

OST

Department

Tunisian Social Observatory

MONTHLY REPORT

SEPTEMBER
2024

812

MIGRATION
NON-REGULATORY

273

SOCIAL
MOVEMENTS

17

SUICIDE CASES
AND SUICIDE ATTEMPT

MONTHLY REPORT
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UNRESOLVED HUMAN RIGHTS CLAIMS AND PROFESSIONAL PROTESTS ARE ENERGIZING THE TUNISIAN STREET.

The pace of social movements accelerated in September 2024, with 273 movements, an increase of around 16% on August, when 234 protests were registered.

Despite official promises from the top of the government to put an end to contractual systems and all forms of precarious work, over 50% of the protest actions concerned the same professional situations that have been pending for over ten years. The head office of the Ministry of Education saw almost daily movements by laboratory assistants, educational advisors, teachers and substitute teachers. In addition, site workers continued to mobilize and press for acceleration of their integration process, which should have begun by now with the integration of the last batch of workers.

Protests linked to delays in implementing agreements accounted for 49 actions, followed by protests demanding the right to employment, which accounted for 34 actions, mainly involving unemployed graduates and doctors. The remaining 36 actions were linked to professional issues such as the payment of wages, the improvement of working conditions, the resolution of professional situations and workers' rights.

In addition to the social movements led by residents, which focused on the right to a healthy environment, the right to transport, development, activation of blocked projects, insurance, protection, improved services, high prices, lack of drinking water, etc., the second half of September 2024 coincided with the start of the electoral campaign for the presidential elections, and saw protests, marches and human rights movements supported by the Tunisian Network for Rights and Freedoms, which carried slogans calling for the defense of the rule of law, political and civil rights, the annulment of repressive decrees, the guarantee of everyone's right to freedom of expression and dissent, the demand for the release of prisoners of conscience, and the guarantee of civil and political activity. At the same time, and despite the limited public space available, lawyers and activists in various parts of the country carried out actions denouncing the restrictions on the human rights system and calling for impro-

ved conditions for judicial institutions and the guarantee of lawyers' right to defense. For the first time since the start of the year, Tunis returned to the top of the list of most protested governorates, with a total of 56 actions, while Gafsa fell to second place after recording 42 actions, followed by Kairouan with 18 actions, Bizerte with 16 actions, and Nabeul with 15 actions. Most of the demonstrations took place in the capital, as most protesters used central headquarters, such as ministries and sovereign seats, as places to express their growing anger at demands the majority of which can be classified as unresolved.

Substitute teachers, who have been working for years on precarious contracts and low salaries, began protesting at the start of the school season, due to the Ministry of Education's refusal to meet their demands, and made their voices heard to demand the regularization of their professional situation (low salaries, lack of social protection and health insurance), through a real assignment within the Ministry of Education and the full realization of their labor rights. Many of them carried slogans calling for the implementation of agreements previously reached by the Ministry of Education concerning the effective settlement of their professional situation, expressing their fears that the government and the Presidency of the Republic would once again renege on their commitments. Their actions, which ranged from the regional to the central level, were extended, with several actions at the headquarters of regional education delegations on a regular basis, in addition to their daily protest rallies in front of the Ministry of Education

headquarters.

The union movement also topped the list of social actors, and the percentage of union movements accounted for 13% of the month's total movements, with dozens of workers belonging to both the public and private sectors demonstrating in various governorates to achieve the same demands linked to the improvement of their working conditions and the payment of their outstanding or delayed dues.

The month of September was also marked by socio-economic movements reflecting the demands of other categories of stakeholders, such as waged employees who demanded better working conditions and an end to the aggression and violence to which they are subjected in the workplace. Residents of several regions called for development, better roads, an end to isolation, transport, price controls and improved public services. Their demands reflected the effects of economic and social policies on these groups, which have further exacerbated their vulnerability and marginalization.

The second half of the month and the start of the new school year were marked by the emergence of movements by parents protesting against the lack of school transport in many regions, particularly in rural areas, the absence of teachers and the lack of security in and around schools, to put the spotlight back on the crisis of educational staff and vacancies that recur at the start of each year and concern different levels and schools spread across various governorates of the Republic. These movements have intensified, and parents have prevented their children from atten-

ding classes on several occasions due to the lack of response to their requests.

