

**Under the Weight of
Marginalization:**
**A Report on Intersecting
Human Rights Violations
Across Regions**



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Table of Contents

Executive Summary	6
Introduction	8
Methodological Framework	10
I. Mapping Human Rights Violations in Tunisia	13
Violations of the Right to Freedom of Expression	14
Violations of the Right to a Fair Trial and Guarantees of Justice	14
Violations of the Right to Physical Integrity and Freedom from Ill Treatment.....	17
Violations of the Right to Work.....	18
Violations of the Right to Housing and the Inviolability of the Home	24
Violations of the Right to Basic Services	27
Violations of Rights Related to Agricultural Activity	29
2. The Northeast Region: Bizerte, Nabeul, and Zaghouan	29
Violations of the Right to Freedom of Expression	32
Violations of the Right to Organize and Trade Union Activity	34
Violations of the Right to Physical Integrity and Freedom from Ill Treatment	36
Violations of the Right to Work	38
Violations of the Right to a Healthy Environment	40
3-Central East Region: Sousse, Mahdia, Monastir, and Sfax	41
Violations of the Right to Freedom of Expression	42
Violations of the Right to Physical Integrity and Freedom from Ill Treatment.....	42
Violations of the Right to a Healthy Environment	45
4- Central-West Region: Kairouan, Kasserine, and Sidi Bouzid	48
Violations of the Right to Freedom of Expression	49
Violations of the Right to Physical Integrity and Protection from Ill-Treatment.....	50
Violations of the Right to Peaceful Assembly	52
5- Southeast Region: Gabès, Medenine, and Tataouine	53
Violations of the Right to Freedom of Expression	54
Violations of the Right to Peaceful Assembly	55
Violations of the Right to Physical Integrity and Protection from Torture	56
6- Southwest Region: Gafsa, Kebili, and Tozeur	58
Violations of the Right to Freedom of Expression	59
Violations of the Right to Peaceful Assembly	59

Violations of the Right to Work	60
Second: Intersectionality of Violations and Regional Specificities	62
Patterns of Violations	64
Northwest Region: Béja, Jendouba, Kef, and Siliana	64
Northeast Region: Bizerte, Nabeul, and Zaghouan	68
Central-East Region: Sousse, Mahdia, Monastir, and Sfax	70
Central-West Region: Kairouan, Kasserine, and Sidi Bouzid	72
South-East Region: Gabès, Medenine, and Tataouine	74
South-West Region: Gafsa, Kebili, and Tozeur	76
Common Patterns Across Regions	78
Factors of Recurrence and Similarity	80
Conclusion	83
Recommendations	85



Executive Summary

This report covers the period from **March 2025 to February 2026** and provides an in-depth analytical reading of the reality of human rights violations across the different regions of the Tunisian Republic .It adopts an intersectional approach that links civil ,political ,economic ,social ,and environmental dimensions ,situating them within their territorial and institutional context.

The report documented 285 cases of violations affecting a wide range of rights and distributed across several regions ,confirming that these violations are not incidental or isolated events but rather reflect a recurring dynamic extending across the national territory .This constitutes a significant indicator of the widening scope of their impact ,the diversity of the social groups affected ,and the deepening human rights consequences of these practices.

The violations documented include :restrictions on freedom of expression and protest activities ;breaches of fair trial guarantees and judicial independence; violence ,ill-treatment ,and violations of physical integrity ;arbitrary dismissal and violations of the right to decent work ;infringements of the right to health within places of detention ;violations of the right to housing and access to basic services ;and environmental degradation affecting the right to a healthy environment and the protection of health.

The analysis reveals structural regional disparities in the nature of violations. In interior regions ,economic and social vulnerability intersects with a security-based approach to managing social demands ,while violations related to civil and political rights appear relatively more concentrated in certain urban spaces .This disparity contributes to widening the gap between constitutional guarantees and international obligations on the one hand ,and actual practice on the ground on the other.

The report concludes that the documented violations reflect a recurring pattern linked to the weakness of protection and accountability mechanisms ,as well as the growing reliance on punitive approaches in responding to social and rights-based demands .Addressing this situation therefore requires urgent legislative and institutional reforms ,strengthening judicial independence, activating oversight and accountability mechanisms ,and adopting public policies that promote territorial equity ,in order to ensure the effective and equal respect of rights and freedoms throughout the national territory.

Introduction

Tunisia is currently experiencing a critical phase marked by a noticeable decline in the level of protection of fundamental rights and freedoms ,within a context of increasing authoritarian drift .This situation directly affects the foundations of democratic society and the rule of law ,particularly with regard to the nature of the exercise of power and the limits of oversight and accountability .Although the state is ,in theory ,grounded in a constitutional and legal framework that enshrines human dignity ,safeguards individual and public freedoms ,guarantees equality before the law ,and ensures the independence of the judiciary ,in addition to its international human rights commitments ,the reality on the ground reveals a growing gap between these normative frameworks and actual practices .The erosion of public debate ,the shrinking space for freedoms ,the increasing involvement of security forces, and the instrumentalization of judicial institutions have contributed to the creation of a general climate of pressure targeting individuals ,civil society, journalists ,and political opponents .In this context ,violations can no longer be understood as isolated or incidental cases ;rather ,in many regions they have taken on a recurrent pattern reflecting deficiencies in protection and oversight mechanisms.

Moreover ,the scope of these violations has expanded to include both civil and political rights as well as economic and social rights ,through punitive prosecutions ,denial of fair trial guarantees ,the use of violence and ill-treatment ,and the fragility of basic public services such as health care, education ,and transportation ,all of which affect the very core of the right to a dignified life.

However ,field monitoring reveals not only the nature of violations but also the way in which they are distributed across the national territory .Available data indicate that violations are not distributed evenly ,but are closely linked to the geographical ,social ,and economic specificities of each region .Regional differences do not merely reflect disparities in levels of development,

infrastructure ,and services ;they also reveal variations in the presence of the state ,the effectiveness of its institutions ,and the ability of individuals to access justice and protection .As a result ,certain patterns of violations intensify in regions experiencing greater social vulnerability and rising protest movements ,while in other regions violations take forms related to neglect, institutional shortcomings ,and weak public services.

Within this context ,the intersectional character of violations becomes particularly evident .Economic ,social ,and territorial factors intersect with the type of violation and the categories of affected individuals ,resulting in unequal access to the exercise of rights across regions .Protest movements, high unemployment rates ,limited health resources ,and long-standing regional disparities are not separate from the human rights landscape ;rather, they constitute key explanatory factors shaping the geography of rights violations within the country .From this perspective ,the territorial dimension becomes a central analytical element for understanding both the nature of violations and the limits of institutional responses to them.

Building on this assessment ,the present report seeks to provide an in-depth and integrated analysis of the human rights landscape during the period from March 2025 to February ,2026 by examining the relationship between regional marginalization and patterns of violations ,and by highlighting the broader trends that characterized the period under study .The report does not claim to provide an exhaustive account of all incidents ;rather ,it aims to identify recurring patterns and underlying structural factors that demonstrate how regional disparities have become a determining factor in the effective enjoyment of rights.

Through this approach ,the report seeks to contribute to a broader discussion on territorial justice and the equal protection of rights ,and to provide an analytical tool that may assist policymakers ,human rights organizations ,and civil society actors in gaining a deeper understanding of the distribution and dynamics of violations. In doing so ,it aims to support efforts to strengthen the legal and institutional guarantees of rights and freedoms at both the national and local levels.

Methodological Framework

This report adopts a multi-dimensional methodological approach combining quantitative and qualitative analysis, with the aim of providing a comprehensive overview of the human rights violations recorded in Tunisia during the period from March 2025 to February 2026. The research process was based on documenting incidents and linking them to the national constitutional and legal framework, as well as to relevant international standards, in order to ensure an accurate analysis of the contexts observed.

Data collection relied on cross-referenced primary and secondary sources, including field meetings with affected individuals, witnesses, and local actors, as well as consultations with regional activists. The methodology also included the analysis of media and digital content, statistical data related to protest movements, information issued by civil society organizations, and publicly available documents. The report relied on source triangulation and strengthened verification and fact-checking mechanisms in accordance with established human rights standards, in order to ensure the highest possible level of accuracy and objectivity.

For the purposes of this report, a violation refers to any act or omission carried out by a public authority or by an entity exercising powers of a public nature that affects individuals and infringes upon rights guaranteed by the Constitution, applicable laws, or international agreements. This includes direct violations, such as the disproportionate use of force or the denial of the right to defence, as well as violations resulting from serious neglect or omission affecting fundamental rights, such as the right to life, health, or a healthy environment.

Following documentation and verification, cases were classified according to a thematic approach covering violations of the right to a fair trial, arbitrary

arrests ,security-related violence and ill-treatment ,violations related to freedom of opinion and expression ,gender-based violence ,as well as economic and social rights violations .Cases were selected based on their severity ,their indication of a recurring pattern or institutional practice, their representation of different regional contexts ,and the availability of a minimum level of verifiable information .These cases do not constitute an exhaustive list but rather illustrative examples reflecting broader trends during the reporting period.

During the analytical phase ,the data were examined through both territorial and thematic dimensions ,taking into account the distribution of violations across regions ,their political and social contexts ,their judicial or administrative trajectories where available ,and their impact on victims and their surrounding communities .This interaction between field monitoring and thematic analysis made it possible to develop a deeper understanding of patterns of violations ,the level of legal protection ,and regional disparities in the enjoyment of rights.

In calculating the number of cases ,the report relies on a methodology combining the number of incidents and the number of affected individuals .In cases involving several individuals within a single incident) such as protests or collective dismissals ,(each affected individual is counted as a separate case when relevant data are available .When the exact number of affected individuals cannot be determined ,the incident is counted as a single case.

The (+) symbol in statistical tables indicates the presence of additional cases that could not be precisely quantified due to limited available data or because incidents continued during the monitoring period .The figures presented in this report do not represent an exhaustive count of all violations, but rather reflect the cases documented and verified in accordance with the methodological standards adopted in this report.

The report also acknowledges several methodological limitations that may affect the comprehensiveness of the data .Among the most significant are

disparities in media coverage between regions ,as well as the possibility that certain violations remain undocumented due to fear among victims or the absence of effective reporting mechanisms.

Accordingly ,the data presented in this report should be understood as documented cases during the monitoring period ,without claiming to provide a complete account of all violations occurring in practice .The objective of the monitoring process is therefore to provide the most accurate and reliable possible picture of the nature ,distribution ,and impact of violations on citizens 'rights across the different regions of the country.



Mapping Human Rights Violations in Tunisia

Tunisia has witnessed a significant number of human rights violations affecting the full spectrum of rights ,including civil and political rights ,economic, social ,and cultural rights ,as well as environmental rights .Many of these violations have been intersectional in nature ,complex and interconnected. In this report ,we sought to analyze each region as a distinct unit in order to identify the specific patterns of violations occurring within it.

1. Northwest Region: Béja, Jendouba, Le Kef, and Siliana

During ,2025 the Northwest region witnessed a series of diverse human rights and social violations affecting freedom of expression ,the right to a fair trial ,physical integrity ,the right to work ,housing and basic services ,as well as agricultural activities .The documented cases reveal the fragility of official protection mechanisms and the absence of necessary reforms to safeguard the fundamental rights of citizens ,particularly in light of rising social tensions and structural challenges across several sectors.

Violations of the Right to Freedom of Expression

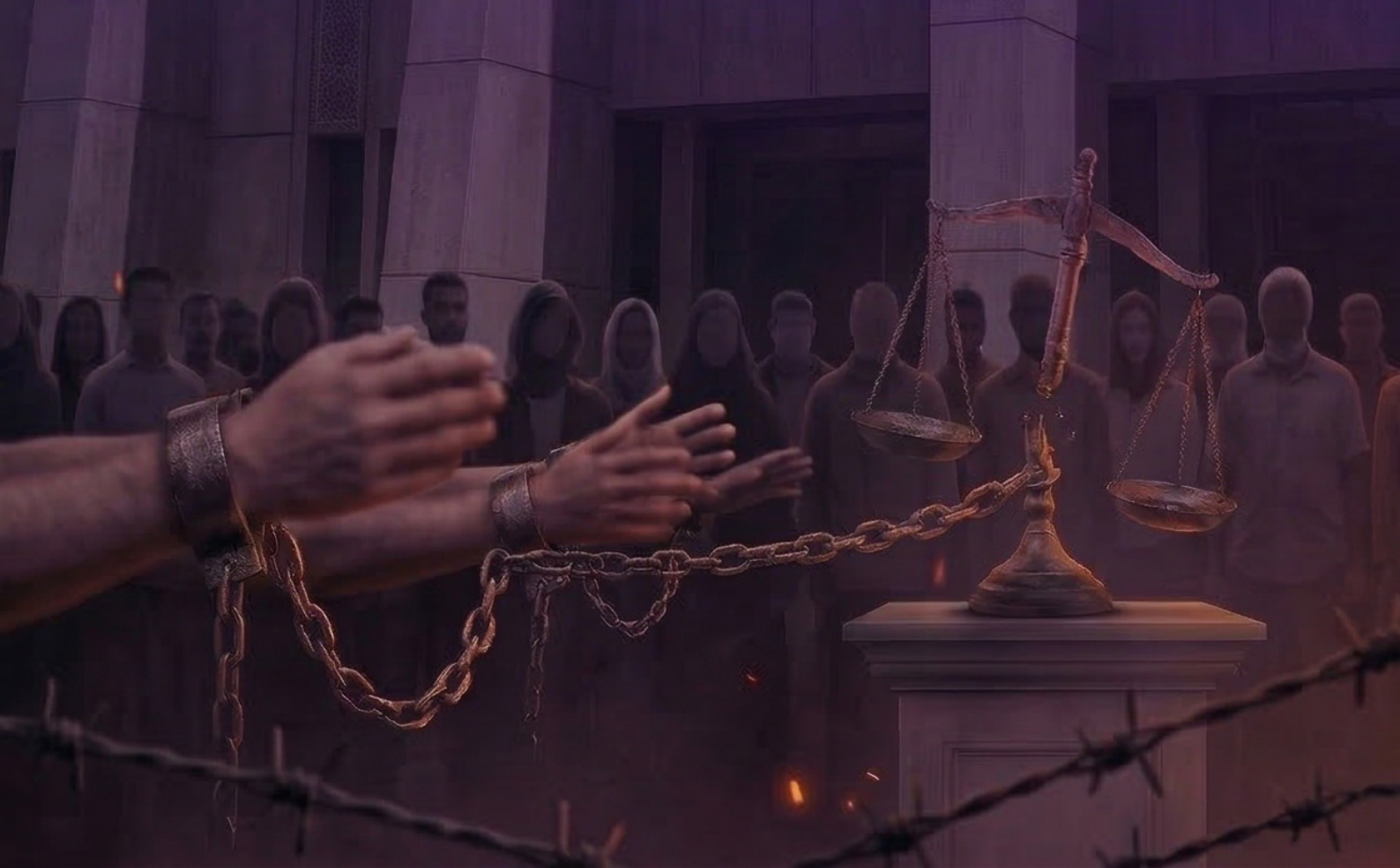
Several governorates in the region recorded cases of judicial prosecutions and summonses targeting activists for digital expression and political criticism, reflecting a growing tendency to use criminal law to confront civic activism.

