LOCATION of Social Movements



1.5 SECTORS of Social Movements



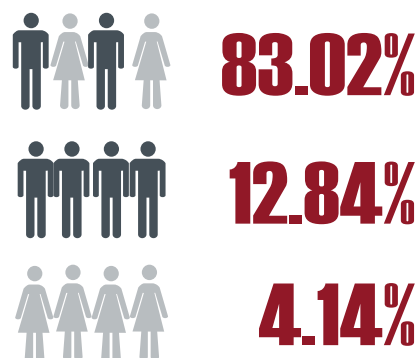
1.7 TARGETS of Social Movements



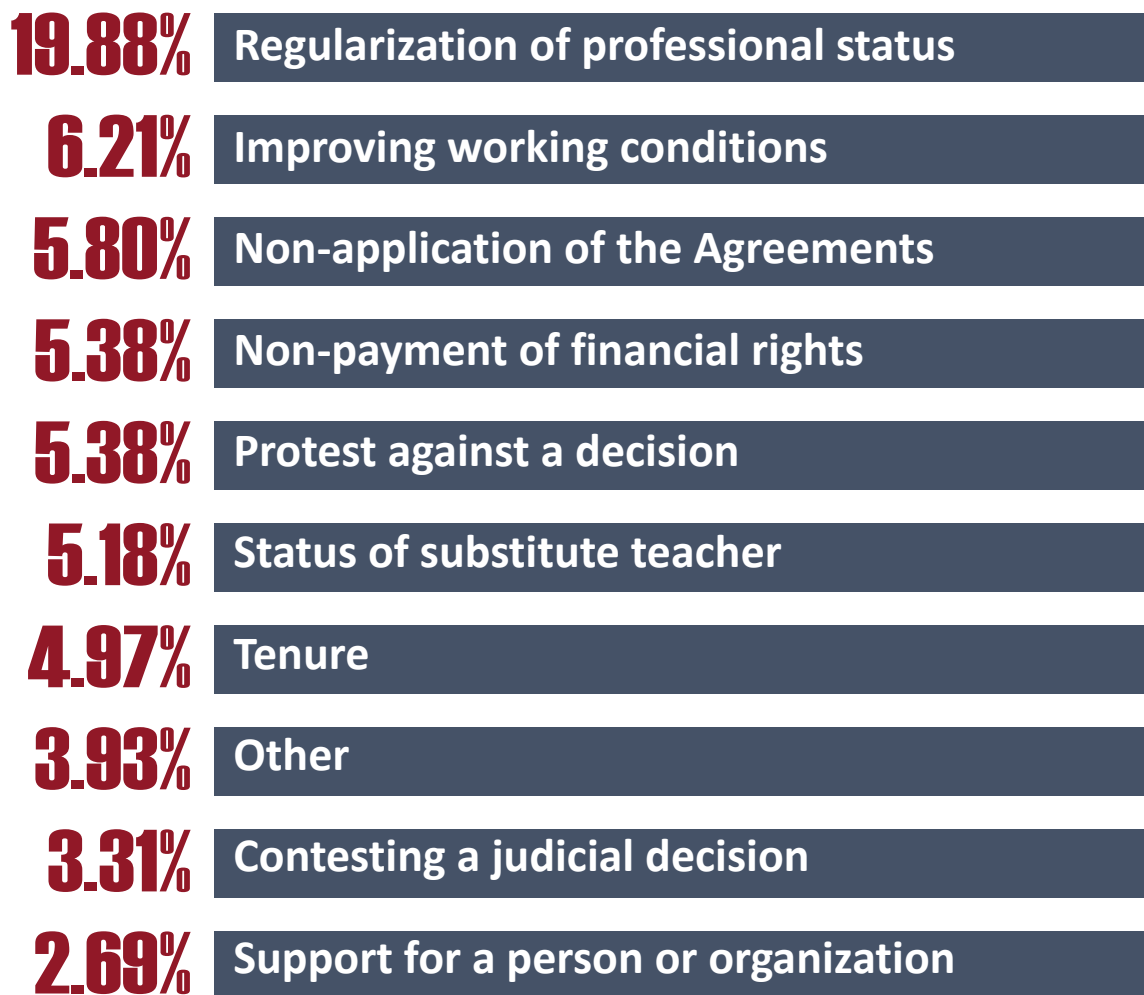
1.6 ACTORS of Social Movements

| Actors | Total |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Employees | 146 |
| Resident | 73 |
| Workers | 63 |
| Activists | 38 |
| Students | 25 |
| Lawyers | 25 |
| Teachers | 40 |
| Prisoners | 17 |
| Unemployed graduates people | 15 |
| Farmers | 14 |
| Taxi drivers | 4 |
| Parents | 4 |
| Taders | 3 |
| Media Service Employees | 3 |
| Students | 2 |
| Family | 2 |
| Public Service doctors | 2 |
| Collective taxi drivers | 1 |
| Rural transport drivers | 1 |
| Journalists | 1 |
| Doctors | 1 |
| Urban workers | 1 |
| Supporters | 1 |
| Fishermen | 1 |
| Total | 483 |

1.8 GENDERED Distribution



1.8 REASONS of Social Movements



IRREGULAR MIGRATION

In the absence of accurate and up-to-date official data, the Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights relies in its reports on data from multiple official sources, both national and international, despite their shortcomings and lack of necessary details.

In January 2025, **22 Tunisian migrants** were recorded arriving on the Italian coast, as compared to 258 migrants during the same month in 2024, representing a decrease of 91.47%. The categories were distributed as follows: 13 males, 1 female, 1 accompanied minor, and 7 unaccompanied minors.

Regarding the age groups of unaccompanied minors, the Italian Ministry of Social Af-

fairs reported that among the Tunisian children arriving in Italy through various migration routes, there are :

13 minors aged 17

15 minors aged 16

5 minors aged 15

4 minors aged between 7 and 14

1 minor under the age of six

This distribution shows the growing participation of minors, especially in the 15-17 age group, in irregular migration attempts.

