

March 2024 Report

Executive Summary

Attacks on journalists persisted during March 2024, whereas the Monitoring Unit recorded 14 attacks on journalists out of 19 notices of a case addressed through direct contacts with journalists, victims, or eyewitnesses, by monitoring media institutions' websites, programs, and news in the media, or by monitoring social media networks.

Month	January 2024	February 2024 Out of Electoral Path	March 2024
Number of Attacks	12	15	14

The attacks impacted 23 victims, with 12 females and 11 males. The victims' plans included 20 male and female journalists, 2 photojournalists, and a chronicler.

Victims of the attacks were representing 14 media institutions: 7 radio channels, 3 websites, 2 newspapers, a television channel, and a news agency.

The institutions are divided into a confiscated institution, 8 private institutions, 4 public institutions, and an association institution.

5 instances of legal prosecution, 4 cases of work bans, and 3 incidents of harassment impacted journalists who were targeted in the attacks throughout March. They were also impacted by a case of incitement and a case of interference in editing.

Judicial authorities carried out these attacks on 3 occasions and security officers, social media activists, and local officials on 2 occasions. Government officials, public officials, departments of media organizations, sports officials, and citizens each engaged in a single attack.

All these attacks occurred 12 times in physical space and 2 times in virtual space.

The attacks geographically occurred in the Governorate of Tunis on 6 occasions, the Governorate of Nabeul on 3 occasions, the Governorate of Ben Arous and the Governorate of Kasserine on two occasions each, and the Governorate of Zaghuan on one occasion.

Recommendations

After providing details about the attacks on journalists during March 2024,

The National Union of Tunisian Journalists recommends:

Presidency of the Tunisian Government to:

- Withdraw the governmental circulars that are hindering the efforts of public institutions and establishments representatives in providing accurate and immediate information to the media, specifically Circular No. 19.
- Take corrective actions regarding the violations recorded by the Governor of Nabeul, which have been claimed on many occasions without any response from her.

Ministry of Justice to:

- Develop the capabilities of judges in human rights field and freedom of press by organizing collaborative training courses with journalists to further support the relationship between them.

The judicial authorities to:

- Accelerate the rescheduling of an appeal session for the case of colleague Shadha Al-Haj Mubarak following the postponement of the first appeal session to stop the grievance against her.
- Release journalist Muhammad Bou Ghallab and stop persecuting him outside the framework of the law regulating the press.