In **the governorate of Béja** ,the Court of First Instance issued a judgment on 24 November 2025 sentencing nine defendants ,including the Ennahda Movement’s regional secretary-general Mohamed Mezoughi ,to prison terms ranging between two and twelve years ,on charges of insulting the President of the Republic through social media platforms .The court also dismissed the case against three other defendants¹.

In **the governorate of Jendouba** ,the social and environmental activist Moncef Houaidi was arrested on 30 August 2024 by the Research and Inspection Brigade in Tabarka .He was subsequently tried on 6 October2025 for Facebook posts considered offensive to the President of the Republic and for allegedly spreading false information .The Criminal Chamber sentenced

1 Diwan FM 10“ .2025 .Years ’Imprisonment for the Regional Secretary of the Ennahda Movement in Béja 24 ”.November .Accessed 9 March.2026

<https://diwanfm.net/news/%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%A9/10-%D8%B3%D9%86%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%B3%D8%AC%D9%86%D8%A7-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D8%AD%D9%82-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%83%D8%A7%D8%AA%D8%A8-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AC%D9%87%D9%88%D9%8A-%D9%84%D8%AD%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%86%D9%87%D8%B6%D8%A9-%D8%A8%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%AC%D-8%A9>



him to two years 'imprisonment and a fine of 1,000 Tunisian dinars ,despite the fact that the posts did not contain any incitement to violence or hatred². Political prosecutions also targeted Member of Parliament Hatem Houaoui, who was sentenced to three years 'imprisonment under Article 55 of the Penal Code following a complaint filed by the local delegate³.

In **the governorate of Siliana** ,the arrest of a citizen identified as Amine was recorded after he shared publications associated with the National Salvation Front ⁴.In **the governorate of El Kef** ,the citizen Mohamed was subjected to repeated security harassment due to his activism in the region ⁵.These acts of harassment included surveillance in public spaces and the use of methods resembling intimidation and coercion.

2 Intersection Association for Rights and Freedoms” .2025 .Moncef El Houaidi 17 “.October.2025 Accessed 9 March.2026 <https://intersection.uno/freedom-faces%/D9%85%D9%86%D8%B5%D9%81-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%87%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%8A%D8%AF%D9%8A/>

3 Express FM” .2025 .Jendouba :Three Years 'Imprisonment for MP Hatem El Haouai 18 “.November .2025Accessed 9 March.2026 <https://radioexpressfm.com/ar%/D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%AE%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%AC%D9%86%D8%AF%D9%88%D8%A8%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%AC%D9%86-3%-D8%B3%D9%86%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%A-A-%D9%81%D9%8A%-D8%AD%D9%82%-D8%A7%D9%84%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%A6%D8%A8-%D8%AD%D8%A7%D8%AA%D9%85%-D8%A7/>

4 The victim's identity has been withheld for security reasons.

5 The victim's identity has been withheld for security reasons.

In this context ,the Tunisian League for the Defense of Human Rights)Jendouba branch (reported that 18 cases under Decree-Law No 54 .were recorded in the governorate of Jendouba during ⁶.2025 Most of these cases were related to social and economic issues ,yet they were addressed through a punitive security approach ,reflecting restrictions on citizens 'right to express their opinions and participate in political life.

These cases indicate that Decree-Law No 54 .and Article 67 of the Penal Code have increasingly been used as tools to restrict political criticism and digital expression ,resulting in disproportionate limitations on the right to freedom of opinion and expression .This systematic use of criminal law contributes to the creation of a climate of fear and self-censorship among citizens ,limiting civic engagement and public debate ,and undermining political pluralism and accountability.

Under national law ,these practices contradict the constitutional guarantees enshrined in Articles 37 and 55 of the 2022 Constitution ,which guarantee freedom of opinion ,thought ,expression ,information ,and publication .At the international level ,they conflict with Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights) ICCPR (and General Comment No 34 .of the Human Rights Committee ,which stresses that restrictions on expression must be interpreted narrowly ,particularly in matters of public interest.

Accordingly ,these cases represent an example of an increasing trend toward the criminalization of opinion and political and social activism in Tunisia, rather than isolated incidents .This situation calls for a comprehensive review of the legislative framework and judicial practices in order to ensure compliance with the Tunisian Constitution and international obligations ,and to protect the right to criticism and accountability as a fundamental pillar of any democratic system.

⁶ Interview with Saber Majri ,member of the Executive Committee of the Tunisian League for Human Rights ,Jendouba branch ,conducted on 15 January.2026

Violations of the Right to a Fair Trial and Guarantees of Justice

The judicial sector in the Governorate of Jendouba shows structural shortcomings that directly affect fair trial guarantees .These deficiencies stem from case backlogs ,shortages in human resources ,weak infrastructure, and potential interference linked to security and political pressures.

On 20 March ,2025 the Tunisian League for the Defense of Human Rights and the Regional Union of Industry ,Trade ,and Handicrafts expressed concern that these shortcomings were leading to unjustified delays in adjudicating cases ,thereby undermining the right to defense and compromising the integrity of the judiciary⁷.

On 24 December ,2025 lawyers organized a protest in front of the Court of First Instance in Jendouba ,calling for the establishment of additional judicial chambers and an increase in the number of judges and court clerks to ensure that cases are adjudicated within a reasonable time ,without compromising the rights of litigants .They considered that the absence of fair trial conditions undermines a fundamental human right and constitutes a real threat to justice itself⁸.

The right to a fair trial is a fundamental and indivisible right ,and any infringement upon its guarantees constitutes a serious violation of the foundations of justice .This right is enshrined in Article 33 of the 2022 Tunisian Constitution ,and is also guaranteed under Article 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights) ICCPR ,(which affirms that everyone is entitled to a fair and public hearing by a competent ,independent ,and

7 Tunisian League for Human Rights – Jendouba Section” .2025 .Joint Statement 20 “.March.2025 Accessed 9 March.2025

8 Kapitalis – Anbaa Tounes“ .2025 .The League :For These Reasons ,the Jendouba Section Calls for the Establishment of a Second Court 25 ”.December .2025 Accessed 9 March.2025
<https://kapitalis.com/anbaa-tounes%/2025/12/25/D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%A8%D8%B7%D8%A9%-D9%84%D9%87%D8%B0%D9%87%-D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%B3%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%A8%D8%8C%-D9%81%D8%B1%D8%B9%-D8%AC%D9%86%D8%AF%D9%88%D8%A8%D8%A9%-D9%8A%D8%B7%D8%A7%D9%84>

impartial tribunal, that their case must be heard within a reasonable time, and that their dignity and defense rights must be respected. In addition, Article 117 of the Tunisian Constitution affirms the independence and impartiality of the judiciary and guarantees fair adjudication, including the provision of the resources necessary for the judiciary to perform its functions effectively.

However, the documented cases in the Governorate of Jendouba reveal serious shortcomings in the functioning of the judicial system, resulting from case overload, insufficient human resources, and limited organizational capacities. These factors negatively affect both the quality of judicial work and the timeliness of case adjudication. According to the jurisprudence of the United Nations Human Rights Committee, unjustified delays in the resolution of cases constitute a violation of the right to a fair trial, even in the absence of other procedural irregularities.

Accordingly, the professional and human rights protests in the Governorate of Jendouba do not merely reflect isolated sectoral demands, but rather highlight a deeper crisis affecting the foundations and guarantees of justice, in the context of increasing pressure on the judicial system. This situation calls for urgent action to address structural deficiencies and ensure that judicial practice is consistent with national and international fair trial standards, in order to safeguard the authority of justice and protect the rights of individuals.

Violations of the Right to Physical Integrity and Freedom from Ill Treatment

The documented cases include instances of direct violence and failures to fulfill the duty of protection, affecting both individuals and institutions. **In the governorate of Béja**, on 18 July, 2025 it was documented that Chokri Laabidi was subjected to physical and verbal violence inside the central police station⁹. He was slapped and beaten while handcuffed in the presence of his lawyer. The lawyer was also prevented from accompanying his client before

⁹ Intersection Association for Rights and Freedoms”. 2025. Chokri Laabidi 1 “August. 2025 Accessed 9 March. 2026
<https://intersection.uno/freedom-faces%/D8%B4%D9%83%D8%B1%D9%8A%-D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D8%A8%D9%8A%D8%AF%D9%8A-chokri-labidi>

the initial investigator and from carrying out his legal duties .This constitutes a dual violation of both the right to physical integrity and the right to defense¹⁰.

In a different context ,but one that is equally serious ,a grave violation of the rights of women working in the agricultural sector was recorded in the **Governorate of El Kef** on 29 May .2025 A vehicle transporting agricultural workers overturned ,resulting in the death of three women workers and the injury of 27 others .This incident occurred despite the existence of a decree regulating transportation for agricultural workers ,reflecting an institutional failure to ensure the physical safety of workers¹¹.

These incidents clearly violate several constitutional provisions and international human rights standards .At the national level ,Article 22 of the 2022 Constitution obliges the State to guarantee individual and public rights and freedoms ,including the protection of individuals from physical assault and ill-treatment .Article 25 enshrines every individual’s right to the protection of their dignity and bodily integrity and prohibits all forms of torture and cruel ,inhuman ,or degrading treatment ,while emphasizing that the crime of torture is not subject to statutes of limitation .Furthermore ,Article 36 guarantees every detainee the right to humane treatment that preserves their dignity ,including protection during detention and interrogation.

At the institutional level ,Decree No 240 .of ,2023 which establishes the Code of Conduct for Internal Security Forces ,constitutes a binding framework aimed at protecting individuals during detention or interactions with security authorities .In particular ,Article 29 prohibits torture and ill-treatment and emphasizes the obligation to protect the physical and psychological integrity

10 Arabesque“ .2025 .The Tunisian League Condemns an Incident of Torture and the Prevention of a Lawyer from Appearing before the Prosecution in Béja 19 ”.July .2025 Accessed 9 March.2026 <https://www.arabesque.tn/ar/article%/127954/D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%A8%D8%B7%D8%A9%-D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D9%88%D9%86%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%A9%-D8%AA%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%86%-D9%88%D8%A7%D9%82%D8%B9%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D8%B9%D8%B0%D9%8A%D8%A8%-D9%88%D9%85%D9%86%D8%B9-%D9%85%D8%AD%D8%A7%D9%85%-D9%85%D9%86%-D8%A7%D9%84%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%A8%D8%A9%-D9%81%D9%8A%-D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%AC%D8%A9?utm>

11 Inkyfada“ .2025 .Transport of Agricultural Workers :The Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights Sounds the Alarm after a New Tragedy in Le Kef 29 ”.May .2025 Accessed 9 March.2026 <https://inkyfada.com/ar%/2025/06/04/D8%AD%D8%A7%D8%AF%D8%AB%-D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%85%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%AA%-D9%81%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%AD%D9%8A%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%AA%D9%88%D9%86%D8%B3%-D8%A7%D9%84%D9%83%D8%A7%D9%81/>

of detainees .Violations of these provisions represent a double failure of official responsibilities ,as they undermine not only the right to defense but also the physical and psychological safety of individuals.

At the international level ,the State is bound by fundamental human rights principles ,including Article 5 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which prohibits torture and cruel ,inhuman ,or degrading treatment or punishment .Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights) ICCPR (reinforces this prohibition ,while Article 6 of the same Covenant guarantees the right to life and protection from acts that may threaten an individual's physical integrity .In addition ,the 1984 Convention against Torture obliges States to adopt effective measures to prevent torture and ill-treatment ,including the prompt and effective investigation of allegations and accountability for those responsible.

Although the two cases described differ in nature ,they reveal two interconnected forms of violations of physical integrity :direct violence committed by law enforcement officials and institutional failures to ensure protection and prevent foreseeable risks .In both cases ,the right to dignity, life ,and physical integrity becomes the primary victim.

This situation calls for the opening of independent and transparent investigations to determine responsibilities ,both at the level of the agents involved and the supervisory authorities .It also requires an assessment of the extent to which security procedures comply with the law ,as well as the application of disciplinary or criminal sanctions where violations are confirmed .Moreover ,these cases highlight the need for effective oversight mechanisms ,including continuous judicial and human rights monitoring, to prevent the recurrence of such violations and to protect individuals from the unlawful use of force ,thereby reflecting the State's commitment to safeguarding the fundamental rights of all citizens.



Violations of the Right to Work

The Northwest region ,particularly the governorates of Béja and Jendouba, witnessed during 2025 a wave of protest movements related to the deterioration of working conditions ,delays in the payment of wages ,and the absence of a safe professional environment.

In the Governorate of Béja 28 ,integrated teachers staged a protest on 23May ,2025 denouncing what they described as a policy of“ stalling and procrastination ”adopted by the Ministry of Education in paying their financial entitlements and issuing their appointment decisions .The protesters stated that the delay in regularizing their professional status and granting them their financial rights within a reasonable timeframe has deepened their social

hardship and revealed shortcomings in the management of this issue¹².

In the same context ,the Tunisian Sugar Company in Béja witnessed repeated labor protests .Workers staged a protest on 6 August 2025 due to delays in wage payments and the institutional difficulties facing the company¹³. Protests resumed on 6 October 2025 for the same reasons¹⁴.

In the governorate of Jendouba ,employees and executives of the Regional Transport Company for Passengers carried out an on-site strike at their workplaces on 13 December ,2025 protesting the increase in assaults and the growing phenomenon of violence against them while performing their professional duties¹⁵.

The events related to labour protests in the governorates of Béja and Jendouba ,whether linked to delays in the payment of financial entitlements or to unsafe working conditions ,reflect a clear failure to meet national and international obligations related to the right to decent work .The repeated demands to regularize employment status and ensure the payment of wages within the legally prescribed time limits indicate administrative and structural shortcomings in the management of human and financial resources within public institutions and companies .This situation reflects the limited effectiveness of public policies in guaranteeing fundamental economic and social rights.