In contrast to previous months, September saw a return of activists to the streets and squares, where vigils topped the list of recorded forms of protest, with a total of 135 vigils, followed by sit-ins in 38 actions and strikes in 31 actions. Next came the sit-in, with 38 actions, and the strike, adopted by actors in 31 actions. Other forms of action included blocking roads and organizing peaceful marches and protest rallies.

On the other hand, there was a drop in the rate of digital protests (appeals via the media/social networks), which had a clear impact on protest spaces. Workplaces and roads topped the list of the most important protest sites, while the Gafsa Phosphate Company moved up to third place, followed by ministerial headquarters and judicial institutions, and Habib Bourguiba Street, the symbolic street of the revolution, saw a return to action.

September witnessed 215 mixed movements, while 58 were organized with exclusively male participation. 91% of movements were organized, while the remainder were spontaneous. 97% of movements were organized collectively, while individual movements were limited to 3%.

Suicide and attempted suicide also increased significantly, doubling from 8 cases in August to 17 cases in September. The

governorate of Bizerte led the way with 8 cases, followed by Gabes with 2 cases, Kairouan, Monastir, Gafsa, Kebili, Tunis, Manouba and Nabeul with one case each. 09 suicides and attempted suicides were perpetrated in residential areas, with the remainder divided between public places and workplaces.

Young people are the group that committed the most suicides, mainly between the ages of 20 and 40. Men are the most likely to self-harm (64%), compared with 35% for women.

With regard to the general context of the phenomenon of violence, the street remains the most frequent site for assaults and robberies which, in many cases, led to homicide, and almost 29% of these were perpetrated individually.

The perpetrators of the violence recorded in September were men in around 88% of the cases observed, while 64% were victims. The remaining incidents of violence were mixed and involved both sexes.

The reasons for the frequency of violent incidents are due to the spread of a kind of feeling of dissatisfaction and desire for aggression, sexual assault, revenge, intimidation and theft, and aggression has included both virtual and official spaces... In recorded cases of violence, various tools were adopted, such as sharp instruments, knives, trucks...



