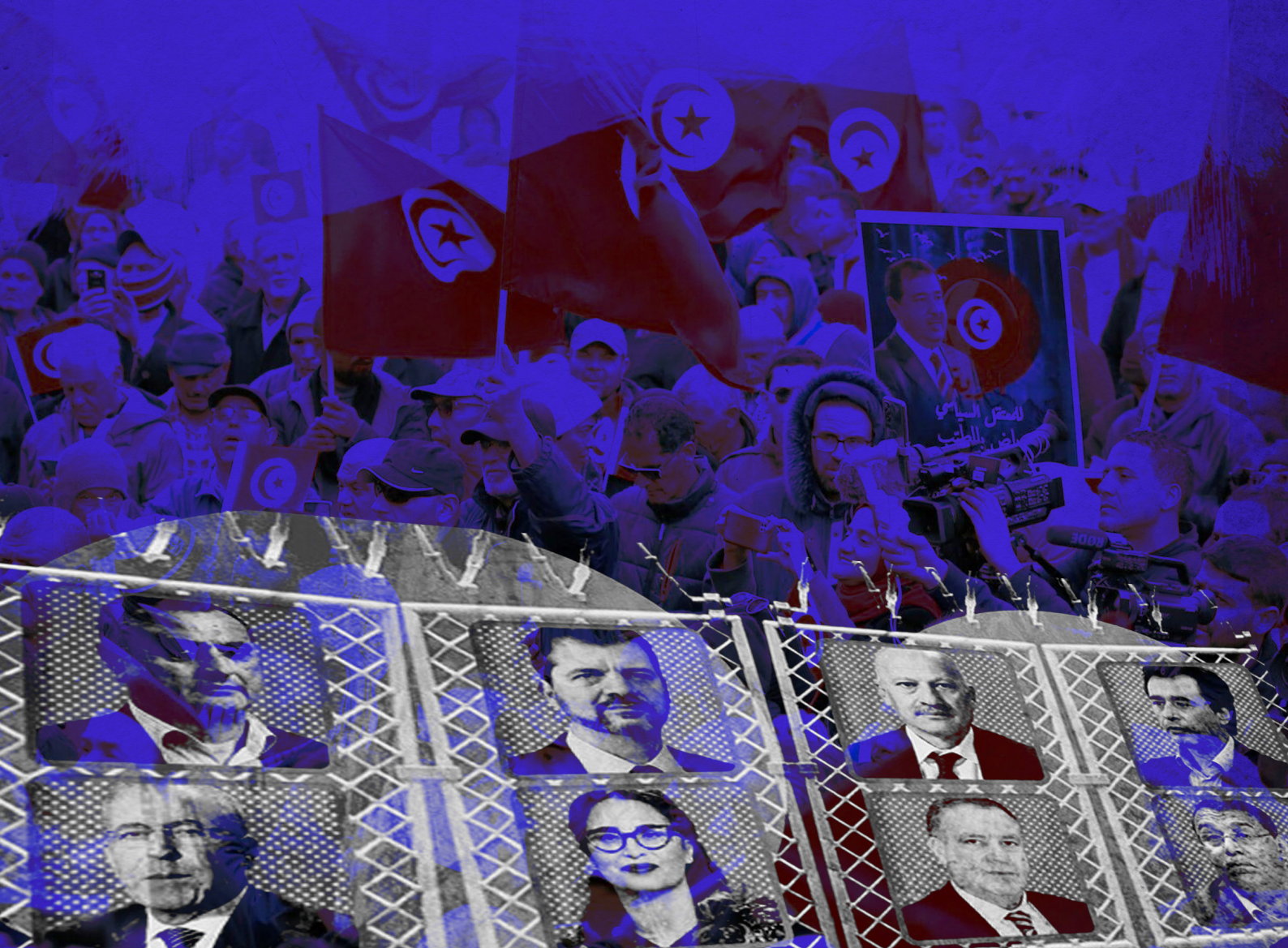


Freedom Struggles and Repression

Report on Monitored Political Arrests in The
Period from February to End of May 2023



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from February to End of May 2023

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Introduction:

Starting from February 12th, Tunisia witnessed a large-scale arrest campaign targeting politicians, businessmen, and media professionals from different backgrounds united by opposition to the events of 25th July 2021 and the decisions made by President Kais Saied and his government. These arrests took place based on warrants issued by the public prosecution for various cases, most notably for what is the so-called “Conspiracy Case”, in which the number of the accused is still unspecified, as imprisonment orders were issued for 8 leaders of political parties and coalitions, in addition to interrogating several businessmen and other individuals in the same case.