12 Tuniflix FM .2025 .Facebook post 23 .May .2025 Accessed 9 March.2025
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p1/B5hJUyjCb/>

13 Nessma TV” .2025 .Béja :Sugar Company Workers Protest 6 “.August .2025 Accessed 9 March .2025
<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/%D8%AC%D9%87%D8%A7%D8%AA/%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%AC%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D8%AD%D8%AA%D8%AC%D8%A7%D8%AC-%D8%B9%D9%85-%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%B4%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%83%D8%B1/551410>

14 Al-Masdar” .2025 .Breaking :Protests Renewed at the Sugar Factory in Béja 6 “.April.2025 Accessed 9 March.2026
<https://ar.webmanagercenter.com%/2025/10/06/409010/D8%B9%D8%A7%D8%AC%D9%84-%D8%AA%D8%AC%D8%AF%D9%91%D8%AF-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D8%AD%D8%AA%D8%AC%D8%A7%D8%AC%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D8%A8%D9%85%D8%B5%D9%86%D8%B9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D9%83%D9%91%D8%B1-%D9%81%D9%8A/>

15 Radio IFM .2025 .Facebook post 2 .December .2025 Accessed 9 March.2026
[.https://www.facebook.com/share/p1/DB62BtPLU/](https://www.facebook.com/share/p1/DB62BtPLU/)

At the legal level ,Article 7 of the International Covenant on Economic ,Social and Cultural Rights) ICESCR (provides that everyone has the right to work under just and favorable conditions ,including fair remuneration ,protection against unemployment ,and the assurance of safe and healthy working conditions .Article 9 further affirms the right of everyone to social security, including the protection of financial entitlements and workers 'rights in the face of occupational risks .The reality shows that delays in wage payments and failures to ensure safe working environments threaten the dignity of workers and their economic and social stability ,placing them in a situation of psychological and material insecurity—particularly in the case of integrated teachers or transport workers who face repeated assaults while carrying out their duties.

From the perspective of international labor law ,International Labour Organization) ILO (conventions ,particularly Conventions No ,1 .No,87 . and No ,155 .establish clear obligations for states and employers to ensure safe working conditions ,protect workers 'trade union rights ,and provide effective mechanisms for resolving labor disputes .The absence of a safe working environment ,delays in wage payments ,and the lack of protection against occupational risks do not merely represent technical shortcomings; rather ,they constitute direct violations of the principle of decent work and the dignity of workers ,as established in international instruments.

The continued recurrence of these violations indicates that temporary solutions or partial measures are insufficient and that the situation requires comprehensive reforms at the level of public policies .Such reforms should include the establishment of clear mechanisms to guarantee wage rights ,the strengthening of preventive measures to protect workers from occupational risks ,and the revision of legal frameworks to ensure the effective implementation of these rights in practice .Without such reforms, social protests and tensions within the labour sector will continue ,further increasing the fragility of the social and economic system and affecting social stability.

Violations of the Right to Housing and the Inviolability of the Home

The violations recorded in the Northwest region also extended to the right to housing ,which is one of the fundamental economic and social rights directly linked to human dignity and family stability.

In this context ,the delegation of Nefza in **the governorate of Béja** witnessed protests on 12 April ,2025 when dozens of residents demonstrated by burning tires on a public road following the issuance of demolition orders affecting five houses built without permits on the banks of Oued El Maaden¹⁶.

This incident reflects clear social tensions and a serious infringement of the right to adequate housing ,which constitutes a fundamental pillar of human dignity and family stability .The right to housing is constitutionally protected in Tunisia through provisions safeguarding economic and social rights and is also guaranteed internationally under Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic ,Social and Cultural Rights) ICESCR (and General Comment No 7 .of the Committee on Economic ,Social and Cultural Rights.

The implementation of demolition orders without providing adequate housing alternatives or safeguards for affected families creates a situation of forced displacement and undermines individuals 'right to security and stability .It also reflects shortcomings in urban planning and social policies.This violation indicates the absence of a comprehensive approach that balances law enforcement with the protection of fundamental rights ,as relying solely on punitive measures contributes to deepening social tensions and increasing the vulnerability of affected groups rather than addressing the root causes of the problem and taking into account the humanitarian and social circumstances of residents.

16 Jawhara FM“ .2025 .Béja :Protests after the Demolition of Houses Built without Permits in Nefza 12 ”.April .2025 Accessed 6 March.2026 06/03/2026.<https://www.jawharafm.net/ar/article/%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%AC%D8%A9--D8%A7%D8%AD%D8%AA%D8%AC%D8%A7%D8%AC%D8%A7%D8%AA-D8%A8%D8%B9%D8%AF-%D9%87%D8%AF%D9%85-D9%85%D8%B3%D8%A7%D9%83%D9%86-%D8%AF%D9%88%D9%86-D8%B1%D8%AE%D8%B5-D9%81%D9%8A-D9%86%D9%81%D8%B2%D8%A9/141/274069>

Addressing these issues therefore requires the adoption of a human rights based approach that integrates sound urban planning with supportive social policies and ensures fair and appropriate alternative housing solutions .Such an approach would protect family stability and prevent the deepening of social vulnerability ,rather than relying solely on enforcement measures that may further exacerbate tensions and undermine trust in public institutions.

Violations of the Right to Basic Services

The interior regions of Tunisia suffer from a lack of access to basic services. Within this context ,**the delegation of Oued Melliz in the governorate of Jendouba** witnessed a protest on 17 July ,2025 carried out by a number of residents in response to the repeated disruption of drinking water supply and the failure to connect several residential areas to the distribution network. This mobilization reflects growing social tensions linked to the deterioration of basic services and the absence of sustainable solutions to a problem that has persisted for a long time¹⁷.

Testimonies from several residents indicate that water has been cut off in a number of villages within the delegation ,forcing inhabitants to search for alternative water sources under difficult conditions ,particularly during periods of high temperatures .Residents also face the absence of paved roads in certain areas ,which leads to near total isolation during the winter season and limits access to essential services ,including healthcare ,education ,and localmarkets¹⁸.

The repeated deprivation of water constitutes an infringement of a fundamental

17 Al Chourouk“ .2025 .Jendouba :National Road 06 Blocked in Protest against the Disruption of Drinking Water Supply 17 ”.July .2025 Accessed 9 March.2026 <https://www.alchourouk.com/article/%D8%AC%D9%86%D8%AF%D9%88%D8%A8%D8%A9%-D9%82%D8%B7%D8%B9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B7%D8%B1%D9%8A%D9%82%-D8%A7%D9%84%D9%88%D8%B7%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A9-06%-D8%A7%D8%AD%D8%AA%D8%AC%D8%A7%D8%AC%D8%A7%-D8%B9%D9%84%D9%89%-D8%A7%D9%86%D9%82%D8%B7%D8%A7%D8%B9-D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%A7%D8%A1%-D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B5-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AD%-D9%84%D9%84%D8%B4%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%A8>

18 Interview with Rabii Feguir ,human rights activist in the delegation of Oued Melliz ,conducted on 13 February.2026

human right ,as affirmed in General Comment No 15 .of the Committee on Economic ,Social and Cultural Rights ,which considers the right to water an integral part of the right to an adequate standard of living .The Comment also emphasizes the obligation of States to ensure that water is available in sufficient quantities ,safe ,affordable ,and accessible without discrimination. This obligation does not only concern the provision of infrastructure but also includes its maintenance and the regular continuity of service delivery.

The situation in Oued Melliz is not an isolated incident but rather forms part of a broader context of difficulties faced by several interior regions in accessing water and basic infrastructure .This raises a structural issue regarding the extent of the State's commitment to ensuring equality in the enjoyment of economic and social rights across different regions .Addressing this situation requires a comprehensive approach based on increased investment in infrastructure ,improved local governance ,and the participation of residents in shaping solutions ,in order to guarantee the protection of the right to water and safeguard human dignity.



Violations of Rights Related to Agricultural Activity

In ,2025 **the governorates of Béja ,Siliana ,Jendouba ,and El Kef** witnessed protests by grain producing farmers demanding the provision of essential agricultural inputs ,particularly ammonium nitrate fertilizer”) ammonitire,(“ in order to ensure the production of high quality crops and the sustainability of agricultural production¹⁹.

These protests point to a structural crisis affecting the agricultural sector, reflected in insufficient government support and the declining role of the State in protecting farmers ’productive capacity .This situation affects

19 IFM News .2026 .Facebook post 8 .January .2026 Accessed 9 March.2026
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p1/VSi7tTuXt/>

farmers' economic resilience and undermines food security.

Testimonies from several farmers in the governorate of Siliana indicate that they face administrative obstacles and security related restrictions when transporting agricultural products, which hinders their ability to carry out farming activities and increases production costs.

In addition, the Oued Arko dam, completed in 2000 in the locality of Hammam Bayadha in the delegation of Krib, has not yet been put into operation despite its importance in supporting irrigation and strengthening water resources for agriculture. This situation reflects shortcomings in the planning and management of vital development projects at the local level²⁰.

This situation represents a retreat from the positive role of the State in safeguarding food security and ensuring the livelihoods of producing groups. Article 11 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) affirms the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living, including adequate food, and obliges States to take the necessary measures to support producing groups, ensure the sustainable management of resources, and protect the right to food.

The violation is not limited to the shortage of production inputs but also extends to the failure to ensure the economic and social stability of farmers, exposing them to risks such as crop loss or declining productivity. This situation further exacerbates their vulnerability and increases pressures on their livelihoods.

This violation cannot be considered an isolated incident; rather, it forms part of a broader pattern affecting producing groups in Tunisia's interior regions. Addressing this situation requires a comprehensive approach that balances the protection of farmers' rights with effective public policies to ensure food security and economic stability.

20 Interview with Mohamed Aziz Boubakri, human rights activist and farmer from the governorate of Siliana, conducted on 15 February, 2026



2. The Northeast Region: Bizerte, Nabeul, and Zaghouan

During the documented period, the Northeast region experienced a clear overlap of several types of violations, ranging from restrictions on freedom of expression and trade union activity to violence and ill treatment, medical neglect in prisons, arbitrary dismissal from employment, as well as violations of environmental and health rights.

Violations of the Right to Freedom of Expression

Several serious cases of restrictions on freedom of expression and protest activity were recorded in the region, where citizens were targeted because of digital posts or their participation in peaceful protests. These cases reflect a systematic pattern of restrictions on the fundamental rights to expression and protest.

In the governorate of Nabeul, on 22 January, 2024 citizen **Saber Chouchane** was arrested while receiving a physiotherapy session. He remained detained

for more than a week without his family being informed ,before being transferred between several prisons despite the absence of any terrorism-related charges in his file .He was charged under Articles 67 and 72 of the Penal Code ,in addition to Article 24 of Decree-Law No 54 .of ,2022 following social media posts in which he criticized the President of the Republic .On1 October ,2025 he was sentenced to death²¹.

In the same governorate ,on 9 July ,2025 journalist Montasser Sassi was summoned by the Judicial Police Brigade in Nabeul ,in what constitutes an infringement of his right to freedom of expression²².

In the governorate of Bizerte ,on 13 June ,2025 **a citizen** was arrested due to social media posts ,with the arrest carried out under Decree-Law No54 . of²³.2022

Another case in Bizerte involved the arrest of Alaa Eddine Hammami in July ,2025following his participation in a protest in the city of Menzel Bourguiba, during which he called for a boycott of the French retail chain Carrefour ²⁴.In the same context ,three students in the governorate of Nabeul were arrested on 22 July 2025 for similar reasons .These arrests reflect the expansion of restrictions on peaceful forms of expression ,whether in digital spaces or in public spaces ,particularly when such expression relates to protest movements or economic boycotts.

The documented cases indicate that the criminalization of expression and protest activity in Tunisia does not constitute isolated incidents ,but rather a recurring pattern of restrictions on fundamental rights ,where citizens are

21 Intersection Association” .2025 .Saber Chouchane 6 “.October .2025 Accessed 9 March.2025 <https://intersection.uno/freedom-faces%/D8%B5%D8%A7%D8%A8%D8%B1%-D8%B4%D9%88%D8%B4%D8%A7%D9%86/>

22 Al Horria“ .2025 .Journalist Montasser Sassi before the Judicial Police Unit in Nabeul 7 ”.July .2025 Accessed 9 March .2026 <https://alhorria.com%/2025/07/07/D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B5%D8%AD%D9%81%D9%8A%-D9%85%D9%86%D8%AA%D8%B5%D8%B1-%D8%B3%D8%A7%D8%B3%D9%8A%-D8%A3%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%85-%D9%81%D8%B1%D9%82%D8%A9%-D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B4%D8%B1%D8%B7%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9/>

23 The victim’s identity has been withheld for security reasons.

24 Rasd Tunisia Facebook Page .2025 .Facebook post .Accessed 9 March.2026 <https://www.facebook.com/share/p1/FRDqsbarG/>

targeted for digital expression or participation in peaceful mobilizations .This situation reflects a failure to comply with national and international obligations to protect freedom of expression and the right to peaceful assembly.

Arrests based on online posts or calls for protest violate fundamental rights and conflict with Articles 19 and 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights) ICCPR ,(which guarantee the right to freedom of opinion and expression and the right of peaceful assembly .Any restriction on these rights must be provided by law ,necessary ,and proportionate to a legitimate aim .The 2022 Constitution of Tunisia also guarantees freedom of expression and the right to claim rights without being subjected to arbitrary punishment.

The death sentence imposed on Saber Chouchane for publishing posts critical of the President constitutes a serious violation of the right to life and human dignity .This violation stands in contradiction with Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights ,Article 6 of the ICCPR ,and Article 4of the African Charter on Human and Peoples 'Rights ,in addition to the Nelson Mandela Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

Overall ,the documented cases reveal a clear pattern of restrictions on freedom of expression and protest activity ,manifested through arbitrary penalties imposed on citizens because of their opinions or participation in peaceful protests .Addressing these violations requires comprehensive reforms to ensure the protection of freedom of expression and peaceful assembly ,prevent arbitrary sanctions ,and ensure full compliance with national and international standards relating to civil ,economic ,and social rights and human dignity.

Violations of the Right to Organize and Trade Union Activity

The governorates of Bizerte ,Nabeul ,and Zaghouan witnessed several cases of restrictions on professional freedoms and trade union activity ,manifested through summonses ,threats ,and practices limiting freedom of union organization .These incidents reflect a systematic approach to restricting the economic ,social ,and political rights of workers.

In the governorate of Bizerte ,on

23October ,2025 Dr .Boulbaba Makhoulf ,a physician and trade unionist ,was summoned by the administration of Habib Bougatfa University Hospital for questioning regarding his trade union activities, in connection with protests that had taken place at the hospital ,despite the absence of any professional misconduct or breach of professional duties on his part .The regional secretary general of the Tunisian General Labour Union) UGTT (in



Bizerte stated that the summons was issued because of Makhoulf’s public and outspoken positions ,amounting to a clear targeting of trade union rights. He further noted that the situation resembled that of his late colleague ,Dr. Jad Hinchiri ,who had previously been subjected to similar pressures²⁵.

In the same governorate ,employees of the Regional Transport Company of Bizerte organized a protest to defend their trade union and social rights²⁶.