01

SOCIAL MOVEMENTS

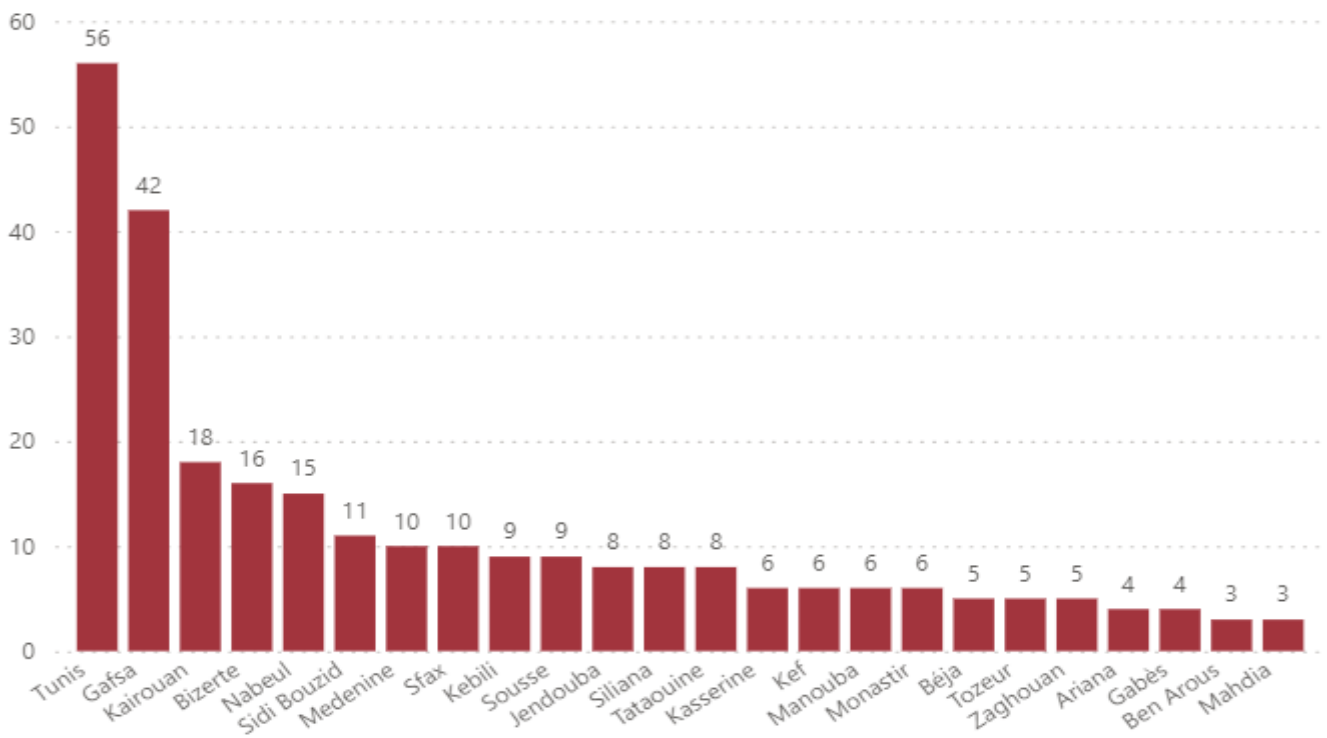
273

PROTESTS

September 2024

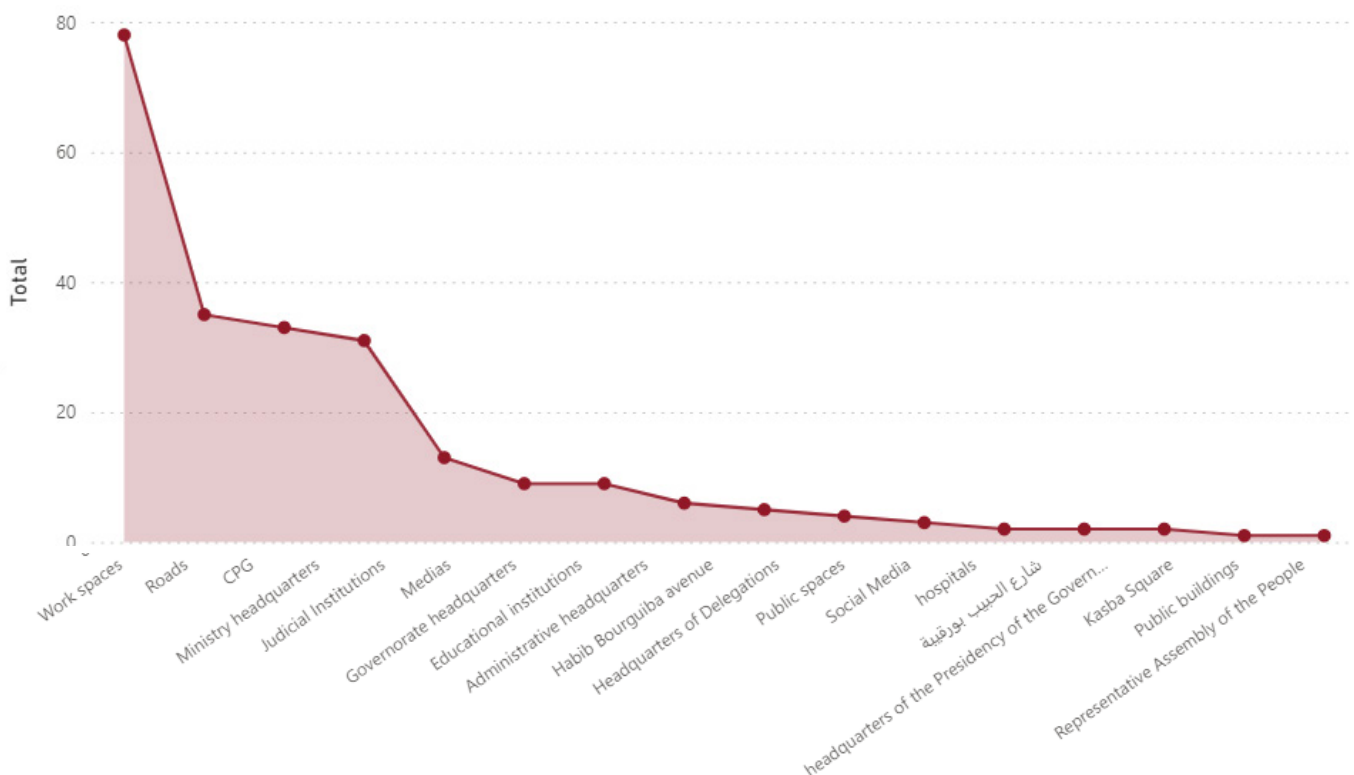
1.1 GEOSPATIAL

Distribution

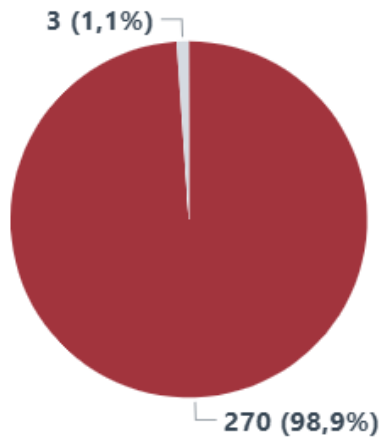


1.2 SPACE

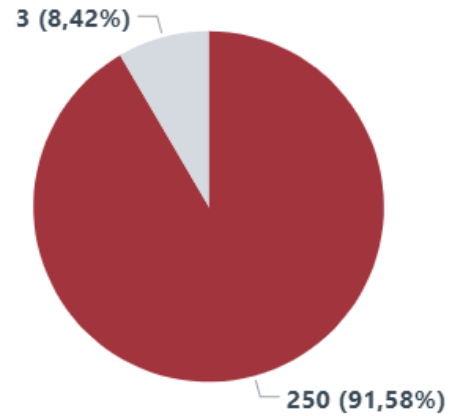
of Social Movements



1.3 NATURE of Social Movements



Type
● Collective ● Individual

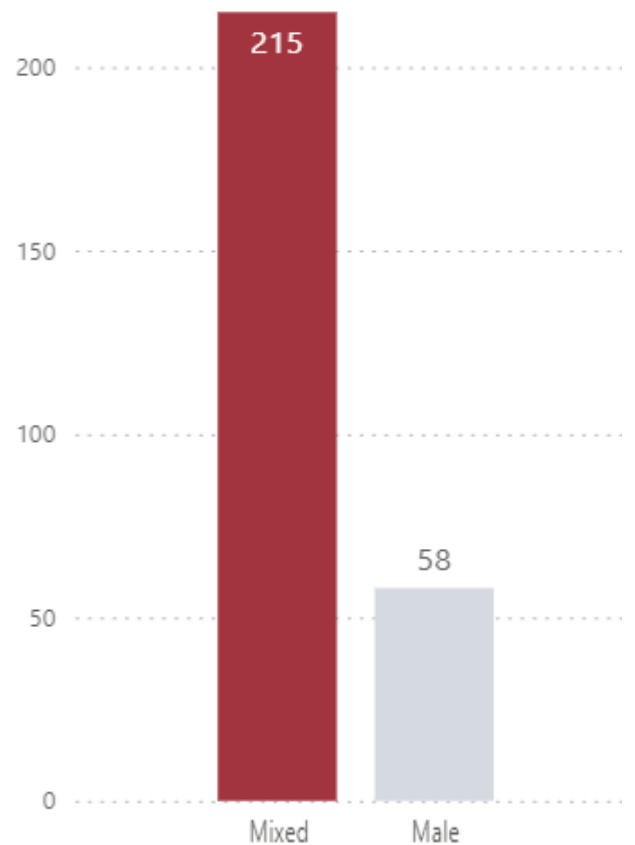


Planned
● Organized ● Not organized

