

## July 2024 Report

### Executive Summary

The pattern of attacks on journalists increased during June 2024, as the Monitoring Unit recorded 20 attacks on journalists out of 25 reported cases through direct communications from journalists, victims, and eyewitnesses, or by monitoring the environment of journalistic work and following media content and updates on social media networks. The Unit recorded 15 attacks out of 20 notifications of cases last June.

Month	May 2024	June 2024	July 2024
Number of Attacks	24	15	20

The attacks affected 20 victims, distributed on the basis of gender to 08 females and 12 males, and the functional plans were distributed to 18 journalists and 2 media professionals.

The victims represent 13 media institutions distributed as follows: 09 radio stations, 2 websites, one written newspaper, and one news agency.

The journalists who were victims of assaults during July experienced 7 cases of harassment, 3 cases of censorship, and 3 cases of work ban. Four prison sentences were issued against the journalists, and they were sued in one instance. Journalists were also verbally and physically assaulted on one occasion each.

Entities responsible for these assaults were the Independent High Authority for Elections on 7 occasions, judicial authorities on 5 occasions,

and media management on 3 occasions. Ministries and citizens were also involved in two attacks each and traders in a single attack.

All of these attacks have taken place in real space. The attacks were geographically distributed as follows: 17 incidents in the governorate of Tunis, 2 incidents in the governorate of Gafsa, and a single incident in the governorate of Kairouan.

## **Recommendations**

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

### **Presidency of the Republic to:**

- Consider the possibility of issuing a special amnesty for imprisoned journalists, and play its constitutional role in protecting rights and freedoms away from political slogans.
- Activate the work of the Independent High Authority for Audiovisual Communication as an amendment structure and a cornerstone in organizing the work of the media during electoral periods to ensure the quality of journalistic work and balanced coverage of the upcoming elections.

### **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.

### **The Independent High Authority for Elections (ISIE):**

- Respect the right of journalists to constructive criticism and refrain from warnings in files related to criticizing the work of the Authority and its management of the electoral process.
- Activate the action plan regarding the coordination and facilitation of journalists' work, which was adopted during the legislative elections and the elections of the Council of Regions and Provinces.
- Provide all guarantees for the freedom of the journalist and respect the right of journalists to access information about the electoral process