25 Rasd Tunisia .2025 .Facebook post .Accessed 9 March.2026 <https://www.facebook.com/share/p1/BvZEeu96r>

26 , Echaab News“ .2025 .Bizerte Transport Workers Hold Protest Demanding the Protection of

In addition ,workers in large retail stores in Bizerte carried out a strike on 10December 2025 to defend their rights within sectors including tourism, pensions ,and the food industry²⁷.

These incidents reveal serious breaches of national and international obligations .Article 41 of the 2022 Constitution guarantees the right to unionize and the right to strike ,while Article 40 protects the freedom to establish trade unions and conduct their activities without interference or intimidation. At the international level ,Articles ,7 ,6 and 8 of the International Covenant on Economic ,Social and Cultural Rights) ICESCR (protect the right to work, the right to just and favorable working conditions ,and the right to form and join trade unions ,including the right to strike .Similarly ,International Labour Organization) ILO (Conventions No 87 .and No 98 .guarantee trade union independence and prohibit interference or pressure on unions.

The standards requiring that any restrictions be necessary and proportionate were not respected in the documented cases .This indicates that administrative and security measures directed against trade unionists do not merely represent procedural irregularities ,but rather reflect a systematic policy aimed at undermining trade union rights and weakening workers' ability to defend their interests.

These violations are also closely linked to economic and social rights, particularly where workers face delays in wage payments ,unresolved professional status issues ,and persistent unemployment ,contributing to conditions of economic and social insecurity .Such circumstances expose workers to marginalization and psychological stress ,while revealing

Trade Union Rights and the Sustainability of the Company 6 ".October .2025 Accessed 9 March.2026 <https://:echaabnews.tn/ar/article%/35261/D8%A3%D8%B9%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%86-%D9%86%D9%82%D9%84%-D8%A8%D9%86%D8%B2%D8%B1%D8%AA-%D9%8A%D9%86%D9%81%D8%B0%D9%88%D9%86%-D9%88%D9%82%D9%81%D8%A9%-D8%A7%D8%AD%D8%AA%D8%AC%D8%A7%D8%AC%D9%8A%D8%A9%-D9%84%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B7%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A8%D8%A9%-D8%A8%D8%AA%D9%83%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%B3%-D8-%A7%D9%84%D8%AD%D9%82%-D8%A7%D9%84%D9%86%D9%82%D8%A7%D8%A8%D9%8A-%D9%88%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%85%D9%88%D9%85%D8%A9%-D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%A4%D8%B3%D8%B3%D8%A9>

27 Bizerte Regional Office of the Tunisian General Labour Union) UGTT ,(Facebook page.2025 . Facebook video .Accessed 9 March.2026

<https://:www.facebook.com/share/v1/BwwP55s2a/>

structural deficiencies in the system designed to protect labor rights .The effects of economic deprivation are further exacerbated by the absence of effective mechanisms for resolving labor disputes and the lack of oversight in enforcing labor regulations ,leaving workers more vulnerable to violations and harassment when exercising their trade union rights.

Accordingly ,violations of the right to trade union activity and decent work cannot be viewed as isolated incidents but rather as part of a broader institutional pattern combining administrative repression ,security interference ,and disregard for legal and economic safeguards .Addressing these violations requires comprehensive reforms ,including the protection of trade unions ,the timely payment of wages ,and the development of effective mechanisms for resolving labor disputes .Such reforms must align with constitutional guarantees and international standards ,ensuring the genuine exercise of economic and social rights without intimidation or discrimination.

Violations of the Right to Physical Integrity and Freedom from Ill Treatment

Several regions have recorded violations related to suspicious deaths, allegations of medical neglect ,and ill treatment in prisons.

In the governorate of Bizerte ,Khaled Mabrouki was arrested in December 2023and sentenced to one year of imprisonment .He was detained in Borj Erroumi prison despite medically documented psychological disorders .His condition deteriorated in detention as a result of ill treatment ,and on29 April 2025 he set fire to his body ,which led to his death²⁸.

In the governorate of Nabeul ,Nabil Maalaoui was arrested without a judicial ruling and placed in the Belli civil prison .He died after his health condition deteriorated due to medical neglect ,prison overcrowding ,and inadequate nutrition²⁹.

28 Intersection Association” .2026 .Khaled Mabrouki 10 “January .2026 Accessed 9 March.2026 <https://intersection.uno/freedom-faces%/D8%AE%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%-D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%A8%D8%B1%D9%88%D9%83%D9%8A/>

29 Intersection Association” .2025 .Nabil Maalaoui 8 “December .2025 Accessed 9 March.2026 <https://intersection.uno/freedom-faces%/d9%86%d8%a8%d9%8a%d9%84%-d8%a7%d9%84%d9%85%d8%b9%d9%84%d8%a7%d9%88%d9%8a/>

On 23 April ,2025 a bus driver in **the city of Nabeul** was also subjected to physical and verbal violence by security officers after he refused to stop outside the designated station for passengers to board and disembark .One of the officers had requested to board the bus at an unauthorized location. The trade union condemned this conduct ,considering it a direct assault on the dignity of a worker who was performing his duties in compliance with the regulations governing public transport³⁰.

The Tunisian State bears responsibility for protecting the life ,safety, and dignity of detainees in accordance with the 2022 Constitution and international obligations ,including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights ,the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ,the African Charter on Human and Peoples 'Rights ,and the Convention against Torture. These obligations include providing appropriate medical care ,protecting detainees from violence and ill treatment ,and ensuring communication with their families .The Nelson Mandela Rules further require that detainees receive health care equivalent to that available outside prison.

Cases such as those of Khaled Mabrouki in Bizerte and Nabil Maalaoui in Nabeul reveal serious failures to meet these obligations .Medical neglect and ill treatment contributed to the deterioration of their health and ultimately to their deaths ,constituting violations of the right to life ,the right to health ,and human dignity.

In the case of the bus driver in Nabeul ,the violence he experienced by security officers while performing his professional duties constitutes a violation of workers 'dignity and contravenes Article 42 of the 2022 Constitution and Article 7 of the International Covenant on Economic ,Social and Cultural Rights .It also conflicts with International Labour Organization Convention No 155 .concerning the provision of a safe working environment.

These incidents demonstrate that violations occurring in both prisons and workplaces reflect institutional shortcomings in the protection of human

30 Al Jazeera Channel“ .2025 .Networks | Tunisian Bus Driver Beaten by Security Officers in Nabeul 24 ”.April .2025 Accessed 9 March.2026
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tJO6Z5yKQbk>

rights .Addressing these issues requires the opening of independent investigations ,accountability for those responsible ,strengthening health care within prisons ,and ensuring safe working conditions ,in full compliance with national and international standards for the protection of life ,dignity, and both physical and psychological integrity.

Violations of the Right to Work

The” Nani “factory ,located in Sidi Toumi in the delegation of Beni Khalled in the governorate of Nabeul ,experienced significant social tensions in February 2026 following the implementation of collective dismissal decisions affecting approximately 60 workers ,including permanently employed staff. These dismissals occurred after workers had carried out a lawful strike to demand the regularization of their professional status and the recognition of their basic economic and social rights.

According to the available information ,the dismissals were carried out with direct security support ,as police vehicles were deployed in front of the factory to prevent workers from accessing their workplace .This situation reflects the use of public force in a labour dispute of a social nature and reinforces a logic of deterrence rather than the activation of dialogue and negotiation mechanisms .These measures generated considerable frustration and anger among the workers and their families ,particularly as women represent a significant proportion of those dismissed ,thereby exacerbating the social and economic impact of the decisions.

The situation did not stop there .The factory management subsequently dismissed an additional 10 workers from the evening shift ,including six women and four men ,in what appears to be a clear escalation of punitive measures .Several workers were also informed of the termination of their employment through text messages ,without respect for the legal procedures governing the termination of employment relationships and without granting them guarantees of defence or access to dispute resolution mechanisms. These practices amount to cases of arbitrary and sudden dismissal.

These violations are particularly serious given that they occurred after previous commitments had been made to regularize workers' professional situations and reinstate them in their positions, reflecting a retreat from earlier promises and an absence of good faith in the management of the social conflict. The use of dismissal as a response to a lawful strike undermines the right to work, the right to trade union organization, and the right to strike, all of which are constitutionally guaranteed rights and protected under international standards relating to economic and social rights.

Article 46 of the 2022 Constitution guarantees the right to work, while Article 41 also enshrines trade union rights and the right to strike. Any dismissal carried out in response to the exercise of these rights therefore constitutes a direct infringement of explicit constitutional guarantees.

At the international level, Articles 7, 6 and 8 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights guarantee the right to work under fair conditions, as well as freedom of trade union organization and the right to strike, which may only be restricted under conditions of necessity and proportionality. In addition, International Labour Organization Conventions No 87 and No 98 prohibit any discrimination or retaliation on the basis of trade union activity.

Accordingly, collective dismissals linked to a lawful strike, particularly when accompanied by the use of public force in a labour dispute, raise serious concerns regarding violations of freedom of association and the right to decent work, as well as a failure by the State to fulfil its obligation to protect economic and social rights and to maintain neutrality in labour disputes.

What occurred at the "Nani" factory cannot be regarded as an isolated incident; rather, it forms part of a growing climate of precarious labour relations in which the termination of employment contracts is increasingly used as a tool to silence legitimate social demands, in a context marked by weak mechanisms for effectively protecting workers from arbitrariness and professional retaliation.

Violations of the Right to a Healthy Environment

The Wadi Hajjar area ,located in the delegation of Kelibia **in the governorate of Nabeul** ,has been experiencing ongoing environmental degradation .The area has effectively become a site for waste accumulation and the discharge of polluted water ,causing clear damage to the coastal environment, particularly Ain Grenz beach .This situation has persisted for an extended period despite repeated warnings and alerts from local residents regarding its dangers .The authorities concerned have largely limited their response to temporary measures that have failed to address the root causes of the problem³¹.

In testimony provided in January ,2026 a resident named Asma ³²stated that foul odors have become part of the daily life of local inhabitants and that the flow of polluted water has become a familiar sight ,particularly following heavy rainfall .This situation has directly affected the health of residents and the safety of the beach ,which had previously served both as a natural recreational space and as a seasonal economic resource .She also noted that residents 'complaints have been met only with postponed promises or superficial interventions whose effects quickly disappear ,reinforcing a growing sense of neglect and the absence of accountability.

This situation cannot be considered an isolated incident .Rather ,it represents a pattern observed in several coastal areas where weak environmental infrastructure intersects with the absence of effective oversight mechanisms, leading to the gradual degradation of natural spaces and posing a direct threat to the rights of residents.

Article 47 of the 2022 Constitution guarantees the right to a healthy and

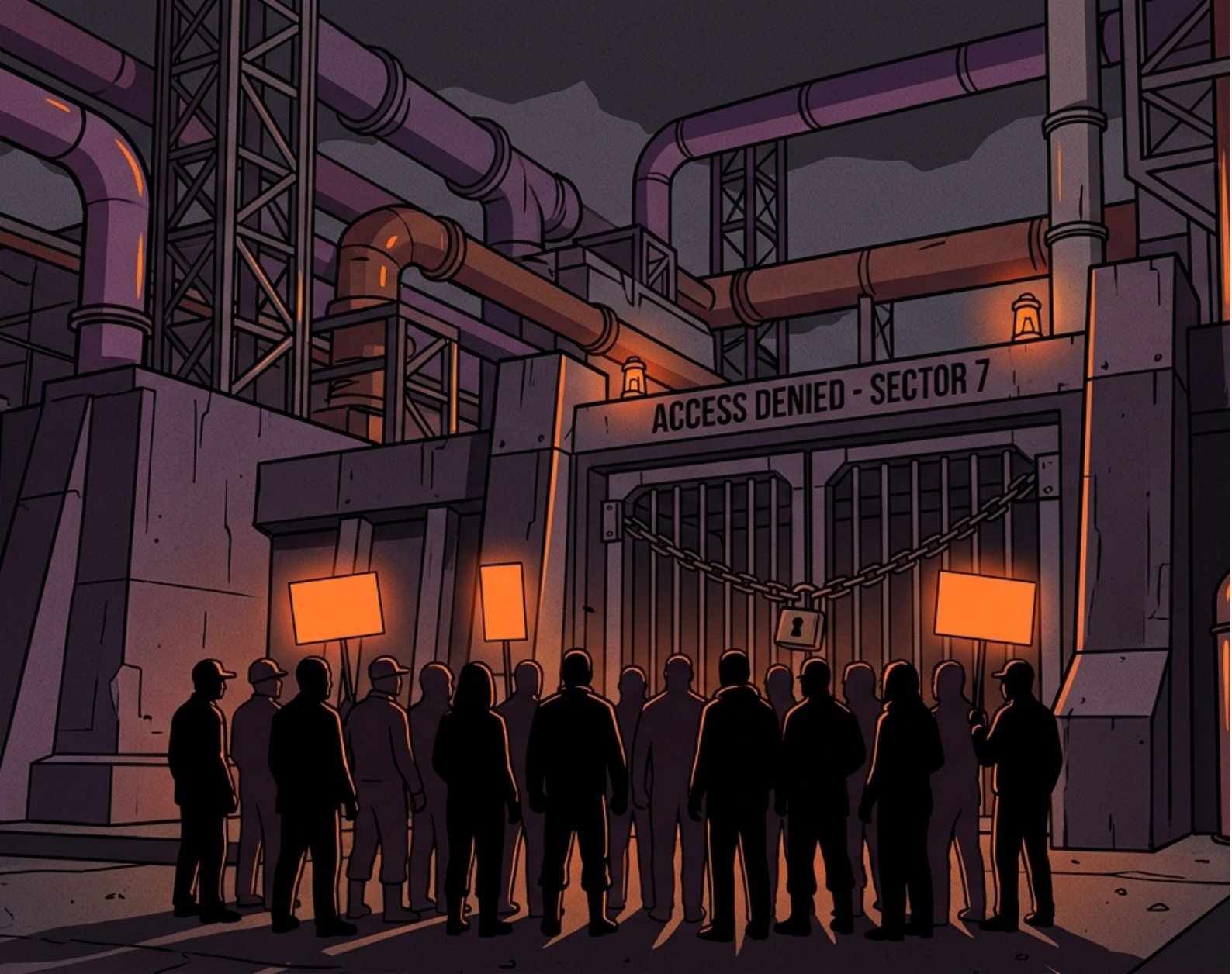
31 Agency Tunis Afrique Press ,2025 ,Tunisia :President Saied urges measures against environmental violations ,July ,11 Accessed on .09/03/2026 <https://www.zawya.com/en/economy/north-africa/tunisia-president-saied-urges-measures-against-environmental-violations-vw99xr3m>

32 The victim's identity has been withheld for security reasons.

balanced environment and obliges the State to take measures to eliminate pollution .The continued use of Wadi Hajjar as a dumping site for waste and the discharge of polluted water ,without structural remediation ,therefore constitutes a failure by the State to fulfil its positive obligations of prevention and protection .This situation may be characterized as a violation by omission, where responsibility arises from the failure to intervene to prevent harm or mitigate its effects.