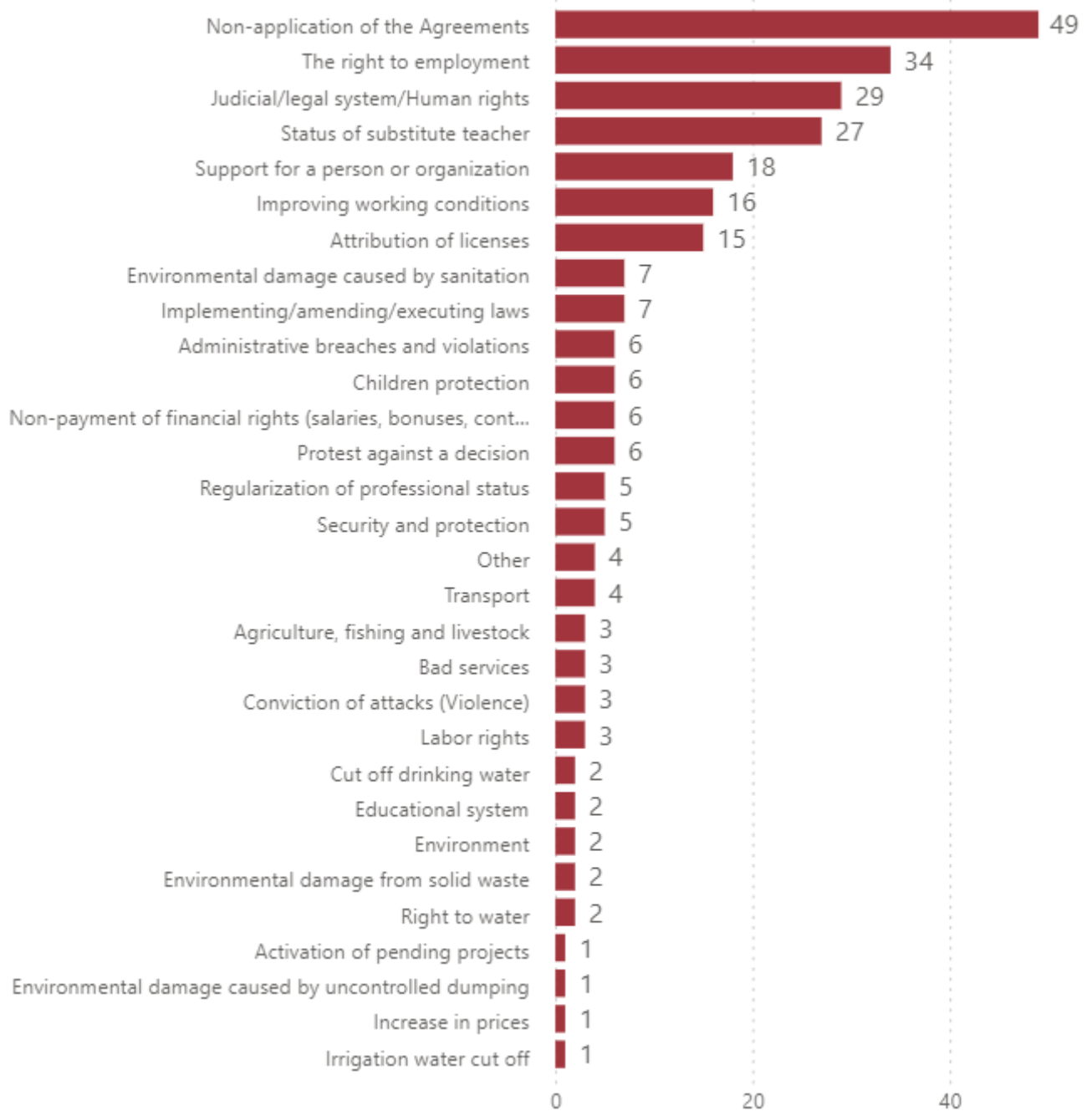
1.5 ACTORS of Social Movements

Actors	Total
Teachers	41
Employees	36
Workers	36
Resident	34
Unemployed	30
Lawyers	28
Activists	23
Taxi Drivers	15
Parents	11
Farmers	4
Unemployed graduates	4
Fishermen	4
Traders	2
Medical service employees	2
Louage drivers	1
Family	1
Journalists	1
Total	273

1.6 DISTRIBUTION Gendered



1.7 REASONS for Social Movements



IRREGULAR MIGRATION

September 2024

812 Migrants

arrived on the Italian coast during the month of september 2024

After an irregular migration boat sank off the coast of Djerba Island on September 30, 34 people survived and 17 bodies were recovered, marking another tragedy in September. During this month, there were 58 victims and missing persons overall. Since the year began, there have been 538 victims and missing persons in total.