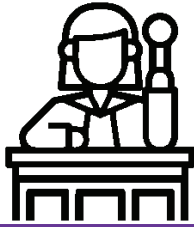
Additionally, Intersection Association for Rights and Freedoms monitored more arrests carried out by the Tunisian authorities, whereby 2 judges and 17 politicians, former members of parliament, and ministers had been arrested due to several allegations brought against them by the judiciary. Besides, former security officials had been investigated for several charges against them. Moreover, 3 political activists were arrested for practicing their right to freedom through graffiti in solidarity with one of the detainees. Arrests carried on in March and April, with the detention of leaders from the Ennahdha movement, including their President Rached El Ghannouchi, who was eventually sentenced to one year in prison and fined.

This report highlights the number of political arrests targeting the ruling regime's opponents, which Intersection Association for Rights and Freedom monitored. These cases amounted to 37 from February to the end of May 2023. Besides, this report aims to expose the violations committed by the Tunisian State against people who were arbitrarily arrested and subjected to trial procedures that breach the principles of a fair trial.

Methodology

In the context of preparing this report, Intersection Association monitored the political arrests in the period between February 1, 2023 and May 31, 2023. The association relied on information such as official statements and press conferences of The Defense Body for Political Detainees in the Conspiracy Case and several newspaper articles. Additionally, Intersection Association communicated with lawyers regarding the arrests involving political activists who were detained due to their expressions. The data has been collected in an open-access database. This report highlights the prosecutions and arrests involving businessmen, politicians, activists, journalists, and former state officials accused of several cases.

Target Groups for Arrests



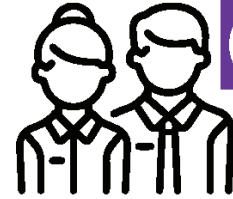
02

Judges



02

Media Professionals



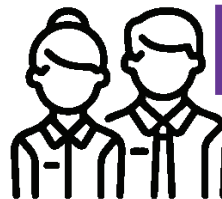
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Activists



25

Politicians



05

Others

Distribution of Political Arrests

from February 2023 to May 2023

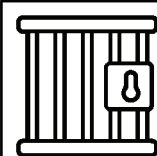
08

Arrest for Accusations related to financial and administrative corruption



15

Arrest for Conspiracy against state security



12

Arrests for other cases



02

Arrest for unknown reasons



Arrests for Conspiracy Cases:

On February 11, 2023, an arrest against a group of politicians started and the number amounted to 8 prisoners, including the businessman Kamel Ltaief and the owner of Mosaique Radio Station Nouredine Boutar. According to a press conference statement by the Defense Team on March 15, 2023, the judicial procedure has started with a correspondence sent on February 10, 2023, by the National Unit for Investigation, Organized Crime and Crimes Affecting National Security to the Minister of Justice, Leila Jaffel. The correspondence included only one sentence which reads: "We were informed that several individuals are conspiring against the internal and external security of the state." This led the Public Prosecution Office to entrust the Security Unit with research and arrest the accused. According to the Defense Body, the case is built upon meetings between the detainees and foreign civilian diplomats accredited to the Tunisian state, mainly representing embassies of countries such as The United States, Italy, Spain, and France. The current authority perceives it as a conspiracy against the state's internal security and formation of a terrorist entente. This case remains open, and the Tunisian authorities continuously add new names for investigation. In addition, several politicians and human rights figures are listed as wanted for the same case.