This situation is also closely linked to the right to health ,enshrined in Article 43of the Constitution ,which places on the State the responsibility to ensure preventive measures and the conditions necessary for healthy living .Article 12of the International Covenant on Economic ,Social and Cultural Rights further affirms that improving environmental and industrial hygiene forms an essential component of the right to health .The spread of waste and the pollution of coastal waters therefore represent not merely an environmental issue but a direct threat to the physical and psychological well being of residents.

Accordingly ,the situation observed in the Wadi Hajjar area reflects a failure to respect the principles of prevention and precaution recognized in environmental law .It calls for urgent intervention based on structural remediation ,accountability ,and the protection of citizens 'rights to a healthy environment ,good health ,and a dignified life.



3-Central East Region: Sousse, Mahdia, Monastir, and Sfax

During the period covered by this report ,the governorates of the Central East region recorded several violations primarily related to freedom of expression, physical integrity ,and environmental and health rights .The documented information reveals a notable reliance on a security-based approach in addressing certain incidents of a social or individual nature ,alongside a relative weakness in protection ,oversight ,and accountability mechanisms .It also highlights structural shortcomings in the management of environmental issues ,particularly in coastal areas.

Violations of the Right to Freedom of Expression

The Central East region witnessed several violations of freedom of expression, including the following:

In the governorate of Sfax, on 25 July, 2025 a rap singer³³ was arrested following a police raid on his home. During the raid, recordings from surveillance cameras and a security uniform belonging to his father, a retired security officer, were seized. Security forces took him to the headquarters of the Sfax 1 regional security district, where the investigating officer questioned him about the content of some of his songs, which were considered to contain material affecting security, as well as about photos he had posted on social media, in which he appeared wearing a security uniform.³⁴

In the same governorate, on 29 August, 2025 a young citizen was arrested and referred to the military court following a social media post in which he criticized the military hospital³⁵.

Also in the same governorate, a supporter of the Club Sportif Sfaxien was arrested on 20 September 2025 after celebrating and lighting a flare as a symbolic expression of celebration³⁶.

These repeated violations of freedom of expression and individual activity constitute a breach of Articles 25 and 35 of the 2022 Constitution, which stipulate that the State guarantees the protection of human dignity and bodily integrity and prohibits torture in all its forms without limitation periods. They also provide that no person may be arrested or detained except in cases of flagrante delicto or pursuant to a judicial decision, and that detainees must be informed of their rights and the charges against them, allowed to appoint legal counsel, and held only for a legally defined period of detention.

These violations also contravene Articles 21, 19, 17 and 14 of the International

33 The victim's identity has been withheld for security reasons.

34 Source :Intersection Association Database.

35 Source :Intersection Association Database.

36 Source :Intersection Association Database.

Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ,which protect freedom of expression, the right to privacy ,the right to peaceful assembly ,and fair trial guarantees. The use of criminal proceedings and judicial prosecution against individuals because of their opinions or peaceful activities represents a disproportionate restriction on fundamental rights and calls for accountability for those responsible ,as well as the effective protection of citizens 'constitutional and international rights

Violations of the Right to Physical Integrity and Freedom from Ill Treatment

Violations related to physical integrity and protection from ill treatment were recorded in several instances ,as detailed below.

In the governorate of Monastir ,on 24 and 27 March ,2025 reports indicated that the owners of **an auto repair workshop** and members of the same family were subjected to physical violence ,dragging ,and forced entry into their homes and workplace by security forces .These actions were accompanied by the forced arrest of several individuals ³⁷.These incidents form part of a series of non isolated violations documented in several regions ,reflecting a troubling pattern in the conduct of security forces toward citizens within private spaces.

In the governorate of Sfax ,Wassim Hafez Jaziri was arrested on 4 May 2025by security forces without being informed of his rights or having access to legal counsel .He was subsequently placed in detention despite suffering from psychological disorders requiring regular treatment .During his

37 Echaab News“ .2025 .The Monastir Branch of the Tunisian League for the Defense of Human Rights Condemns the Violence in the City of Sahline 6 ”.October .2025 Accessed 9 March.2025 <https://echaabnews.tn/ar/article%/32093/D9%87%D9%8A%D8%A6%D8%A9-%D9%81%D8%B1%D8%B9%-D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D9%86%D8%B3%D8%AA%D9%8A%D8%B1%-D9%84%D9%84%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%A8%D8%B7%D8%A9%-D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D9%88%D9%86%D8%B3%D9%8A%D8%A9%-D9%84%D9%84%D8%AF%D9%81%D8%A7%D8%B9%-D8%B9%D9%86%-D8%AD%D9%82%D9%88%D9%82%-D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D9-%86%D8%B3%D8%A7%D9%86%-D8%AA%D8%B3%D8%AA%D9%86%D9%83%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D9%86%D9%81-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AD%D8%A7%D8%B5%D9%84%-D9%81%D9%8A%-D9%85%D8%-AF%D9%8A%D9%86%D8%A9%-D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%A7%D8%AD%D9%84%D9%8A%D9%86>

detention ,his health condition deteriorated due to difficulties in accessing his medication and poor detention conditions ,and he reportedly experienced health complications and breathing difficulties .After appearing before an investigating judge on 14 July 2025 while in a state of severe exhaustion, he was returned to prison ,where he died on the same day in suspicious circumstances³⁸.

In the governorate of Mahdia ,on 20 September ,2025 a citizen was reported to have been subjected to suspected torture and ill treatment by prison officers and the director of Mahdia prison after undertaking a hunger strike³⁹. He reportedly continued to suffer from the consequences of this treatment until his release on 20 September⁴⁰ .2025

In the governorate of Monastir ,on 25 December ,2025 a university student was reported to have been subjected to suspected torture and violations of bodily integrity inside a police station⁴¹.

In the governorate of Sfax ,on 6 December ,2025 Ayoub Hamrouni was subjected to violence at the time of his arrest ,when security officers used tear gas against him .While attempting to flee ,he fell from a height of approximately eight meters ,resulting in fractures .Despite his critical health condition ,available information indicates that he was subjected to further violence before being transferred to hospital and later returned to detention.

His wife ,who was pregnant ,also reported that she was subjected to violence during her husband’s arrest .She further stated that she experienced harassment and intimidation from one of the security officers while inside the police station⁴².

38 Intersection Association” .2025 .Wassim Hafez Jaziri 29 “.July .2025 Accessed 9 March.2026 <https://intersection.uno/freedom-faces%/D9%88%D8%B3%D9%8A%D9%85-%D8%AD%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%B8%-D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AC%D8%B2%D9%8A%D8%B1%D9%8A/>

39 The victim’s identity has been withheld for security reasons.

40 Source :Intersection Association Database.

41 Source :Intersection Association Database.

42 Source :Intersection Association Database.

The incidents recorded in the governorates of Monastir ,Sfax ,and Mahdia reveal serious violations of physical integrity and detainees 'rights ,including physical violence ,ill treatment ,arbitrary arrests ,and denial of medical care, including the death of Wassim Hafez Jaziri in prison .Violations were also recorded in workplaces and homes ,where security forces carried out forced entries and used violence during arrests ,thereby infringing on the inviolability of private spaces and the dignity of individuals.

The 2022 Constitution of Tunisia guarantees ,under Article ,25 the protection of human dignity and bodily integrity and prohibits torture and all forms of cruel ,inhuman ,or degrading treatment .Article 36 further guarantees the right of detainees to humane treatment that preserves their dignity. In addition ,the Tunisian Penal Code and the Code of Conduct for Security Officers prohibit torture and ill treatment and require officers to protect the physical and psychological integrity of individuals.

At the international level ,Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights prohibits torture and cruel ,inhuman ,or degrading treatment, while Article 6 guarantees the right to life and Article 10 guarantees the right of all detainees to humane treatment .Article 17 of the same Covenant protects individuals from arbitrary interference with their private life and homes ,while Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights guarantees the right to life ,liberty ,and security of person.

The Convention against Torture ,to which Tunisia is a party ,obliges the State to take all necessary measures to prevent torture and punish those responsible .The United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners) the Nelson Mandela Rules (also require that detainees receive health care equivalent to that available in the community and guarantee immediate access to treatment in urgent cases ,including mental health emergencies.

The failure to respect procedural safeguards ,the lack of adequate medical care ,and the occurrence of ill treatment constitute systematic violations of

fundamental rights and breaches of international standards .These violations require the opening of independent investigations ,accountability for those responsible ,and the strengthening of oversight mechanisms to ensure the protection of the right to life and human dignity and to prevent the recurrence of such abuses.

Violations of the Right to a Healthy Environment

The governorate of Sfax ,particularly the delegation of Kerkennah ,has been experiencing accelerating environmental degradation as a result of the accumulation of demolition waste and the absence of adequate legal dumping sites .This situation has led to the accumulation of millions of tons of waste and widespread pollution threatening both terrestrial and marine ecosystems .The situation has persisted in the absence of serious and sustainable official intervention ,whether through technical solutions or preventive public policies ,while coastal erosion has intensified and the shoreline has receded in several inhabited areas ,particularly during the summer of⁴³.2025

A resident of the Kerkennah Island ⁴⁴reported that“ demolition waste is dumped near the beach and around residential areas without oversight ,and every summer the land retreats before the sea while odors and pollution increase ,leaving residents to face the danger alone ”.This testimony reflects the daily hardships faced by residents and the absence of effective environmental protection.

Article 47 of the 2022 Constitution affirms that the State guarantees the right to a healthy and balanced environment and commits to providing the necessary means to eliminate environmental pollution ,including protecting the climate and ensuring the safety of citizens .However ,the continued accumulation of waste and the absence of legal disposal sites constitute a clear failure to fulfil

43 Reuters Connect ,2025 ,Coastal erosion accelerates in Tunisia threatening livelihoods²⁹ ,th July ,Accessed on .09/03/2026 :<https://www.reutersconnect.com/item/coastal-erosion-accelerates-in-tunisia-threatening-livelihoods/dGFnOnJldXRLcnMuY29tLDIwMjU6bmV3c21sX1ZBMzA5MjI4MDcyMDI1UjAx>

44 The victim's identity has been withheld for security reasons.

this obligation and may be characterized as a” violation by omission “under international standards ,whereby the State bears responsibility for failing to take the measures necessary to prevent environmental harm or mitigate its effects.

The ongoing pollution has also resulted in the discharge of wastewater and industrial waste into coastal waters ,rendering certain coastal areas unsuitable for human use and creating increasing health risks for both residents and visitors ,particularly during tourist seasons ,due to chemical and biological pollutants.

The right to health is closely linked to the right to a healthy environment. Article 43 of the Constitution requires the State to protect citizens from health risks ,while Article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights affirms the obligation of States to ensure the protection of health and the prevention of environmental hazards .Continued environmental pollution also represents an indirect threat to the right to life and dignity guaranteed under Article 24 of the Constitution ,as it undermines the ability of individuals to live in safe and healthy conditions and calls for urgent intervention to ensure a healthy environment and the protection of residents ’fundamental rights.

The continued environmental degradation in the delegation of Kerkennah therefore constitutes a clear violation of constitutional and international obligations ,including Article 47 of the Constitution recognizing the right to a healthy environment ,Article 43 guaranteeing the right to health ,and Article 24protecting the rights to life and dignity.

The International Covenant on Economic ,Social and Cultural Rights) Article (12likewise requires States to protect health from environmental risks ,while the interpretation of the Committee on Economic ,Social and Cultural Rights emphasizes the close interdependence between a healthy environment,

human health ,and the right to live in dignity.

The State's failure to act by not taking the necessary preventive and administrative measures to prevent environmental harm constitutes a breach of its positive obligations and reflects a violation of citizens 'environmental, health ,and social rights.

Accordingly,the environmental situation in Kerkennah represents a continuing threat to fundamental rights and requires urgent and comprehensive intervention based on accountability and the effective implementation of preventive policies to protect the environment and safeguard the health and safety of



4- Central-West Region: Kairouan, Kasserine, and Sidi Bouzid

During the period from March 2025 to February ,2026 the Central-West region witnessed a continuation of several violations related to physical integrity ,the right to life ,and the freedom of peaceful assembly and protest. These developments occurred within a social context marked by economic vulnerability and rising public discontent .The cases documented in this section reflect a number of issues related to the management of social mobilization and security interventions ,and the potential use of force or restrictions on civic space that may accompany them .This raises questions regarding the effectiveness of oversight and accountability mechanisms.

Violations of the Right to Freedom of Expression

The region recorded several violations affecting the right to freedom of expression ,including the following cases:

In the governorate of Kairouan ,environmental activist Khaled Tayahi was referred to the Court of First Instance on charges of“ offending others or disturbing their peace through public telecommunications networks ”,under Article 86 of the Telecommunications Code .This followed a social media post he published on 19 April 2025 criticizing water shortages in the Mazzouna area and responding to a statement by the brother of one of the students who died after a wall collapsed at a school⁴⁵.

In the same governorate ,on 15 July ,2025 journalist Najeh Zaghdoudi was subjected to legal proceedings after being summoned for questioning in connection with his documentation and reporting on the waste ,dirt ,and debris that had spread throughout the city of Kairouan⁴⁶.

The documented incidents indicate that both environmental activist Khaled Tayahi and journalist Najeh Zaghdoudi were subject to legal proceedings in relation to expressive activities addressing matters of public concern, including water shortages and environmental conditions in the governorate of Kairouan .These prosecutions raise questions regarding their compatibility with constitutional and international guarantees of freedom of expression.

Article 37 of the 2022 Constitution of the Republic of Tunisia guarantees freedom of opinion ,thought ,expression ,information ,and publication. Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights) ICCPR(also guarantees the right of everyone to hold opinions without interference and to express them freely .Although this right may be subject to certain restrictions ,international law requires that such restrictions be provided by law and be necessary and proportionate to a legitimate aim.

45 Intersection Association” .2025 .Khaled Tayahi “.Freedom Faces database entry 25 ,June .2025 Accessed 9 March .2026 <https://intersection.uno/freedom-faces/%D8%AE%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D9%8A%D8%A7%D9%87%D9%8A-khaled-tayahi/>

46 Source :Intersection Association Database.

In this context ,the application of Article 86 of the Telecommunications Code in cases related to the expression of views on matters of public interest has repeatedly raised concerns regarding its compatibility with international standards ,particularly when it concerns criticism of public policies or documentation of social and environmental conditions .According to General Comment No 34 .of the Human Rights Committee ,restrictions on expression must be interpreted narrowly ,especially when they concern matters of public interest.

