

TORTURE ROADS - TUNISIA

VOLUME 5

LACK OF SOLUTIONS FOR PEOPLE ON THE MOVE IN TUNISIA

MAY - DECEMBER 2025

1- METHODOLOGY



34 semi-structured interviews



161 people - documentation of violations



47 cases of children documented

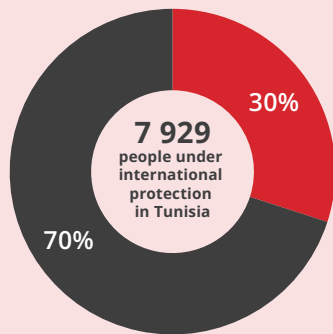


4 humanitarian organizations - data analyzed



4 UN Agencies - validation of figures and trends

2- PRESENCE IN TUNISIA



2 379 refugees (30%)

5 550 asylum seekers (70%)



1 525 people have sought international protection without being able to register (June 2024 - December 2025). **75%** came from countries covered by the UNHCR's non-return policy.



More than 20 000 newly registered people on the move sought assistance from the IOM in 2025.

3- MIGRATORY MOVEMENTS

Decrease in land arrivals to Tunisia
2 000 per month
November 2024 - April 2025

- 76%

480 per month
May - December 2025

Decrease in maritime arrivals from Tunisia to Italy
19 245
in 2024

- 75%

4 861
in 2025



66 296 people arrived in Italy in 2025



88 % of crossings to Italy departed from Libya

Main nationalities departing from Tunisia

- 1.** Tunisians 35%
- 2.** Guineans 27%
- 3.** Ivorians 8%
- 4.** Malians 5%
- 5.** Cameroonians 4%
- 6.** Sudanese 3%

4- DEATHS AND MISSING PERSONS



1 340 dead or missing in the central Mediterranean in 2025



At least 30 shipwrecks off the Tunisian coast in 2025



At least 530 dead or missing off the coast of Tunisia in 2025

As of April 7, 2026: at least 765 people are reported dead or missing in the Central Mediterranean

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Between May and December 2025, the OMCT confirms the persistence of a continuum of human rights violations.

DOCUMENTED VIOLATIONS

1- CONTINUUM OF VIOLATIONS



Arbitrary arrests and detention

Hundreds of arbitrary arrests during identity checks, interceptions at sea, camp dismantlements and arrests inside or outside private homes.

Emerging trends:

- Increase in arrests of women and children for "begging offenses" in urban centers
- Use of the El Ouardia center to detain people on the move and return them to their countries of origin



Push-backs and deportations

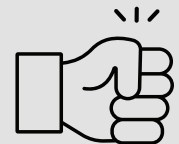
13 400 people were denied entry into Tunisian territory while attempting to cross land borders in 2025

26 600 people deported by Tunisian authorities in 2025

19 100
to Algeria

7 500
to Libya

Violence, torture and ill-treatment



51%
of beneficiaries on the move assisted by a partner organization reported being survivors of violence



Sexual violence

28% of those who experienced violence and specified its nature experienced sexual violence



Violence at sea

At least **126** people are reported to have died in 2025 as a result of violent interceptions at sea by the Tunisian coast guard.

+ 300 interceptions off the Tunisian coast leading to the disembarkation of **+ 12 000** people on Tunisian territory

2- NEW FORMS OF ABUSE AND INTENSIFICATION OF VIOLATIONS



Dismantlement of informal settlements

+ 9 000 people evacuated to El Amra and Jbeniana between April and June 2025

The operations are accompanied by the destruction of tents, confiscation of goods and documents, excessive use of force, arrests, and deportations.



Human trafficking

- Forced labor
- Organized begging
- Domestic servitude
- Sales of human beings
- Sexual exploitation
- Debt bondage



Emerging trends

Geographic spread of kidnappings for ransom, particularly in Zarzis, Tunis and Médenine.

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FOCUS – TUNISIA'S RETURN PROGRAM



Started in June 2025

Launch of the program



At least 1 200

people returned via
this program in 2025



100 euros

amount paid
at the time of departure

MAIN CONCERNS



**Lack of real
alternatives**

People on the move accept return in order to escape systematic violations of their rights.

The criterion of freedom of choice is not met.



**Uninformed
decision**

The program is promoted via Whatsapp and other social media platforms. No official source detailing the objectives, scope, procedures, or criteria.

Lack of informed decision.



**Insufficient
verifications**

Birth certificates for children and identity documents are not systematically requested. No prior medical examination.

Denial of the right to a legal identity, risk of statelessness and trafficking.



**Tight
deadlines**

Returns are organized on very short notice, ranging from a few weeks to a few days.

No assessment of the voluntary nature of the decision.



**Forced
returns**

Documented case of 18 women and 24 children detained in El Ouardia in late 2025 and then returned to their countries of origin.



**Best interests
of the child**

No formal procedure to determine the best interests of the child.



**Family
unit**

Cases of family separation have been documented, including children separated from their parents.



Reintegration

Returns do not have access to reintegration programs that promote the sustainability of their return.



The report highlights that the lack of legal and sustainable solutions is fueling a growing sense of despair among people on the move, often driving them to resort to dangerous sea crossings and other high-risk strategies.