These arrests are considered severe human rights violations as the authorities have arrested at least 15 individuals for interrogation on charges of the alleged conspiracy. Arresting political activists for their political activity is a flagrant violation of the right to freedom of expression, which is a fundamental right under Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Paragraph 1, which states that everyone has the right to hold opinion without interference. This right includes the freedom to discuss public affairs, organize peaceful gatherings and meetings, criticize and oppose governmental procedures, publish political articles, organize electoral campaigns, and promote political beliefs. Furthermore, accusing Khayem Turki of conspiring against the national security by holding political meetings is an indictment of the right to peaceful assembly, guaranteed by Article 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which mandates, "The right to peaceful assembly shall be recognized." Moreover, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in Article 20, Paragraph stipulated, "Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association." Besides, the use of anti-terrorism law by the Tunisian state as a pretext to repress political opponents is a clear violation of the principles of the rule of law and equality and does only represents a regression from the rule of law and an establishment of an oppressive regime through the implementation of bodies that aim to eliminate political opponents. Additionally, 3 political detainees were subjected to harassment inside their places of detention, which is a policy that amounts to malice toward political opponents and mistreats them within places of detention. It constitutes a form of ill-treatment and contradicts Article 10 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Paragraph 1, which states, "All persons deprived of their liberty shall be treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person." In addition, Paragraph 2 states that "Accused persons shall save in exceptional circumstances, be segregated from convicted persons and shall be subject to separate treatment appropriate to their status as unconvicted persons."

Arrest of Journalist and Owner of Mosaique FM Noureddine Boutar in Conspiracy Case:

On the evening of 13th February 2023¹, the police arrested the director general of Mosaique FM radio station, Noureddine Boutar, and this was after raiding and searching his house without finding any evidence to indict or raise suspicion about him, as stated by Attorney Dalila Ben Mbarek to the media. This arrest occurred within the context of the series of arbitrary arrests of several opposition politicians to President Kais Said, who were charged with offenses such as endangering public security, aggravating the situation, and conspiring against the state. The interrogation of Noureddine Boutar continued for up to 6 hours without declaring the charges related to him. On February 12th, the investigating judge at the Economic and Financial Judicial Pole issued a warrant for arrest against the victim of the violation, Noureddine Boutar, accusing him of using the editorial line of Mosaique radio station to insult the highest authority and symbols of the state, as well as inflame the situation of the country. Noureddine Boutar had been imprisoned in the Civil Prison of Mornaguia from February until May, and it is estimated he spent 3 months. On May 24, 2023, the Appeals Chamber of the Financial Judicial Pole decided to release him² with a financial guarantee and travel ban. Political Detainees in The case of “Conspiracy against the State”:

Tunisia has witnessed a series of arrests against several male and female politicians on the charges of conspiring against the state's internal security. Some of them were arrested on the last week of February, in addition to listing the rest as wanted for investigation.

Khayem Turki:

On Saturday morning of 11th February 2023³, the police forces affiliated with the First National Unit for Combatting Terrorism, Organized Crime Affecting National Security conducted a raid and search of the political activist Khayem Turki⁴'s house. This action occurred following a judicial warrant issued by the Public Prosecution accusing him of suspicion for conspiring against the state's security, leading to his arrest. This is due to his participation in meetings with several politicians at his residence in the Sidi Bou Said area in the capital, Tunis. Khayem was interrogated and questioned about the nature of his political activity, his relationship with the Salvation Front, his communication with

1 Documentation of Intersection Association for Rights and Freedoms on the Violation Case against Noureddine Boutar (AR Reference): <https://intersection.uno/freedom-faces/2961-2/>

2 Shams FM, 1 Billion Financial Guarantee: Release of Noureddine Boutar and Banning him from Travelling. May 24, 2023, Last Access: May 30, 2023 (AR Reference): https://www.shamsfm.net/amp/ar/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%AE%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%AA%D9%88%D9%86%D8%B3_%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%AE%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%88%D8%B7%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A9/414293/%D8%A8%D8%B6%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%86-%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A-%D9%82%D8%AF%D8%B1%D9%87-%D9%85%D9%84%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%A5%D8%B7%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%82-%D8%B3%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%AD-%D9%86%D9%88%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%86-%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B7%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D9%88%D8%AA%D8%AD%D8%AC%D9%8A%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%81%D8%B1-%D8%B9%D9%84%D9%8A%D9%87