In terms of victims and missing persons, Tunisian coasts recorded 30 victims and missing persons during the month of January only, according to official sources.

2.1 Comparison In the same period during the years 2023-2024-2025

| Month | 2023 | | | 2024 | | | 2025 | | |
|---------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| | 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 | 341 | 85 | 2304 | 258 | 76 | 1630 | 22 | *2 | 129* |

* The Ministry of the Interior has not published detailed data for the month

2.2 Distribution of arrivals to Italy by months during 2025

| Month | Number of arrivals | men | women | Accompanied children | Unaccompanied and separated children |
|---------|--------------------|-----|-------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| January | 22 | 13 | 1 | 1 | 7 |

Source: HCR

2.3 unaccompanied minors arriving in Italy by age group 2025

| Month | Number of arrivals | By age category | | | | |
|---------|--------------------|-----------------|----------|--------|--------|--------|
| | | 0-6 ans | 14-7 ans | 15 ans | 16 ans | 17 ans |
| January | 38 | 1 | 4 | 5 | 15 | 13 |

Source : Ministère italien des affaires sociales

2.4 Les drames de la migration non-règlementaire

| Month | The number of dead and missing on the Tunisian coast |
|---------|--|
| January | 30 |

| The number of dead and missing in the Central Mediterranean Basin |
|---|
| 30 |

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.

Since June 2024, the Tunisian Ministry of the Interior has stopped publishing detailed, periodic data on the interception of irregular migrants on the Tunisian coast, and no longer provides access to data on the number of people crossing, their breakdown by category, and the number of victims and missing persons.

