

# May 2024 Report

## Executive Summary

The pattern of attacks on journalists continued to increase worryingly in May 2024, as the Monitoring Unit recorded 24 attacks on journalists out of 28 case reports received through direct communications from journalists, victims or eyewitnesses, and by monitoring media institutions' websites, following programmes and news in the media, or monitoring social media networks.

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

The attacks involved 24 victims, with a gender breakdown of 6 women and 18 men. Function plans were distributed to 12 journalists, 7 photojournalists, 3 commentators and 2 directors of media institutions.

The victims of the attacks represent 14 media institutions spread across 7 websites, 3 radio stations, 3 television channels and only one news agency.

Journalists who were victims of attacks in May included 6 cases of judicial persecution and 7 cases of incitement, as well as 4 cases of arbitrary detention and 3 cases of vexation. They were also subject to two cases of prior surveillance, one case of work ban and one case of physical assault.

Judicial bodies were responsible for these attacks in 7 cases, security personnel in 7 cases and social media activists in 6 cases. Commentators, nationals, YouTube and an employee each committed one attack.

All these attacks occurred 18 times in physical space and 6 times in virtual space.

The attacks were geographically distributed, with 22 in Tunis governorate and one each in Nabeul and Kef governorates.

## **Recommendations**

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

### **The Ministry of Interior to:**

- Circulate a letter to the security services about not requesting unrequired licenses by law and respecting the law regulating journalistic work.
- Hold regular meetings to evaluate the partnership's progress with the National Syndicate of Tunisian Journalists and follow up on the outcomes of these meeting between the two parties.

### **Ministry of Justice to:**

- Develop the capacity of judges in the field of human rights and press freedom by organizing joint training courses with journalists to further enhance the relationship between them.
- Open an investigation into the procedural irregularities recorded in the files of the judicial proceedings brought against a group of journalists.
- **Suspend Decree 54 pending consideration of the amendment proposal submitted to Parliament.**

### **The judicial authorities to:**

- Release journalists in prison and guarantee them a fair trial under the law governing their journalistic profession, set out in Decree No.115 /2011.

- Activate Decree No.115 in following up journalists legally and excluding texts of an injunctive nature

### **House of Representatives**

- Consider urgently the legislative initiative to amend Decree No. 54 on combating crimes of information and communication systems.

## **National Syndicate of Tunisian Journalists**