

June 2024 Report

Executive Summary

The pattern of attacks on journalists decreased during June 2024, as the Monitoring Unit recorded 15 attacks on journalists out of 20 reported cases and responded to them through direct communications from journalists, victims or eyewitnesses, or by monitoring the environment of journalistic work and following media content and developments on social media networks. Last May the Unit recorded 24 attacks out of 28 reported.

Month	January 2024	February 2024 Out of Electoral Path	March 2024	April 2024	May 2024	June 2024
Number of Attacks	12	15	15	20	24	15

The attacks involved 15 victims, with a gender breakdown of 07 females and 08 males, with the following job plans 11 journalists, 2 photojournalists and 2 media professionals.

These victims represent 9 media institutions; 3 radio stations, 3 television channels, 2 websites and a single news agency.

The victim journalists in June were subjected to various attacks including 5 cases of judicial persecution and one case of incitement, as well as 3 cases of harassment, 3 cases of prohibition from working and 3 cases of withholding information.

Judicial authorities were responsible for these attacks on 5 occasions, communication officers on 4 occasions, and security personnel on 3 occasions. One attack each was also carried out by local officials, social media activists and citizens.

All of these attacks took place on 14 occasions in the real space and on one occasion in the virtual space.

Geographically, the attacks occurred 6 times in the governorate of Tunis and 3 times in the governorate of Tozeur. A single attack was recorded in Ariana, Manouba, Baja, Al-Kaf, Nabeul and Sidi Bouzid Governorates.

Recommendations

Having provided details of attacks on journalists in June 2024, the National Union of Tunisian Journalists recommends

Presidency of the Republic to:

- Issue a decision stipulating the need to respect the Tunisian citizen's right to information and calling on all state authorities to stop using circulars that illegally obstruct the work of the media.

- Activate the work of the Independent High Authority for Audiovisual Communication as a modifying body and cornerstone in reducing the number of trials outside the law regulating the press sector framework, which has always played an arbitrating and modifying role in ensuring the quality of journalistic work.

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.

Ministry of Justice to:

- Correspond with the Public Prosecution to suspend the operation of Decree 54 until a decision is made on the draft law submitted to Parliament for amendment.

Ministry of Education to:

- Open an investigation into the violations committed by its members, such as harassment and withholding of information, and those responsible should be held accountable.