3 Mosaique FM, Defense Team for Khayem Turki holds the current government responsibility for their client's health, 11th February 2023, Last access April 1, 2023 (AR Reference): <https://www.mosaiquefm.net/ar/%D8%AA%D9%88%D9%86%D8%B3-%D8%A3%D8%AE%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D9%88%D8%B7%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A9/1134806/%D9%87%D9%8A%D8%A6%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D9%81%D8%A7%D8%B9-%D8%B9%D9%86-%D8%AE%D9%8A%D8%A7%D9%85-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D8%B1%D9%83%D9%8A-%D8%AA%D8%AD%D9%85%D9%84-%D8%AC%D9%87%D8%A7%D8%B2-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AD%D9%83%D9%85-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AD%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A-%D9%85%D8%B3%D8%A4%D9%88%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%B5%D8%AD%D8%A9-%D9%85%D9%86%D9%88%D8%A8%D9%87%D8%A7>

4 Documentation of Intersection Association for Rights and Freedoms on the Violation Case against the politician Khayem Turki (AR Reference): <https://intersection.uno/freedom-faces/%d8%ae%d9%8a%d8%a7%d9%85-%d8%a7%d9%84%d8%aa%d8%b1%d9%83%d9%8a/>

several Tunisian businessmen, and the nature of his meetings with foreign politicians without the presence of his lawyer. After the interrogation, the investigating judge issued an arrest warrant for Khayem while he was still detained in the Civil Prison of Mornaguia for more than a month. This led to imprisoning him for more than 3 months without any trial or further progress in his case.

Abdelhamid Jlassi:

On Saturday, 11th February 2023,⁵ the police forces affiliated with the First National Unit for Combatting Terrorism and Organized Crime Affecting National Security conducted a raid and search on Abdelhamid Jlassi's house and arrested him by virtue of a judicial warrant issued by the public prosecution on the grounds of suspicion for conspiring against the state's security and forming a terrorist group. Abdelhamid Jlassi was interrogated and questioned about the extent of his knowledge about the coup plot and his involvement in it. He was also asked about his relationship with Khayem Turki and other foreign entities. However, Abdelhamid Jlassi remained silent and abstained from answering any questions. On February 25, 2023, an arrest warrant against him was issued, and he has been in the Prison of Mornaguia for more than three months.

Ghazi Chaouachi:

Police forces raided the Tunisian Politician Ghazi Chaouachi's house on late February 24, 2023⁶, where 20 police officers surrounded and searched his house and seized notebooks, documents, and his personal computer. He was, after that, referred to interrogation on several charges, such as suspicion of belonging to a terrorist group, conspiring against the state's internal and external security, and incitement to topple the regime. During interrogation, Ghazi Chaouachi was questioned about his relationship with Khayem Turki, his intention to take part in overthrowing the government, and his participation in meetings with several foreigners without the presence of his lawyer. On February 25th, a trial was scheduled to hear Ghazi, but the investigating judge did not attend the courtroom, hence postponing the session indefinitely⁷. This led to the imprisonment of Ghazi from February 25th to the end of May 2023 without being tried or having his case reviewed, which is a violation of his right to a fair trial, by delaying procedures and detaining him arbitrarily.

Chaima Issa:

On Wednesday, February 25, 2023, police forces affiliated with the National Unit Combatting Terrorism and Organized Crime Affecting National Security arrested political

5 Shams FM 2023, Arrest of Abdelhamid Jlassi February 11, 2023. April 1, 2023 (AR Reference): https://www.shemsfm.net/ar/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%AE%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1_%D8%A3%D8%AE%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%AA%D9%88%D9%86%D8%B3_%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%AE%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%88%D8%B7%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A9/400107/%D8%A5%D9%8A%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%81-%D8%B9%D8%A8%D8%AF-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AD%D9%85%D9%8A%D8%AF-%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%AC%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%B5%D9%8A

6 Mosaique FM, Arrest of Ghazi Chaouachi and Ridha Belhaj, February 24, 2023. Last access: April 1, 2023 (AR Reference): <https://www.mosaiquefm.net/ar/%D8%AA%D9%88%D9%86%D8%B3-%D8%A3%D8%AE%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D9%88%D8%B7%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A9/1139069/%D8%A5%D9%8A%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%81-%D8%BA%D8%A7%D8%B2%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B4%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%B4%D9%8A-%D9%88%D8%B1%D8%B6%D8%A7-%D8%A8%D9%84%D8%AD%D8%A7%D8%AC>