Accordingly ,these cases may reflect a tendency to resort to criminal law mechanisms in addressing issues related to civic or journalistic expression, which calls for an assessment of whether the principles of necessity and proportionality are respected in such proceedings.

Violations of the Right to Physical Integrity and Protection from Ill-Treatment

Several violations of the right to physical integrity and protection from ill-treatment were documented ,including the case of Ibrahim Dhibi in the governorate of Kasserine .On 27 March ,2025 he was reportedly subjected to violence by the head of a police station ,in an incident that raises concerns about possible ill-treatment and the use of force outside the legal framework. The incident reportedly involved both physical and verbal abuse ,constituting a direct threat to the individual’s safety and dignity⁴⁷.

In November ,2025 a case of death was also recorded involving Naeim Briki, who lost his life while in custody during a security intervention involving excessive and disproportionate use of force ,reflecting a breach of the constitutional and international guarantees of the right to life.

Naeim Briki 30) years old (died in Kairouan as a result of injuries he sustained during a police chase ,according to local and regional media reports .The

47 Politiket Facebook Page .2025 .Facebook Reel .Accessed 9 March.2026
<https://www.facebook.com/reel2334424920271677/>

incident sparked public protests in the” Ali Bey “neighbourhood in central Kairouan ,which escalated into nighttime confrontations between young residents and security forces .Security forces used tear gas to disperse the demonstrators ,while some youths threw stones and burned tires.

The protests led to the arrest of approximately 21 protesters .Twenty of them were later released ,while others were placed in detention pending judicial deliberations .The public prosecutor also ordered the opening of an investigation into the circumstances surrounding Briki’s death.

The documented information indicates that Ibrahim Dhibi was subjected to violence by the head of a police station in the governorate of Kasserine on 27 March .2025 If confirmed ,this incident may constitute a violation of guarantees related to the protection of physical integrity and bodily inviolability.

Article 25 of the Constitution of the Republic of Tunisia enshrines the protection of human dignity and bodily integrity and prohibits torture and cruel ,inhuman ,or degrading treatment .At the international level ,Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights) ICCPR (establishes the absolute prohibition of torture and ill-treatment.

The Convention against Torture (1984) further obliges States to take effective measures to prevent all forms of torture or ill-treatment ,including ensuring prompt and effective investigations into allegations of violence by law enforcement officials.

Accordingly ,any allegations of violence by security officials require an independent and transparent investigation to ensure accountability and prevent the recurrence of such violations.

The documented information also refers to the death of Naeim Briki following injuries sustained during a police chase in the governorate of Kairouan .This incident raises serious questions regarding the circumstances surrounding the use of force during the security intervention.

Article 24 of the Constitution of the Republic of Tunisia stipulates that the right to life is sacred and may only be restricted in exceptional circumstances determined by law .Article 6 of the ICCPR also guarantees the protection of the right to life.

The UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials affirm that the use of force must be necessary ,proportionate ,and used only as a last resort.

In this context ,it becomes essential to conduct an independent and effective investigation to determine the circumstances of the incident and assess whether these standards were respected ,particularly in cases where security interventions result in serious injury or death.

Violations of the Right to Peaceful Assembly

Protests erupted in the Mazzouna area in the governorate of Sidi Bouzid following the collapse of a school wall that resulted in the death of three students .Residents expressed social demands related to development and the improvement of public services .Security forces intervened to disperse the protesters ,which reportedly resulted in injuries and arrests ,according to local testimonies.

Article 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights) ICCPR(guarantees the right to peaceful assembly ,while allowing for certain restrictions when they are necessary to protect public order ,public safety, or the rights of others.

In this context ,the security response to social protests raises questions regarding respect for the principle of proportionality in the use of force, particularly in cases where injuries or arrests occur .Ensuring the right to peaceful protest constitutes an essential component of civic participation in the management of public affairs.



5- Southeast Region: Gabès, Medenine, and Tataouine

The Southeast region witnessed several violations related to freedom of expression ,the right to peaceful assembly ,and physical integrity ,within a context marked by growing social and environmental demands ,particularly those related to the right to a healthy environment and equitable development. The cases documented in this section indicate recurring tensions between environmental civic mobilization and security interventions ,raising questions about the extent to which constitutional guarantees and international standards concerning the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms are respected.

Violations of the Right to Freedom of Expression

Environmental activist Islam Zrili ,from the Chatt Essalem area in the governorate of Gabès ,was reportedly subjected to violations while documenting cases of students experiencing breathing difficulties at the Gabès City Preparatory School ,which were attributed to emissions from the Tunisian Chemical Group.

In December ,2025 Zrili went to the Gabès City High School to document cases of students suffering from breathing difficulties ,following requests from several parents .He began a live broadcast on his Facebook page .Shortly after the broadcast began ,a security officer in plain clothes approached him and asked him to stop filming ,attempting to seize his phone and threatening to arrest him and initiate legal proceedings against him on the grounds that he was filming inside an educational institution.

Zrili was then taken by force to a police station and was prevented from contacting his relatives or friends during his detention .He also reported being subjected to verbal abuse and insults while in custody .Later ,the director of the educational institution ,who had filed the complaint against him ,arrived at the station and agreed to withdraw the complaint on the condition that he delete the video and sign a written commitment not to film again in the future .He was subsequently released⁴⁸.

This incident raises questions regarding respect for the right to freedom of expression ,particularly when it comes to documenting matters of public interest such as environmental and public health issues .Article 37 of the 2022 Constitution of the Republic of Tunisia guarantees freedom of opinion ,thought ,expression ,information ,and publication .Article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights) ICCPR (also stipulates the right of everyone to express their opinions without interference.

The arrest and transfer of the activist to a police station without a clear

48 Intersection Association” .2025 .Islam Zrili “.Freedom Faces database entry 10 ,December .2025 Accessed 9 March.2026

<https://:intersection.uno/freedom-faces%/D8%A5%D8%B3%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%85%-D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B2%D8%B1%D9%84%D9%8A/>

explanation of the legal basis for the arrest also raises questions concerning guarantees of personal liberty and security ,particularly in light of Law No5 . of 2016 on the Guarantees for Persons in Custody ,which provides several procedural safeguards ,including the right of detainees to inform their family and communicate with a lawyer.

Furthermore ,the verbal abuse and insults that the activist reported experiencing during detention raise concerns regarding respect for the humane treatment and dignity of detainees ,principles that are affirmed both by the Tunisian Constitution and by international human rights standards.

Violations of the Right to Peaceful Assembly

During ,2025 the governorate of Gabès witnessed a number of protest movements primarily linked to environmental concerns arising from the activities of the Tunisian Chemical Group and their potential health impacts on local residents.

In this context ,Dali Rtimi and two other young men were arrested following their participation in a protest in the region .Available information indicates that Rtimi intervened to protect a citizen who was being subjected to violence during the protest ,before he himself was assaulted and taken to a police station ,where he reported being subjected to violence during detention⁴⁹.

On 27 May ,2025 three activists were also arrested while traveling to the capital ,Tunis ,in connection with their participation in the” Stop Pollution“ protest movement⁵⁰.

49 Intersection Association for Rights and Freedoms ,2025 ,Dali Rtimi 26 ,May ,last accessed09 : March.2026

<https://intersection.uno/%D8%A3%D8%B7%D9%84%D9%82%D9%88%D8%A7-%D8%B3%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%AD-%D8%AF%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B1%D8%AA%D9%8A%D9%85%D9%8A-%D8%A3%D8%B7%D9%84%D9%82%D9%88%D8%A7-%D8%B3%D8%B1%D8%A7%D8%AD-%D8%B4/>

50 Source :Intersection Association Database.

Furthermore ,between 14 and 17 October ,2025 security measures targeted several participants in environmental mobilizations .Approximately56 individuals were prosecuted in connection with their participation in these protests ,facing charges including” disturbing public order⁵¹“.

Article 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights) ICCPR(guarantees the right to peaceful assembly ,while Article 42 of the2022 Constitution of the Republic of Tunisia affirms the protection of freedom of assembly and peaceful protest .Although certain restrictions on this right may be imposed by law ,such restrictions must be necessary and proportionate to a legitimate aim.

In this context ,arrests and prosecutions related to participation in environmental protests raise questions regarding compliance with these standards ,particularly when the mobilizations are peaceful and aim to express social and environmental demands.

Moreover ,the use of broad charges such as” disturbing public order “against participants in peaceful protests may raise concerns regarding the clarity of the legal basis for such prosecutions and respect for the procedural guarantees afforded to protesters.

Violations of the Right to Physical Integrity and Protection from Torture

Following the protest movements that took place in the governorate of Gabès in October ,2025 security interventions were reported that resulted in injuries among several protesters.

On 12 October ,2025 Mohamed Amine Cherif lost one of his eyes during the protests ⁵².In the same context ,Moaz Ben Barka was reportedly run over by a security vehicle while leaving his home to participate in the demonstrations.

In a separate incident on 21 October ,2025 one detainee reported being

51 Source :Intersection Association Database.

52 Source :Intersection Association Database.

subjected to alleged ill-treatment and being denied medical care during his period of detention.

These incidents raise serious concerns regarding respect for the right to physical integrity and bodily inviolability, rights guaranteed under Article 25 of the Constitution of the Republic of Tunisia, which prohibits torture and cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment.

At the international level, Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) (establishes the absolute prohibition of torture and ill-treatment, while Article 10 of the same Covenant affirms that all persons deprived of their liberty must be treated with humanity and with respect for their dignity.

The UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials further emphasize that the use of force must be necessary and proportionate, and should only be employed as a last resort.

These incidents highlight the importance of conducting independent and effective investigations to determine the circumstances surrounding the injuries reported during the protests and to ensure accountability where violations are established.



6- Southwest Region: Gafsa, Kebili, and Tozeur

During the reporting period ,the Southwest region witnessed several cases related to freedom of expression ,the right to peaceful assembly ,and economic and social rights ,within a context marked by continued social mobilization linked to development and economic demands in the region .The cases documented in this section indicate recurring tensions between peaceful civic expression ,whether in the digital space or during social mobilizations, and security interventions or judicial proceedings .This raises questions regarding the extent to which constitutional guarantees and international standards related to the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms are respected.

Violations of the Right to Freedom of Expression

In the context of prosecutions related to expression on social media ,a case of judicial proceedings against a citizen in the governorate of Gafsa was documented following posts published on his Facebook page on 13 July ⁵³.2025

Available information indicates that these proceedings were initiated in response to the expression of his views on a social media platform ,reflecting recourse to judicial action in matters related to expression in the digital space.

This incident raises questions regarding respect for the right to freedom of expression guaranteed under Article 37 of the 2022 Constitution of the Republic of Tunisia ,which protects freedom of opinion ,thought ,expression, information ,and publication ,including expression through digital media and social networking platforms.

Article 55 of the Constitution further provides that any restrictions on rights and freedoms must be established by law ,justified by a legitimate aim ,and necessary and proportionate to the objective pursued .In this context ,judicial proceedings related to the peaceful expression of opinions in the digital sphere raise questions regarding compliance with these requirements.

This case highlights the importance of ensuring a balance between the application of the law and the protection of freedom of expression ,particularly when individuals express their views on matters of public interest.

Violations of the Right to Peaceful Assembly

The association documented a case in which a woman was subjected to violence while participating in a protest in the governorate of Gafsa on 4August .2025 Available information indicates that the incident occurred during a security intervention aimed at dispersing the protesters.

Article 21 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights) ICCPR(guarantees the right to peaceful assembly .Similarly ,Article 42 of the2022 Constitution of the Republic of Tunisia affirms the protection of freedom of assembly and peaceful protest.

While the law permits certain restrictions on this right in specific circumstances ,such restrictions must be necessary and proportionate to the legitimate aim of protecting public order or the rights of others .In this context ,the use of force in the management of protests raises questions regarding respect for the principles of necessity and proportionality in law enforcement interventions.

Any potential physical assault during the management of public assemblies may also raise concerns regarding respect for the right to physical integrity and bodily inviolability ,which is guaranteed under Article 25 of the Constitution, prohibiting torture and cruel ,inhuman ,or degrading treatment.

Violations of the Right to Work

A case related to economic and social rights was recorded involving protests organized by 25 female cleaning workers ⁵⁴at the Regional Hospital of Gafsa on 16 January ,2026 after they had worked for seven months without receiving their wages.

The workers stated that they had continued working during this period while awaiting the regularization of their professional and financial situation .They also indicated that their files were still under consideration by the relevant authorities ,according to information provided to them during a visit by the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Health.

The workers reported that they continued working during this period while awaiting the settlement of their professional and financial status .They also indicated that their files remained under review by the relevant authorities ,according to information provided to them during a visit by the Secretary-General of the Ministry of Health⁵⁵.

54 Their identities have been withheld to protect their safety.

55 Source :Intersection Association Database.

This situation raises questions regarding respect for the right to work under fair conditions and the right to receive remuneration for work performed. Article 46 of the Constitution of the Republic of Tunisia provides that work is a right for every citizen ,and that the State shall seek to ensure decent working conditions and fair wages.

The Labour Code also establishes the right of workers to receive wages in exchange for work performed and obliges employers to pay wages within the prescribed time limits.

At the international level ,Article 7 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights) ICESCR (guarantees the right of every worker to the enjoyment of just and favourable conditions of work ,including fair remuneration for work performed.

This case highlights the importance of ensuring respect for the economic and social rights of female workers and of resolving their professional and financial situation within a reasonable timeframe ,in accordance with constitutional guarantees and international standards related to decent work.



Second: Intersectionality of Violations and Regional Specificities

An analytical reading of the map of violations shows that their distribution is not linked to isolated situational factors ,but rather reflects an unequal territorial and social structure in which geography becomes a determining factor in the nature ,intensity ,and accountability of violations .Place is therefore not a neutral framework but an influential factor ,as violations tend to intensify where economic vulnerability ,weak infrastructure ,and the decline of equitable public policies converge.

The intersectional approach also reveals that rights are not violated in isolation but within an interconnected framework .**Environmental harm affects health and the right to a dignified life ,while restrictions on freedom of expression weaken the ability to organize and to advocate for economic and social rights .Consequently ,any fragmented analysis that overlooks**

these interconnections risks obscuring the roots of the problem rather than addressing them.

In central regions with greater political and media influence ,violations tend to concentrate around civil and political rights ,such as prosecutions related to expression or the suppression of protests ,reflecting the higher level of political and media visibility in these areas .In contrast ,interior regions display a different intersectional pattern ,where the fragility of basic services intersects with economic marginalization .Social protests in these areas are often met with a security oriented response rather than development oriented solutions ,further deepening the sense of exclusion.

In border regions ,particularly those linked to migration dynamics ,violations of the rights to life ,freedom of movement ,and non discrimination intersect with institutional fragilities in the management of migration ,reflecting the absence of a comprehensive rights based approach .The environment also emerges as a cross cutting area ,as pollution generates a chain of health, social ,and economic violations ,highlighting the structural interdependence between rights.