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

DISPOSITION GEOSPATIAL

| Gouvernerats | Total |
|--------------|-------------|
| Kairouan | 23.00% |
| Tunis | 15.38% |
| Kasserine | 9.62% |
| Nabeul | 9.62% |
| Gafsa | 7.69% |
| Monastir | 7.69% |
| Sidi Bouzid | 5.77% |
| Siliana | 5.77% |
| Sfax | 3.85% |
| Sousse | 3.85% |
| Aiana | 1.92% |
| Bizerte | 1.92% |
| Jendouba | 1.92% |
| Le Kef | 1.92% |
| Total | 100% |

SPACES OF VIOLENCE

46.15% STREET

21.15% RESIDENCE

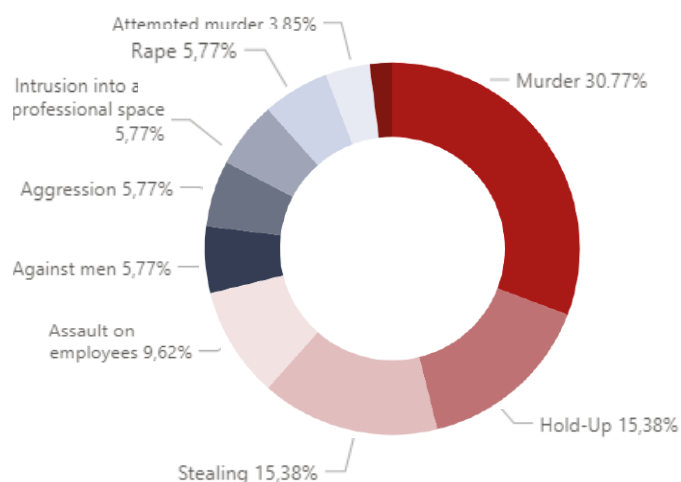
13.46% EDUCATIONAL
INSTITUTIONS

9.62% ECONOMIC
INSTITUTIONS

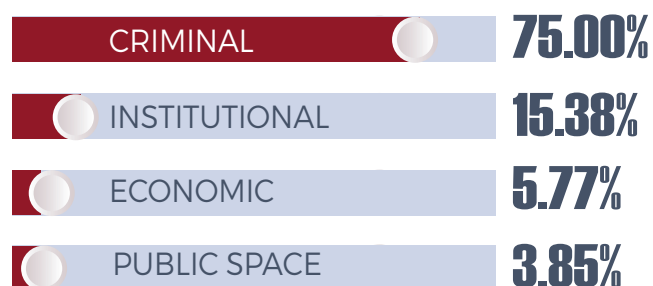
5.77% GOVERNMENTAL
SPACE