7 Jawhra FM: Ayachi Hammami reveals the reason for not Hearing Ghazi Chaouachi, April 25, 2023. Last Access May 27, 2023 (AR Reference): <https://www.jawhrafm.net/ar/article/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%B4%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%87%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%85%D9%8A-%D9%8A%D9%83%D8%B4%D9%81-%D8%B9%D9%86-%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%A8-%D8%B9%D8%AF%D9%85-%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%AA%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%B9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%B6%D9%8A-%D9%84%D8%BA%D8%A7%D8%B2%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B4%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%B4%D9%8A-/92/237875>

activist and leader in Salvation Front, Chaima Issa, and that occurred after surrounding her car and taking her to interrogation. Under the prosecutor's warrant at the Judicial Counter-Terrorism Pole, Chaima Issa's home was searched. Her personal notebooks were seized, along with her phone, and she was interrogated for 48 hours without the presence of her lawyer.

During interrogation, Chaima was questioned about her relationship with the leaders of the Salvation Front, including politicians such as Ghazi Chaouachi, Walid Jallad, and Journalist Nouredine Boutar. She was also questioned whether she had visited foreign embassies headquarters, but she remained silent. On February 25th, an arrest warrant was issued against her, and she has been imprisoned for more than 100 days in the Women's Civil Prison in Mannouba.

Issam Chebbi:

On 22nd February 2023, Issam Chebbi was arrested at his residence in Tunis and taken to interrogation by The National Unit for Combatting Terrorism and Organized Crime Affecting National Security. During interrogation, he was asked about the extent of his knowledge about any plot for toppling the regime, his relationship with Khayem Turki, and the reason for frequenting his house. Issam Chebbi remained silent during the questioning due to the absence of his lawyer. On February 25th, the investigating judge at the Judicial Counter-Terrorism Pole issued an arrest warrant against Issam Chebbi, and he has been detained in the Civil Prison of Mornaguia for more than 100 days.

Ridha Belhaj:

Ridha Belhaj was arrested late on Friday night, February 24, 2023, after surrounding his house and taking him to interrogation regarding the case of conspiring against the state's internal security and forming a terrorist group. On February 25th, the investigating judge issued an arrest warrant against him, and he has been imprisoned in the Civil Prison of Mornaguia for more than three months, along with the rest of the detainees in the case.

Lazher Akremi:

The Tunisian attorney and politician Lazher Akremi was arrested on February 13, 2023, after raiding his house by special police forces. He was then taken into custody for interrogation on various charges. Lazher Akremi was arrested on the grounds of conspiring against the state's internal security, along with several politicians who were arrested during the same period. He remained in custody until February 27th, when the investigating judge at the Judicial Counter-Terrorism Pole issued an arrest warrant against him. Currently, he has spent more than three months in the Civil Prison of Mornaguia, which constitutes a clear violation of his right to a fair trial.

Jawher Ben Mbarek:

On February 24, 2023, the National Unit for Combatting Terrorism and Organized Crime Affecting National Security arrested Politician Jawher Ben Mbarek for investigation concerning the allegations of forming a group conspiring against the state's internal security. On February 25th, the first investigating judge at the 13th office of the Judicial

Counter-Terrorism Pole issued a detention order against him, and he has been in the Civil Prison of Mornaguia for more than 100 days.

Arrest of Judges Taieb Rashed and Bechir Akremi:

The series of arrests that took place in February included the dismissed judges Taieb Rached and Bechir Akremi, who were responsible for handling cases related to political assassinations during the post-revolution period by virtue of a presidential order. The former President of the Court of Cassation, Taieb Rached, was arrested on February 12, 2023, for coercing someone into giving a false testimony. On February 20, 2023⁸, the first investigating judge at the Court of Instance in Tunis issued an arrest warrant against him while he was still detained in the Civil Prison of Mornaguia. In addition, on the same date, the former public prosecutor Becher Akremi⁹ was arrested after raiding his house and bringing him in for questioning for charges related to tampering with judicial documents and suspicions of corruption, according to a complaint filed by two police officers. He was kept in custody for 5 days and then released until the public prosecution decided to place him in a psychiatric hospital. On 24 February, Akremi was taken again for interrogation, and his detention was later extended. On March 10, 2023, the investigating judge at the Counter-Terrorism Judicial Pole issued an arrest warrant against him. He is still detained, while the defense team considers that Bechir Akremi's right to a fair trial is violated, and his imprisonment to be an arbitrary decision that violates the law.