The analysis also reveals a gap between the actual scale of violations and the extent to which they are expressed .A higher frequency of protests may reflect the strength of civic organization rather than necessarily indicating higher levels of violations ,while other regions may experience forced silence despite the seriousness of the situation.

Finally ,the responsibility of the State extends to both violations resulting from direct actions ,such as the use of force and restrictions on freedoms ,and violations by omission arising from failures to ensure economic and social rights .In both cases ,the State remains responsible for protecting rights equally across the entire national territory .This requires structural reform that integrates territorial and intersectional dimensions into public policies.



Patterns of Violations

Northwest Region: Béja, Jendouba, Kef, and Siliana

Based on the data presented in this section 97 ,documented cases of human rights and social violations were recorded in the Northwest region during ,2025distributed as follows:

30 Right to freedom of expression



31 Violations of physical integrity



NOT SPECIFIED

Right to a fair trial



31 Violations of the right to work



5 Violations of the right to housing



NOT SPECIFIED

Access to basic services



NOT SPECIFIED

Agricultural activity



The analysis of the documented data in the Northwest region reveals a number of recurring patterns reflecting deeper transformations in the management of public affairs and in the relationship between the State and local communities. These are not isolated incidents but rather interconnected contexts that reproduce the same structural challenges across multiple sectors.

First ,a pattern that can be described as the” repression of social expression“ becomes apparent .Unlike in central regions ,where restrictions are primarily linked to explicit political opposition ,the cases documented in the Northwest show that a significant number of prosecutions ,particularly in Jendouba ,have been connected to social and developmental concerns ,including access to water ,marginalization ,and public services .These cases were prosecuted under Decree-Law No .54 .The governorate of Jendouba alone accounts for eighteen documented cases ,several of which resulted in custodial sentences ranging from two years to longer terms.

Second ,the professional protests that took place within the Court of First Instance in Jendouba reveal a structural crisis within the justice system. Court staff reported a heavy caseload ,shortages of judges and clerks ,delays in adjudicating cases ,and demands for the establishment of a second court to reduce the burden .This situation does not merely reflect temporary administrative shortcomings but rather indicates limited institutional capacity to guarantee the right to a fair trial within a reasonable time .When delays coincide with high caseload pressure and an expansion of punitive approaches ,the result is a tangible erosion of judicial guarantees.

Third ,the issue of physical integrity emerges as an area where direct violence intersects with structural neglect .The two documented cases ,Chokri Abidi on the one hand and the incident involving agricultural workers in Kef on the other ,illustrate two distinct patterns of violations .The first concerns direct violence within a police station ,while the second relates to a failure of preventive safeguards that resulted in the death of three agricultural workers and the injury of twenty seven women.

The analysis shows that violations of physical integrity are not limited to acts

of direct physical assault but also encompass failures to ensure adequate conditions of safety and protection .The Kef incident also reveals a clear gender dimension ,where the social vulnerability of women workers intersects with rural poverty and weak transportation systems ,further increasing their exposure to risk.

Fourth ,regarding the right to work ,the report recorded four protest movements ,involving integrated teachers ,(the Tunisian Sugar Company) on two separate occasions ,(and employees of the Regional Transport Company in Jendouba .These mobilizations share common demands related to delays in wage payments ,precarious employment conditions ,and the absence of protection against violence and unsafe working environments .A particularly significant indicator is the recurrence of protests within the same institution, which suggests that the problem is not temporary or incidental but rather reflects a deeper structural crisis in the labor system ,requiring comprehensive reform rather than temporary or piecemeal responses.

Fifth ,the water crisis and infrastructure deficiencies in areas such as the delegation of Oued Melliz reveal structural patterns of territorial exclusion rather than isolated service failures .Repeated disruptions in water supply were documented ,along with the absence of connections to basic networks for certain communities ,in a context characterized by a near-total lack of infrastructure ,including paved roads and public facilities .The accumulation of these failures has led to field protests ,including road blockages .These findings demonstrate that the intersection of water shortages ,weak infrastructure ,and the fragility of the agricultural sector produces a condition of chronic social tension that cannot be reduced to immediate demands .This dynamic is clearly reflected in the structural link between water protests, farmers 'grievances ,and subsequent judicial prosecutions ,highlighting the need for an analytical approach that goes beyond sectoral responses toward a broader understanding of the dynamics of marginalization.

Sixth ,the agricultural sector ,which represents the main economic pillar of the region ,is affected by long-standing structural failures that directly impact the economic and social rights of the population .Farmers 'protests linked

to the shortage and rising cost of ammonium nitrate fertilizer reveal clear shortcomings in agricultural support policies .Meanwhile ,the suspension of the Oued Arkou dam project since 2000 reflects the absence of institutional commitment to completing vital infrastructure for the sector .Additional administrative restrictions imposed on the transport of agricultural products further limit economic activity and place additional burdens on small-scale farmers ,thereby undermining the substance of their economic and social rights.

These data reveal a cycle of systemic failure :the withdrawal of support for the agricultural sector weakens productive capacity ,increasing economic and social pressures .Legitimate protests then emerge to express rights-based demands .Rather than being addressed through structural reform, these demands are often met with security-based responses and judicial prosecutions ,thereby reproducing the crisis rather than resolving it.

The report thus demonstrates that the documented violations do not represent isolated incidents but rather stem from a cumulative system of developmental and institutional fragility .In the absence of genuine and participatory reform mechanisms ,punitive and security tools are increasingly used as substitutes for public policies capable of addressing the root causes of social tensions. This dynamic reinforces a systematic pattern of criminalizing legitimate social protest and silencing rights-based demands.

Northeast Region: Bizerte, Nabeul, and Zaghouan

Based on the data presented in this section 80 ,documented cases of human rights and social violations were recorded in the Northeast region during ,2025distributed as follows:



The Northeast region includes the governorates of Bizerte ,Nabeul ,and Zaghouan ,and is characterized by a dual economic and territorial specificity. On the one hand ,it represents an active industrial and tourism hub ;on the other ,it is geographically close to decision-making centers in the capital. This context influences the nature of the violations recorded ,which tend to concentrate around economic ,social ,and environmental rights rather than being directly linked to political or media-related conflicts.

With regard to freedom of expression and protest activity ,the data indicate a relatively limited number of freedom of expression cases compared to some other regions .However ,they simultaneously reveal a recurring pattern of judicial proceedings related to digital expression ,particularly when such expression involves criticizing the performance of local authorities or addressing environmental and development-related issues .Some of these proceedings were based on Decree-Law No ,54 .which raises questions regarding the extent to which such measures are consistent with constitutional

and international guarantees of freedom of expression.

It is also notable that the dominant character of these cases is local and development-oriented ,as the expression involved often relates to issues such as industrial pollution or the deterioration of public services .This reflects a shift in public debate within the region toward social and environmental concerns rather than national political issues.

In relation to physical integrity and ill-treatment ,the data indicate a relatively limited number of recorded violations compared with other regions .However, the seriousness of some cases lies in their connection to allegations of ill-treatment or neglect within places of detention .Certain testimonies point to deficiencies in detention conditions or in the provision of medical care to detainees.

While the number of complaints related to torture remains limited ,these cases nonetheless highlight the need to strengthen oversight and accountability mechanisms within prison and security institutions ,in order to ensure respect for legal guarantees related to the dignity and physical integrity of detainees.

As for the right to work and professional activity ,the right to work represents the most prominent category of violations recorded in the region .A significant number of cases involved arbitrary dismissals or professional pressures linked to trade union activity or social demands within institutions.

This situation reflects the fragility of labor relations in certain industrial and tourism sectors ,which rely heavily on seasonal or unstable employment arrangements .It also highlights difficulties in managing labor disputes ,as some professional demands escalate into tensions between workers and management .This dynamic weakens the working environment and increases the likelihood of disciplinary measures or dismissals.

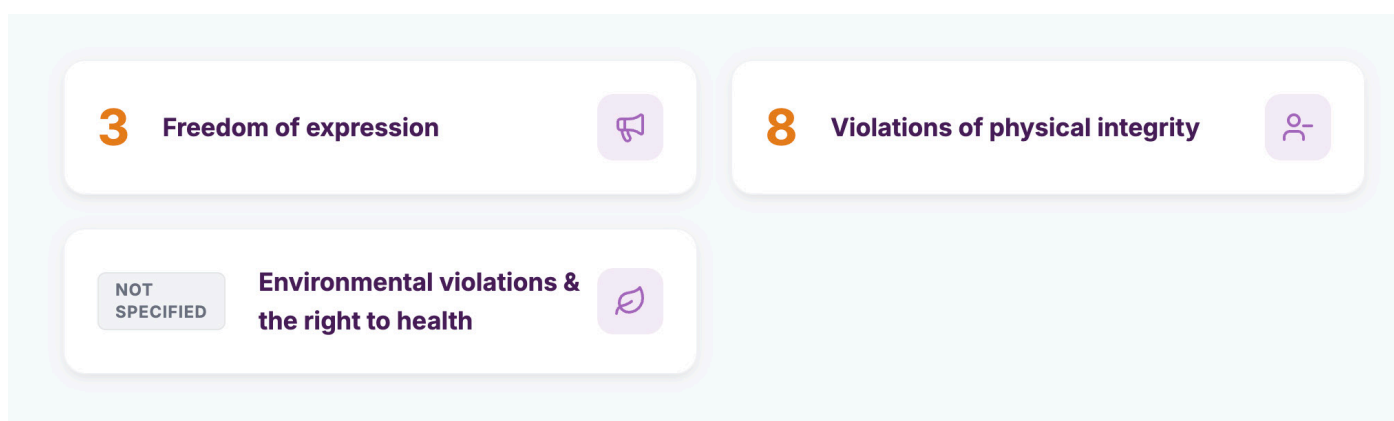
In the field of environmental and health rights ,several complaints and protests were recorded in relation to industrial pollution or the degradation of natural spaces ,particularly in coastal and industrial areas .These cases

reveal structural challenges in environmental governance ,including weak environmental oversight mechanisms and limited responsiveness to local demands.

Some complaints were also linked to insufficient health services or shortages of equipment in certain inland areas ,reflecting disparities in the distribution of public services and affecting residents 'enjoyment of fundamental rights related to health and the environment.

Central-East Region: Sousse, Mahdia, Monastir, and Sfax

This report documented 11 cases of human rights violations in the Central-East region. It should be noted that this number does not necessarily reflect the actual scale of violations, as many cases may remain undocumented due to fear of judicial prosecution, limited access for civil society, or the absence of safe reporting mechanisms. The documented cases are distributed as follows:



The analysis of the documented data in the Central-East region shows that these violations do not constitute isolated incidents .Rather ,in several cases they reflect recurring patterns in the management of certain social or individual situations ,where a security-based approach appears in the handling of some incidents ,alongside limited mechanisms for protection and accountability.

First ,violations of the right to physical integrity and protection from ill-treatment emerged as the most prevalent category of violations in the region .These cases included the use of force during arrest operations or security interventions ,as well as the forced entry into certain homes and workplaces .Such incidents raise questions regarding respect for legal guarantees related to the inviolability of homes and the safety of individuals, as well as compliance with the legal procedures governing arrest and search operations .The 2022 Constitution of Tunisia guarantees the protection of human dignity and bodily integrity and prohibits torture and ill-treatment. Similarly ,Article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR (establishes the absolute prohibition of torture and cruel ,inhuman, or degrading treatment.

Second ,cases related to environmental and health violations shed light on structural shortcomings in the management of certain environmental issues ,particularly in coastal areas .The documented information reveals environmental degradation linked to the accumulation of waste and the pollution of beaches ,which has resulted in increasing risks to public health and to the integrity of the ecosystem .The persistence of such conditions without effective remediation constitutes a failure to fulfil the State's positive obligation to prevent environmental harm .This situation conflicts with Article 47of the 2022 Constitution ,which guarantees the right to a healthy and balanced environment ,as well as Article 43 concerning the right to health ,in addition to international obligations set out in Article 12 of the International Covenant on Economic ,Social and Cultural Rights) ICESCR.(

Third ,cases related to freedom of expression reveal the existence of prosecutions or security and judicial measures linked to digital posts or individual activities .Although the number of such cases remains limited compared to some other regions ,they nevertheless reflect a tendency to rely on criminal mechanisms in addressing certain forms of expression .This raises the issue of balancing the protection of public order with the guarantee of freedom of expression in accordance with constitutional and international standards.

More broadly ,the analysis of violations in the Central-East region highlights the intersection of several rights-related dimensions ,including the use of force during security interventions ,pressures affecting freedom of expression ,and environmental failures with health consequences .These intersecting dynamics can exacerbate social and health risks ,particularly when weak environmental governance coincides with limited oversight and accountability mechanisms .This underscores the need to strengthen legal and institutional safeguards aimed at protecting fundamental rights and ensuring compliance with relevant constitutional and international standards.

Central-West Region: Kairouan, Kasserine, and Sidi Bouzid

In this region 4 ,documented cases of violations were recorded ,distributed as follows:

2 Freedom of expression



2 Physical integrity & ill-treatment
(incl. 1 death)



NOT SPECIFIED

Freedom of peaceful assembly



The Central-West region includes the governorates of Kairouan ,Kasserine, and Sidi Bouzid ,which face multiple social and economic challenges, including high unemployment rates and weak infrastructure and public services .As a result ,social protests related to development demands and access to services occur periodically in these areas.

During the period from March 2025 to February ,2026 the association documented several violations affecting different rights .In the area of freedom of expression ,two cases were recorded involving the prosecution of environmental activist Khaled Tayahi and journalist Najeh Zaghdoudi in connection with expressive activities addressing matters of public concern, including water shortages and environmental conditions in the governorate of Kairouan .These prosecutions raise questions regarding their compatibility with constitutional and international guarantees related to freedom of opinion and expression.

A case was also documented involving Ibrahim Dhibi ,who was reportedly subjected to violence by the head of a police station in the governorate of Kasserine .This incident raises concerns regarding respect for guarantees related to the protection of physical integrity and bodily inviolability, and highlights the importance of ensuring accountability and conducting investigations into allegations of ill-treatment by law enforcement officials.

In a related context ,the death of Naeim Briki in Kairouan was recorded following injuries he sustained during a police chase ,according to reports from local media .The incident triggered protests in the area ,reflecting the sensitivity surrounding the use of force during security interventions and the importance of ensuring respect for the principles of necessity and proportionality.

The Mazzouna area in the governorate of Sidi Bouzid also witnessed public protests following the collapse of a school wall that resulted in the death of three students .Residents expressed social demands related to improving public services and local development .Security forces intervened to disperse the protesters ,and injuries and arrests were reported according to local testimonies.

