

## January 2024 Report - Executive Summary

### National Syndicate of Tunisian Journalists - Monitoring Unit of the Occupational Safety Center

The frequency of attacks declined following the conclusion of the first round of local elections, in December 2023. During January 2024, the Monitoring Unit recorded 12 attacks on journalists and photojournalists out of 15 notifications received, either through monitoring social media networks, surveillance of media institutions' websites, following programs and news in the media, or through direct communication from the victims of the attacks or eyewitnesses.

Month	November 2023	December 2023	January 2024
Number of Attacks	13	39	12

The attacks affected 14 victims, genderly divided into 5 females and 9 males. The victims' profiles included 11 journalists, 2 photojournalists, and a columnist, these victims were representing 10 media institutions; which are 4 television channels, 3 radio channels, 2 newspapers, and a website.

The institutions are divided into one confiscated institution, seven private and two public institutions, including two foreign and eight Tunisian institutions.

**The victims of the attacks** included 6 cases of judicial tracking and 3 cases of work suspension, along with 3 instances of harassment. All of these attacks have taken place in real space.

## **Recommendations**

**After providing details about the attacks on journalists during January 2024, The National Union of Tunisian Journalists recommends:**

### **Presidency of the Tunisian Government to:**

- Prepare an action plan based on proximity communication and openness to the media to develop the government's communication program, while adopting the criterion of pluralism and equality between them.
- Withdraw the governmental circulars which are hindering the efforts of representatives who are representing public institutions and establishments to provide accurate and immediate information to the media, specifically Circular No. 19.
- Take corrective measures regarding the violations recorded by the governor of Nabeul concerning the withholding of information regarding government activities and impeding the journalist's right to work and coverage.

### **The Tunisian Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries to:**

- Review its communication policy and adopt openness and direct contact with media representatives in various governorates during the scheduling of field visits.
- Adopting a non-discriminatory policy in dealing with the media and initiating an investigation into the attacks recorded during January 2024.

**The Tunisian Ministry of Health to:**

- Review its communication policy and adopt openness and direct contact with media representatives in various governorates during the scheduling of field visits.

**Tunisian Ministry of Interior to:**

- Enhance the authority of the Crisis Cell at the Ministry of Interior's Media and Communications Office to ensure the security and safety of journalists when facing serious threats and physical risks targeting them.
- Hold a bilateral meeting with the National Union of Tunisian Journalists to enhance the partnership program between them in regard with journalist protection.

**Ministry of Justice to:**

- Develop the capacities of judges in the field of human rights and press freedom through organizing joint training courses between them and journalists to further support their relationship.

**General Inspectorate of the Ministry of Justice to:**

- Initiate a serious and swift investigation into the public prosecutors who have been reported for procedural deviations in pursuing journalists and verifying the extent to which they adhere to the procedures for initiating lawsuits.