Arrests Targeting Activists on The Grounds of Their Opinions and Expressions:

Arrest due to Graffiti:

From February until the end of March 2023, 3 Activists were arrested for practicing their right to freedom of expression and then released. The first incident dates back to 27th February 2023, when Political Activists Wissem Seghair, Oussama Ghlem, and Activist Boutheina Khelifi were arrested on the grounds of writing political slogans on several walls condemning the arrest of the Secretary-General of the Republican Party, Issam Chebbi. They were arrested at night and taken to the police station of the Ennasr District for interrogation, to be held in custody for 48 hours for investigation. They were charged with deliberately damaging private property, causing disorder and disruption, and eluding a public official while performing their job under Articles 317, 316, 315, 304, and 116 of the Penal Code, which are malicious and systematic charges against any individual who criticizes or opposes the ruling regime. On March 1st, they were released, and a trial was

8 Mosaique FM, Arrest warrant against the former First President of the Cassation Court Taieb Rashed, February 12, 2023. Last Access: April 2, 2023 (AR Reference): "بطاقة إيداع بالسجن في حق الرئيس الأول الأسبق لمحكمة التعقيب الطيب راشد" (mosaiquefm.net)"

9 Nessma Channel website Bechir Akremi's Defense Team reveals the circumstances of his arrest and condemns the systematic harassment he is subjected to, March 10, 2023. Last Access: April 2, 2023 (AR Reference): <https://www.nessma.tv/ar/%D8%A3%D8%AE%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D9%88%D8%B7%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A9/actu/%D9%87%D9%8A%D8%A6%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D9%81%D8%A7%D8%B9-%D8%B9%D9%86-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A8%D8%B4%D9%8A%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D9%83%D8%B1%D9%85%D9%8A-%D8%AA%D9%83%D8%B4%D9%81-%D9%83%D9%84-%D9%85%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%A8%D8%B3%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%A5%D9%8A%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%81%D9%87-%D9%88%D8%AA%D9%86%D8%AF%D8%AF-%D8%A8-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D9%86%D9%83%D9%8A%D9%84-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%86%D9%87%D8%AC-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B0%D9%8A-%D9%8A%D8%AA%D8%B9%D8%B1-%D8%B6-%D9%84%D9%87/437110>

scheduled for April 25, 2023¹⁰, where the verdict will be announced at a later time.

Arrest of Rached El Ghannouchi and Sentencing Him for a Year:

On April 18, 2023, the police arrested the leader of the Ennahdha movement, Rached El Ghannouchi¹¹ and several leaders of the movement, as well as Belgacem Hassan, Mohamed Goumani, Mohamed Cheniba, and Ahmed Mechergui, on the grounds of attending a meeting at the Ennahdha movement's Headquarters in Tunis, which was subsequently closed off and surrounded by police. They were later held in custody at the headquarters of The National Guard's Unit in l'Aouina for questioning on the same night. On April 19, 2023, Mohamed Goumani, Belgacem Hassan, and Mohamed Cheniba were released, but Rached Ghannouchi was kept. On May 9, 2023, the investigating judge issued an arrest warrant against Rached in connection with what is called the "Instaliago Case," to be later detained in the Civil Prison of Mornaguia. On May 15, 2023, the Criminal Division of the Court of Instance in Tunis sentenced Rached El Ghannouchi for one year in a case known as the "Tawagheet (Tyrants) Case," which dates back to 2020 when Police Unions filed a complaint against Ghannouchi, accusing him of calling the police "Tyrants" during a eulogy he delivered for a leader of the Ennahdha Movement.

Arrest of several Former Officials in administrative and financial corruption cases:

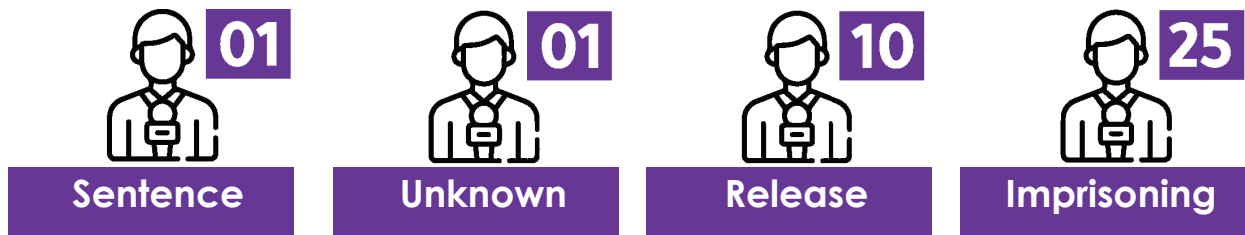
From January 10 until May 31, 2023, Tunisia witnessed an arrest campaign against several former officials and politicians on the grounds of several cases. Intersection Association monitored 13 cases that included seven leaders of the Ennahdha movement. They are Nouredine Bhiri, Sadek Chourou, Habib Ellouze, Mohamed Ben Salem, Sayed Ferjani, and Abdelfatteh Taghouti due to charges in relation to their positions as former politicians and former state officials, in addition, Fawzi Kammoun, the director of Rached Ghannouchi's office, was also arrested in a connection to a case for which details have not been disclosed. The rest of the arrests included the former Minister of the Environment, Riadh Mouakher, President of the National Union of Judiciary Officials and Executives, and Atef Omrani, an employee at the Ministry of the Interior¹².

¹⁰ Phone Call with Attorney Ons Kdoussi on April 25, 2023

¹¹ Shams FM, Defense Team: Arresting Rached Ghannouchi is a political targeting against him and Ennahdha Movement, May 23, 2023. Last Access: May 30, 2023 (AR Reference): https://www.shemsfm.net/amp/ar/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%AE%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1_%D8%A3%D8%AE%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%AA%D9%88%D9%86%D8%B3_%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%AE%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%88%D8%B7%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A9/414107/%D9%87%D9%8A%D8%A6%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D9%81%D8%A7%D8%B9-%D8%A5%D9%8A%D9%82%D8%A7%D9%81-%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%B4%D8%AF-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%BA%D9%86%D9%88%D8%B4%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D8%B3%D8%AA%D9%87%D8%AF%D8%A7%D9%81-%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%B3%D9%8A-%D9%84%D8%B4%D8%AE%D8%B5%D9%87-%D9%88%D9%84%D8%AD%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%86%D9%87%D8%B6%D8%A9

¹² Monitored arrests database Prepared by Intersection Association: (AR Reference) https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1LvMIIGL_DcnU_WQ-hM-UAn2phPpD7Cvo/edit#gid=1183484212

Legal Status on May 31, 2023



Distribution of Political Arrests by Gender



Distribution of Arrests by Period



Conclusion:

The arrests campaign period covered in the report included several Tunisian Politicians, Businessmen, Judges, and Former State Officials, as well as Security Authorities and Activists. Intersection Association monitored imprisonment cases, one whose current legal status is unknown, and 10 cases have been released. Moreover, one single imprisonment sentence against the leader of the Ennahdha movement, Rached Ghannouchi.

Furthermore, the arrests were categorized by gender, including 2 females and 35 males. The arrests were distributed, with the highest proportion in February, when Intersection Association monitored 25 cases of arrest, while the rest of the detentions were 6 in March, 6 in April, and 0 in May.

These arrests targeted several political opponents of the Course of 25th of July. Eight individuals were detained and imprisoned in what is referred to as the “Conspiracy Case,” where the accused have spent more than 4 months in prison without trial, which is a clear violation of their right to a fair trial. Added to that, the arrests that involved politicians and former state officials occurred within a political context aiming at acting with malice towards the opponents and eliminating them under the pretext of accountability and law enforcement. Most of the detainees in prison face charges related to their political activity and their right to freedom of expression, in addition to arresting 3 activists for charges of showing support to the political detainees through graffiti, and the head of the Ennahdha movement on the grounds of expressing his opinion regarding the current political situation and subsequently sentencing him to one year in prison.

This is clear evidence of the state’s direction towards oppressing all voices opposing the Course of 25 July 2021. Moreover, the highest proportion of arrests was marked by a lack of transparency and clarity, with no official narrative provided by the Tunisian state, in addition to the significant delay in legal proceedings and a lack of essential elements of a fair trial in these cases. Therefore, such political trials are practices adopted by tyrannical regimes so as to assert their authority and misuse the law, which are methods used by the pre-revolution government in several stages to silence and imprison its opponents.