These incidents indicate ongoing challenges related to ensuring respect for several fundamental rights in the region ,including freedom of expression, the right to physical integrity ,the right to life ,and freedom of peaceful assembly .They also highlight the importance of strengthening accountability

and oversight mechanisms over the actions of law enforcement officials ,and ensuring that social protests are managed in a manner that respects rights and freedoms guaranteed under constitutional and international standards.

South-East Region: Gabès, Medenine, and Tataouine

In this region 66 ,documented cases of violations were recorded during the monitoring period ,distributed as follows:

62 Freedom of peaceful assembly



1 Freedom of expression



3 Right to physical integrity



The South-East region is characterized by a distinct social and environmental context related to the nature of civil demands raised in the area ,where environmental and development issues constitute a central focus of social mobilization .A portion of the population lives in areas affected by industrial activities ,particularly in the governorate of Gabès ,where part of the protests is linked to environmental and health concerns associated with industrial emissions.

Economic challenges ,weak infrastructure ,and limited public services further contribute to reinforcing residents 'demands related to local development and improved living conditions ,making protest movements in the region often closely linked to social and environmental issues.

During 2025, the association documented several cases related to environmental and social protests. Arrests and prosecutions were recorded against participants in peaceful protest movements, particularly in the governorate of Gabès. Some demonstrations were also met with security interventions aimed at dispersing protesters, during which crowd-control measures such as tear gas were reportedly used and a number of arrests were recorded.

Among the documented cases, environmental activist Islam Zrili was subjected to security measures while documenting incidents of students experiencing breathing difficulties at the Gabès City High School, which were attributed to industrial emissions. According to available information, he was taken to a police station and prevented from continuing his live broadcast. He was also requested to delete the video and sign a written commitment not to film inside the educational institution before being released. This incident raises questions regarding respect for guarantees related to freedom of expression, particularly when it concerns the documentation of issues of public interest.

In addition, injuries were recorded among some participants in protests, including cases involving serious injuries during security interventions in the demonstrations that took place in the region in October 2025, raising concerns regarding respect for the principle of proportionality in the use of force during the management of protests.

These incidents highlight the importance of ensuring a balance between the requirements of maintaining public order and the protection of fundamental rights and freedoms, particularly freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly. They also underscore the need to strengthen accountability and oversight mechanisms regarding the actions of law enforcement officials, in order to ensure compliance with constitutional and international standards relating to the protection of civil, environmental, and social rights.

South-West Region: Gafsa, Kebili, and Tozeur

In this region 27 ,documented cases of violations were recorded during the monitoring period ,distributed as follows:

1 Freedom of expression



1 Freedom of peaceful assembly



25 Right to work



Residents of this region rely heavily on the digital space for civic expression, due to limited access to traditional media and the scarcity of development projects .The region also experiences recurring economic and social protests reflecting public frustration over difficult economic and living conditions.

This context has resulted in recorded violations affecting freedom of expression ,freedom of peaceful assembly ,and the right to work.

In the area of freedom of expression ,judicial proceedings were initiated against a citizen following posts published on his Facebook page on 13 July .2025This incident reflects a pattern of restrictions on digital space and the use of judicial mechanisms to pursue cases related to peaceful expression.

Regarding freedom of peaceful assembly ,a woman was subjected to physical assault while participating in a peaceful protest in the governorate of Gafsa on 4 August .2025 This case represents an example of the excessive use of force by security forces in response to peaceful protests ,alongside the absence of effective oversight mechanisms.

With respect to the right to work 25 ,cases were documented concerning the non-payment of wages to cleaning workers at the Regional Hospital of Gafsa, after they had worked continuously for seven months without receiving their salaries .This situation prompted them to organize a protest action on16 January.2026

The incidents documented in this region indicate a recurring pattern of interconnected violations ,combining restrictions on digital freedom of expression ,excessive security interventions during peaceful assemblies, and failures to respect economic and social rights .These patterns highlight the weakness of accountability and oversight mechanisms over both security forces and employers ,making the protection of citizens 'fundamental rights an urgent priority .This situation underscores the need to adopt immediate measures to strengthen legal and oversight protections ,ensure effective accountability to prevent impunity ,and provide a safe environment for citizens to exercise their constitutional and civil rights.

Common Patterns Across Regions

Despite the differences in the social and economic contexts of the regions covered by this report, the analysis of the documented cases reveals a set of recurring patterns in the nature of the recorded violations and the mechanisms through which they occur. These patterns appear across several areas of rights, reflecting structural challenges in the protection of fundamental rights and in ensuring accountability.

Security Responses to Social Protests :The data indicate the occurrence of security interventions during a number of peaceful protest movements across different regions. These interventions included the forcible dispersal of sit-ins or demonstrations, the use of crowd-control measures such as tear gas, and the arrest of protesters in certain cases. This pattern appeared particularly in areas that witnessed farmers' or workers' mobilizations linked to economic and social demands.

These incidents raise questions regarding respect for the legal standards governing the use of force in managing peaceful assemblies, particularly the principles of necessity and proportionality established under international human rights law, which require that the use of force remain an exceptional and strictly limited measure in the context of protests.

Prosecutions Related to Freedom of Expression :The documented cases also reveal prosecutions and security or judicial summonses targeting journalists, bloggers, or local activists in several regions, in connection with digital posts or public statements addressing matters of public concern or local issues. Although the number of such cases varies from one region to another, they reflect a tendency to rely on criminal mechanisms when addressing certain forms of peaceful expression.

This pattern raises concerns regarding the balance between the protection of public order and the guarantee of freedom of expression, particularly in light of constitutional and international obligations that protect this right and require that any restrictions imposed upon it be limited, necessary, and proportionate.

Conditions of Detention and Ill-Treatment :Some of the cases documented in the report refer to allegations of ill-treatment or medical neglect in places of detention, whether during police custody or during imprisonment. These incidents include physical assault, inadequate detention conditions, or difficulties in accessing healthcare.

Although the number of such cases differs across regions ,they highlight the need to strengthen independent oversight mechanisms for places of detention and to ensure compliance with national and international standards governing the treatment of detainees ,including the absolute prohibition of torture and ill-treatment.

Challenges Related to Fair Trial Guarantees :In several cases ,the report also identified procedural challenges related to fair trial guarantees and access to justice ,including slow judicial procedures ,difficulties in accessing case files ,and the heavy caseload faced by courts .These issues may affect individuals 'ability to effectively defend their rights ,particularly in cases linked to social protests or freedom of expression.

These findings underscore the importance of strengthening judicial independence and providing sufficient resources to judicial institutions, enabling them to ensure fair and timely trials in accordance with constitutional and international standards.

Challenges Related to Economic and Social Rights :The documented data also show a significant presence of social conflicts related to labour and professional rights ,particularly in regions whose economies rely heavily on agriculture ,industry ,or tourism .Some of these cases were associated with workers 'protests or demands to improve working conditions or regularize professional situations.

In several instances ,professional pressures ,disciplinary measures ,or dismissals were recorded in connection with these mobilizations ,reflecting the fragility of certain labour relations and the weakness of mechanisms protecting workers against violations of labour and trade union rights.

Environmental and Health-Related Violations :The report also documented multiple cases related to the right to a healthy environment and public health in several regions ,particularly those experiencing industrial activity or environmental pressure on natural resources .These cases include environmental pollution ,weak health infrastructure ,or the lack of basic services.

The impact of such violations extends beyond the environmental sphere alone ,directly affecting public health and the quality of life of residents,

highlighting the close interconnection between environmental rights and social and health rights.

Gender and Social Dimensions of Violations :Some cases addressed in the report reveal the unequal impact of violations on socially vulnerable groups ,particularly women working in informal or precarious sectors .In this context ,the cases of female agricultural workers illustrate the intersection of several vulnerability factors ,including poverty ,lack of social protection ,and professional instability.

These cases do not represent isolated incidents but rather reflect structural shortcomings in the system of social and economic protection ,which make certain groups more exposed to violations and less able to report them or access remedies .This underscores the need to adopt a rights-based approach that takes into account the intersection of discrimination and social vulnerability when addressing such issues ,in order to ensure more effective protection for those most at risk of violations.

Factors of Recurrence and Similarity

The analysis of common patterns of human rights and social violations across the different regions reveals the presence of a set of structural and institutional factors that contribute to the recurrence and geographic spread of these violations .As a result ,these violations move beyond isolated or localized incidents to become recurrent phenomena observed in several parts of the country.

Legal Framework and the Broad Scope of Criminalization :The legislative framework governing certain offences related to security ,publication ,or digital communication constitutes one of the factors that may contribute to the expansion of judicial proceedings related to freedom of expression and civic activity .Some legal provisions ,such as Decree-Law No 54 .of,2022 contain relatively broad or general formulations ,which may allow for wide interpretation in their application.

In certain cases ,this situation may lead to the use of criminal mechanisms to

address forms of peaceful expression or public criticism ,particularly when such expressions relate to political ,social ,or environmental issues .This raises the broader challenge of maintaining a balance between protecting public order and safeguarding freedom of expression in accordance with constitutional and international standards.

Challenges Related to the Functioning of Judicial Institutions :The documented data indicate the existence of several challenges affecting the functioning of the judicial system ,including heavy caseloads within courts, shortages of human resources ,and lengthy judicial procedures in certain cases .These factors may affect the capacity of the judiciary to address cases efficiently and effectively ,particularly those related to social conflicts or freedom of expression.

Furthermore ,the weakness of accountability mechanisms in some instances may undermine public confidence in the ability of institutions to address violations effectively ,which may in turn contribute to the repetition of certain practices without structural resolution.

Economic and Social Vulnerability :The data show that a number of recorded violations are linked to social and economic contexts characterized by high unemployment ,weak infrastructure and basic services ,or fragile labour relations .These conditions often lead to an escalation of social protests related to development demands or labour rights.

In the absence of effective mechanisms for social dialogue or the resolution of local disputes ,these protests may evolve into tensions between protesters and authorities ,increasing the likelihood of violations associated with the security management of such mobilizations.

Security Practices and the Management of Protests :The analysis of several cases indicates that the approach adopted in dealing with some protest movements still relies significantly on direct security measures ,such as dispersing gatherings or carrying out arrests ,rather than prioritizing dialogue and mediation.

Despite the institutional and legal developments that Tunisia has experienced in recent years, certain practices related to the use of force or the handling of protesters highlight the need for further training and guidance in accordance with international standards governing the management of peaceful assemblies.

Limited Oversight and Accountability Mechanisms :Weak independent oversight mechanisms over certain public institutions, including places of detention and security interventions, represent another factor that may contribute to the recurrence of some violations. In addition, the limited resources available to certain civil society organizations or oversight bodies may affect their capacity to monitor and document cases consistently across all regions.

Under such circumstances, the absence of effective accountability in some cases may reinforce perceptions of impunity, thereby encouraging the continuation of practices that are inconsistent with human rights standards.

Developmental Imbalances and Local Governance :The data also show that several violations are linked to failures in the management of development or environmental issues in certain areas, such as weak infrastructure, stalled economic projects, or limited access to basic services. These shortcomings often lead to social protests demanding improvements in economic or environmental conditions.

When the structural causes of these crises remain unaddressed, protests and local conflicts may recur, contributing to the reproduction of similar patterns of violations over time in certain regions.

Conclusion

Through its territorial scope and the intersection of rights it examines, this report shows that the landscape of violations in Tunisia can no longer be reduced to isolated incidents or circumstantial events. Rather, it reflects a complex structure in which geographic, social, and political dimensions intersect, reproducing recurring patterns of violations affecting rights and freedoms. A comparative analysis across regions clearly demonstrates that territorial space is no longer a neutral framework, but has become a determining factor in the nature and severity of violations, as well as in the capacity to resist them or hold perpetrators accountable.

The intersectional reading also reveals that rights are not violated in isolation from one another. Violations of the right to a healthy environment extend their impact to health, work, and the right to a dignified life. Restrictions on freedom of expression directly affect the ability to organize and participate in civic life. At the same time, the neglect of economic and social rights fuels protests that are, in turn, frequently addressed through security-based approaches. In this sense, violations do not remain confined to a single act, but instead form an interconnected chain of failures that collectively weaken the entire system of rights protection.

The report also highlights the gap between constitutional provisions and international obligations on the one hand, and actual practices on the other. This gap is evident in issues such as the use of force, the criminalization of digital expression, and the State's failure to fulfil its positive obligations in guaranteeing basic services and territorial equity in development. The absence of equal protection of rights across different regions results in real disparities in the enjoyment of rights, turning certain areas into spaces that are more exposed to vulnerability and violations.

The findings presented in this report further demonstrate that the documented violations cannot be understood in isolation from the developmental and institutional context of the regions concerned. Social and

economic marginalization intersect with weak accountability and oversight mechanisms ,contributing to the reproduction of recurring patterns of rights violations.

Accordingly ,the overall picture drawn by this report does not merely point to the existence of violations .Rather ,it seeks to understand their underlying causes and the ways in which they take shape within specific social and territorial contexts .This calls for a comprehensive reading of the human rights situation—one that recognizes the interdependence and indivisibility of rights ,and that re-examines the relationship between the State and society on the basis of dignity ,equality ,and the rule of law

Recommendations

First :Recommendations to the Executive Authority

- Addressing regional disparities :Adopt an urgent national plan aimed at reducing disparities between regions in the enjoyment of economic and social rights ,with clear and transparent monitoring indicators to be made public.
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- Management of protests :Ensure strict compliance with international standards when dealing with peaceful assemblies and protests ,and guarantee respect for the principles of necessity and proportionality in the use of force.
- Accountability and transparency :Conduct independent and transparent investigations into all suspected deaths and allegations of torture or ill-treatment ,and make the findings of these investigations publicly available.
- Right to housing :Immediately halt all forms of forced eviction and ensure the provision of adequate housing alternatives that preserve the dignity of affected individuals

Second :Recommendations to the Judicial Authority

- Fair trial guarantees :Strengthen these guarantees in practice ,ensuring the right of the accused to legal defense and access to a lawyer from the very first moment of custody.
- Oversight of security forces :Establish effective and sustained judicial oversight over the actions of judicial police officers ,particularly in regions experiencing frequent protest movements.
- Reducing judicial delays :Expedite the adjudication of cases related to rights and freedoms to prevent lengthy procedures from becoming a form of indirect punishment for litigants.

Third :Recommendations to the Legislative Authority

- Review of legislation :Review laws related to freedom of expression

)such as Decree-Law No (54 .and freedom of assembly to ensure their full alignment with the Constitution and the international treaties ratified by Tunisia.

- Strengthening parliamentary oversight :Activate regular oversight mechanisms to monitor the human rights situation in interior and marginalized regions.
- Field oversight :Increase field visits by relevant parliamentary committees to regions experiencing high levels of violations in order to assess conditions directly.