According to data released by the Italian Interior Ministry on Twitter on September 25, 2024, Tunisian authorities have stopped over 61,000 migrants from traveling by sea to Italy. Monitoring efforts are hampered by Tunisian authorities' continued refusal to release statistics on blocked crossings and halted migrants. This month, we have only found 14 crossings and 170 irregular migrants using the data at our disposal. However, the number of Tunisian migrants making their way to the Italian coast has decreased; this month, 812 irregular migrants arrived, down from 4,814 during the same time last year.

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
June	1714	175	2086	770	123	3528	309	*80	2363
July	3461	226	3226	1769	37	848	982	*15	*116
August	4284	411	5713	3196	126	4427	1571	5*	42*
September	2958	270	3882	4814	479	8781	812	14*	170*
Maritime Guard Data								**2971	13049**
TOTAL	14700	1618	22157	14097	1618	40685	6584	3673	32972

*The Interior Ministry did not release detailed data for the month.

**Data reported by the National Guard spokesperson but not monitored in detail.

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
June	309	209	18	21	61
July	982	628	91	119	144
August	1571	1080	131	169	191
September	812	392	111	132	177
TOTAL	6584	4210	574	727	1073

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
June	2
July	*
August	*
september	58
Data*	136
TOTAL	538

* 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
538	878

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

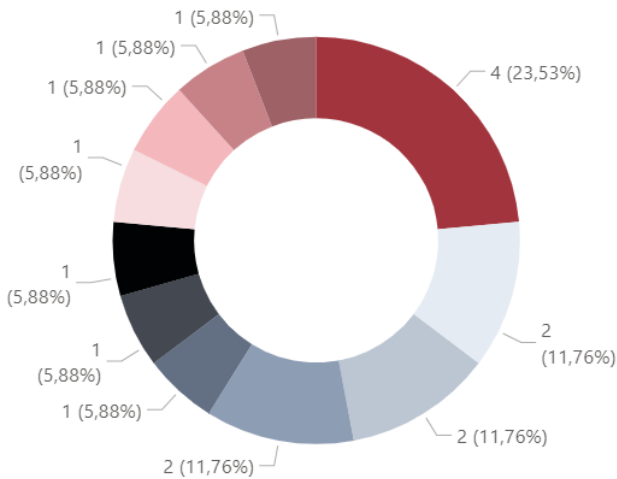
It's the number of migrants arriving in Europe across different routes without passing through local authorities or international structures does not have any effect on the census, which is important and varies according to the tactics of migrant smuggling networks. It also includes departures from the 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

