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**Summary of the Report of the 2019 elections**

**Unit of Monitoring Violations Against Journalists**

**at the National Syndicate of Tunisian Journalists (SNJT)**

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For three months, hundreds of Tunisian journalists have worked tirelessly to convey all the details of the legislative and presidential electoral process in a climate that was not safe in the practice of journalism.

From July 22nd to October 24th, 2019, the Monitoring Unit of the Center of Occupational Safety of the National Union of Tunisian Journalists recorded 79 attacks against 76 women journalists, including 35 journalists and 41 journalists working in 9 radio stations, 8 television channels, 3 written newspapers, 2 websites and one news agency.

The Monitoring Unit recorded 24 cases of harassment, 32 cases of denial of employment, 7 cases of physical assault, 4 cases of verbal abuse, 7 cases of incitement and 5 threats.

The Monitoring Unit recorded the responsibility of the heads of polling stations for attacks on journalists on 7 occasions, the directors of polling stations on 27 occasions and the heads of subsidiary bodies of the Independent Electoral Commission on 2 occasions for attacks.

Citizens were involved in attacks on journalists on 15 occasions, followed by campaign organizing committees on 8 occasions, followed by security on 5 occasions each, politicians on 4 occasions.

Candidates for the elections and personal protection elements were responsible for three attacks each

Supporters of the candidates were also responsible for three attacks on journalists, followed by campaign managers and observers of one attack for each.

Attacks against journalists were distributed in 22 states of the Republic of Tunisia.
No attacks were recorded in Ariana and Ben Arous.

The highest rate of attacks was recorded in Tunis (23 attacks), followed by Gafsa with 8 attacks and the governorates of Beja and Sidi Bouzid (5 attacks) and then the provinces of Sousse and Kairouan (4 attacks).

In addition, 3 attacks were recorded in the governorates of Sfax, Medenine, Mahdia and Siliana.
The Unit recorded 2 attacks in the provinces of Jendouba, Nabeul, Bizerte, Gabes, Manouba and Monastir. In each of the Kebili governorate, Tataouine, Tozeur, Zaghouan, Kasserine and Kef, only one attack was recorded.

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The National Syndicate of Tunisian Journalists, following the details of the attacks on journalists during the various electoral phases and establishing a comparative experience in the field of protecting journalists during election coverage, recommends that:

**The Independent High Electoral Commission:**

Consider cases in which its agents were responsible for obstructing and assaulting journalists, following them administratively, investigating them, and providing the union with its results and actions taken.
Review its code of conduct in accrediting journalists and lift all restrictions it has established.

-Avoiding deficiencies in accreditation, especially for foreign journalists to facilitate their work inside polling stations.

-including the principles of freedom of expression, the press and freedom of work for journalists in its training programs for its staff working in polling stations.

**legislative and presidential elections Candidates:**

Non-discrimination between the media and respect for citizens' right to information

Call upon their supporters as soon as their campaigns are launched and during their electoral speech to respect the journalists and their abuse against candidates, and to assess their respect for freedom of the press and freedom of expression.

Require the security protection accompanying them to respect the nature of the work of the journalist and seek media statements during their demonstrations and visits within the electoral campaign

**Journalists and Media Institutions:**

-Staying away from bias of the competing parties and abide by the ethics of the journalistic profession so as not to violate the pretext to attack journalists working in the field.

-Taking all protective measures of distinctive clothing and credit cards to facilitate their work and avoid any suspicion of their journalistic status.

**Citizens:**

Stop all instances of incitement to social networks against journalists and take into account the nature of their work in the field and a good separation between what is included in the expression of opinion and incitement to violence and hatred, which are considered crimes punishable by law.

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* The Arabic version of the report (PDF) :
<http://snjt.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D9%82%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AE%D8%A7%D8%B5-%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%86%D8%AA%D8%AE%D8%A7%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%AA-2019.pdf>