3.85% HEALTH AREAS

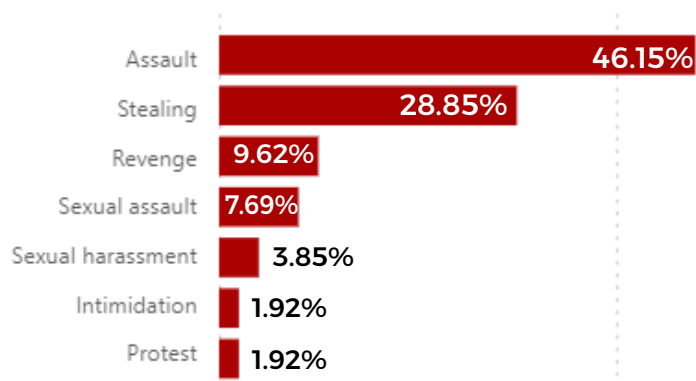
TYPES OF VIOLENCE



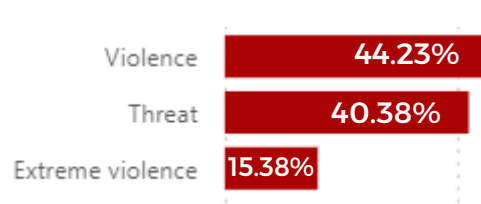
SECTORS OF VIOLENCE



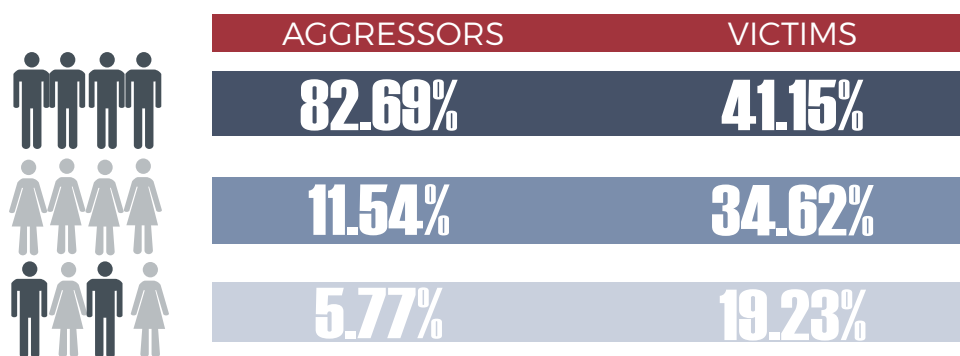
REASONS OF VIOLENCE



DEGREE OF VIOLENCE



GENDER OF ACTORS

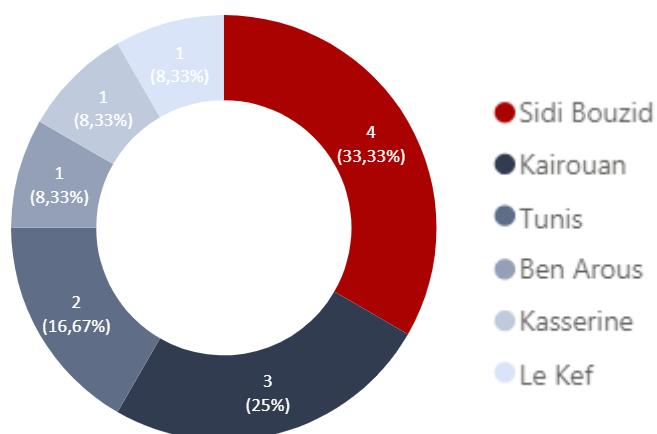


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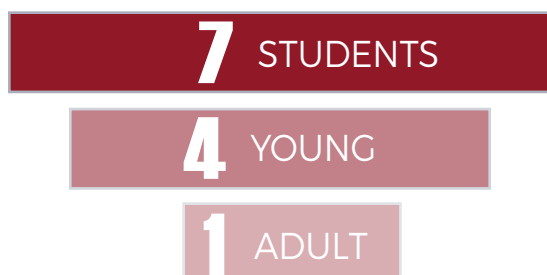
SUICIDE & ATTEMPT OF SUICIDE

12 CASES
RECORDED

4.1 GEOGRAPHICAL Distribution



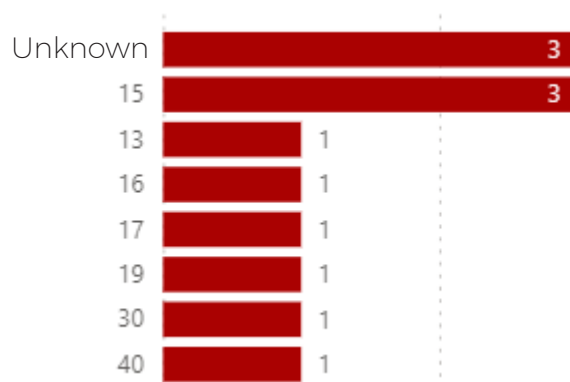
4.2 ACTORS of Suicide



4.3 METHOD of Suicide



4.4 AGES of Suicide People



4.5 CASES OF DEATH of Suicide People



4.6 GENRES of Suicide People