GEOSPATIAL DISTRIBUTION



Governorates

● Nabeul

● Ariana

● Medenine

● Sousse

● Ben Arous

● Bizerte

● Kasserine

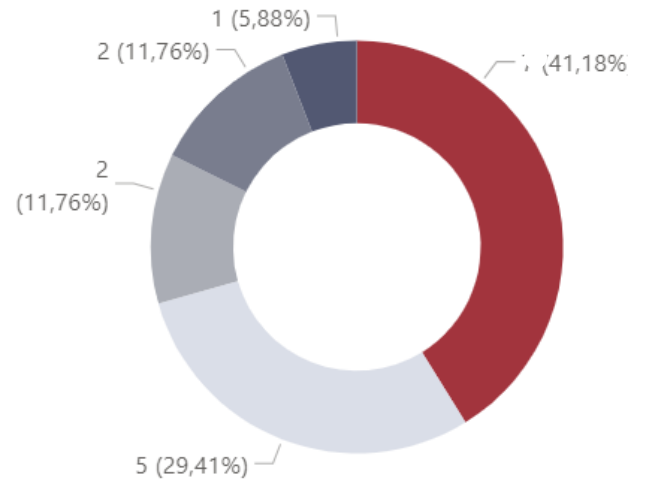
● Monastir

● Sfax

● Tataouine

● Zaghuan

SPACES OF VIOLENCE



Space

● Street

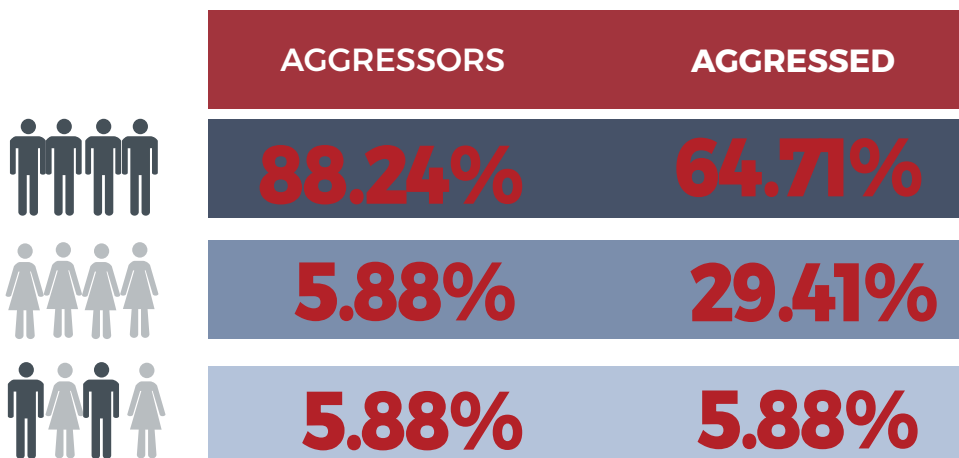
● Residence

● Educational institutions: school / college / high

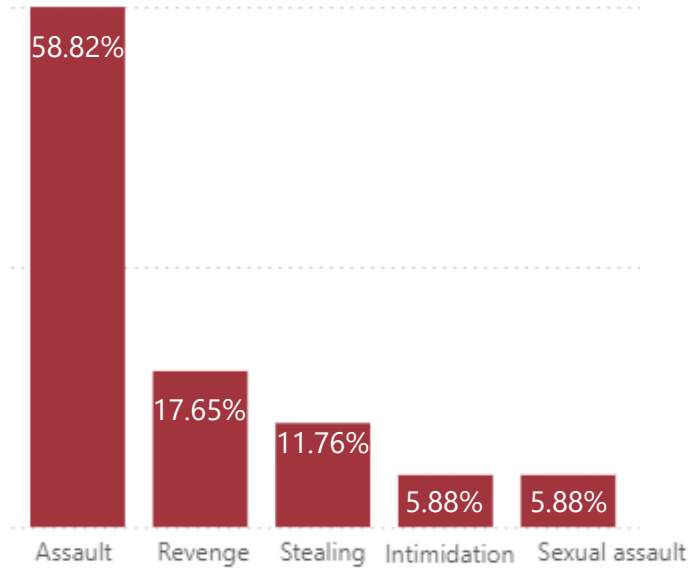
● Tourist and leisure spaces

● Virtual space

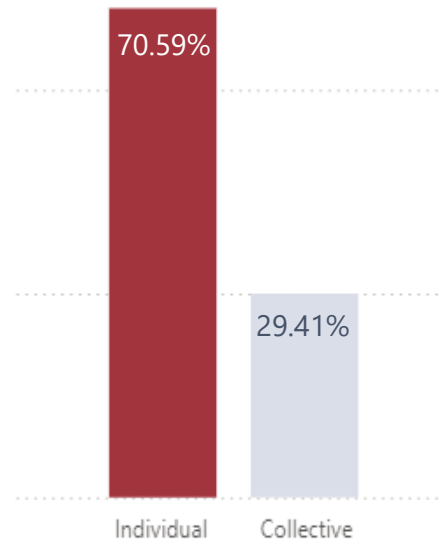
PROFILE OF ACTORS



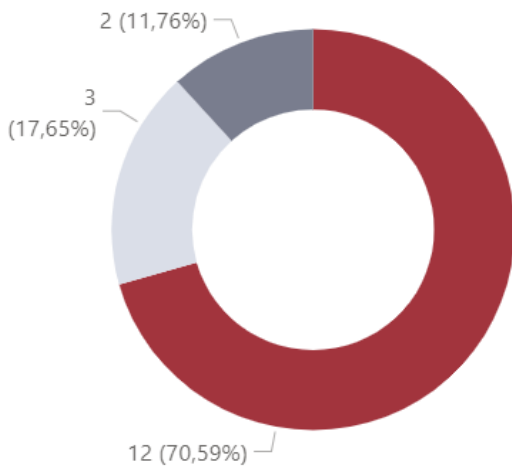
REASONS FOR VIOLENCE



CATEGORY OF VIOLENCE



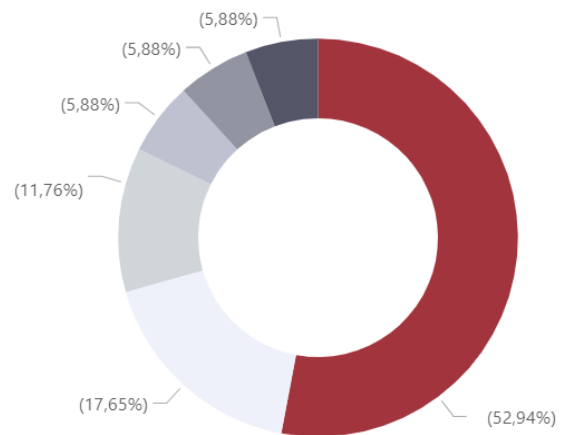
SECTORS OF VIOLENCE



Sector

- (Vide)
- Relational Violence - Criminal
- Criminal

TYPES OF VIOLENCE



Type

- murder
- Against the youth
- Hold-Up
- Against women
- aggression
- Digital Violence: Media ...

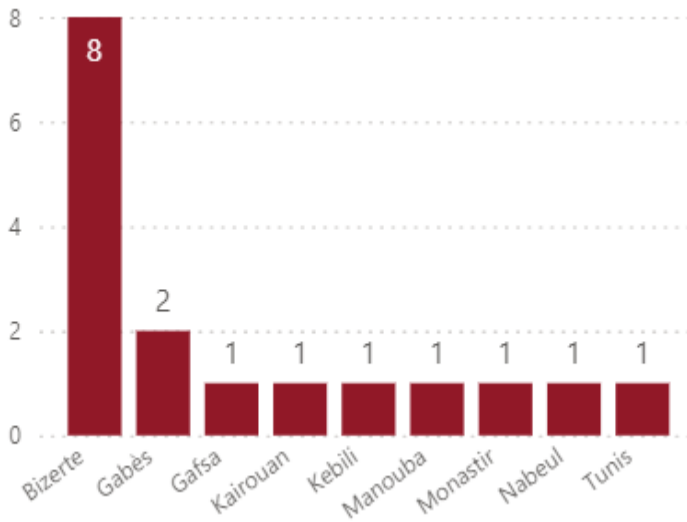
04

**SUICIDE
& ATTEMPT
OF SUICIDE**

17 CASES
RECORDED
in September 2024

4-1 DISTRIBUTION

Geographical



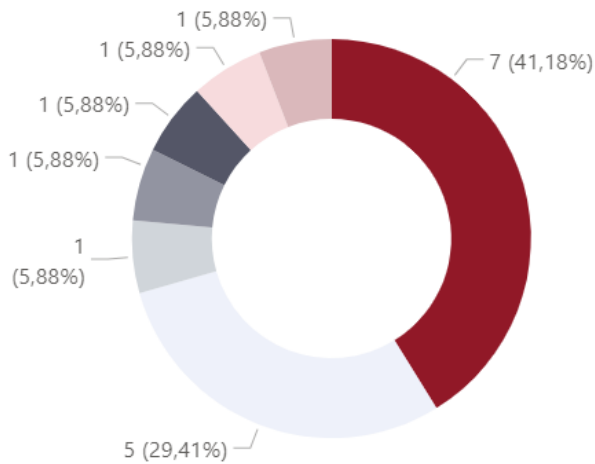
4-2 DISTRIBUTION

Gendered



4-3 ACTORS

of suicide



Actors

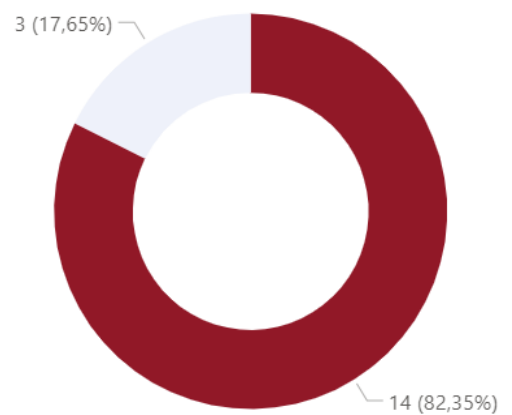
- young man / woman
- adult man / woman
- Employee

Actors

- old man / woman
- Pupil
- Security officer
- worker

4-4 CASES

of deceased



Death

- Yes
- No