

2019 MID-YEAR FACT SHEET OF PROTESTS



2019 MID-YEAR FACT SHEET OF PROTESTS



2019 MID-YEAR FACT SHEET OF PROTESTS

منصة العدالة الاجتماعية
Social Justice Platform



الحقوق محفوظة للمنصة للعدالة الاجتماعية

بموجب رخصة المشاع الإبداعي : نسب المصنف -

غير تجاري - منع الاشتقاق | الإصدار 4.0

www.sjplatform.org

In the first half of 2019, the Social Justice Platform team documented 1,303 protests, in which Egyptians used a diversity of tools to show their dissatisfaction with their economic and social circumstances.

This factsheet depends on data collected based on media reports from a different array of outlets—including governmental, independent, privately-owned, pro-state outlets, and outlets affiliated with political parties. This factsheet presents an analysis of the general trends of protesting in the first half of the year.

Out of three protest categories (social, labor, and economic), the first half of 2019 was dominated by social protests, with 1,121 protests marking a noteworthy 86.03% of the total, while labor protests came second (94 protests, 7.21%), and finally, economic protests were third (88 protests, 6.75%).

The majority of social protests took the form of complaints and reports (1,070), either sent or handed to officials and members of the parliament, or sent to newspapers. Filing formal or media complaints is a type of protest that has been on the rise since 2017.

We also documented 29 incidents where protesters physically demonstrated on the streets to demand their rights and services—such as proper access to health, housing, education, water, roads, or sanitation. In some instances, individuals took their own lives to protest social conditions. During the first half of 2019, 15 cases of self-mutilation were documented, and 12 of these ended in death.

Breaking protests down by category, we documented 88 economic protests in the last six months, either by farmers, professionals like lawyers and journalists, shop owners, or microbus drivers. These protests were against policies that hinder the individuals' ability to practice their labor. A shocking number of 45 protests out of the 88 included self-mutilation, 43 of them leading to suicides.

Finally, a noteworthy 94 labor protests were documented, 41 of them came from a stable workforce, while the rest were held by unstable labor or day laborers. Of these protests, 41 were held in public sector workplaces, 15 in the public enterprise sector, and 38 in private workplaces.

Filing complaints and reports remain a favorite and safe form of showing discontent with social and economic problems, especially amid increasing limitations on various kinds of political dissent and difficulties of organization. Nevertheless, 58 protests included demonstrating, workplace sit-ins, or road blocking.

When statistically analyzing protests with respect to rights demanded, we can conclude that the deteriorating level of services provided to civilians was a trigger to most of these protest actions, as 780 protests demanded infrastructure and services—including drinking water, sanitation, roads, and electricity/gas, while 33 protests demanded suitable living conditions. Also, 144 protests demanded security, 32 demanded proper housing, 57 demanded healthcare, 15 demanded social insurance, and 81 protests demanded other various labor rights.

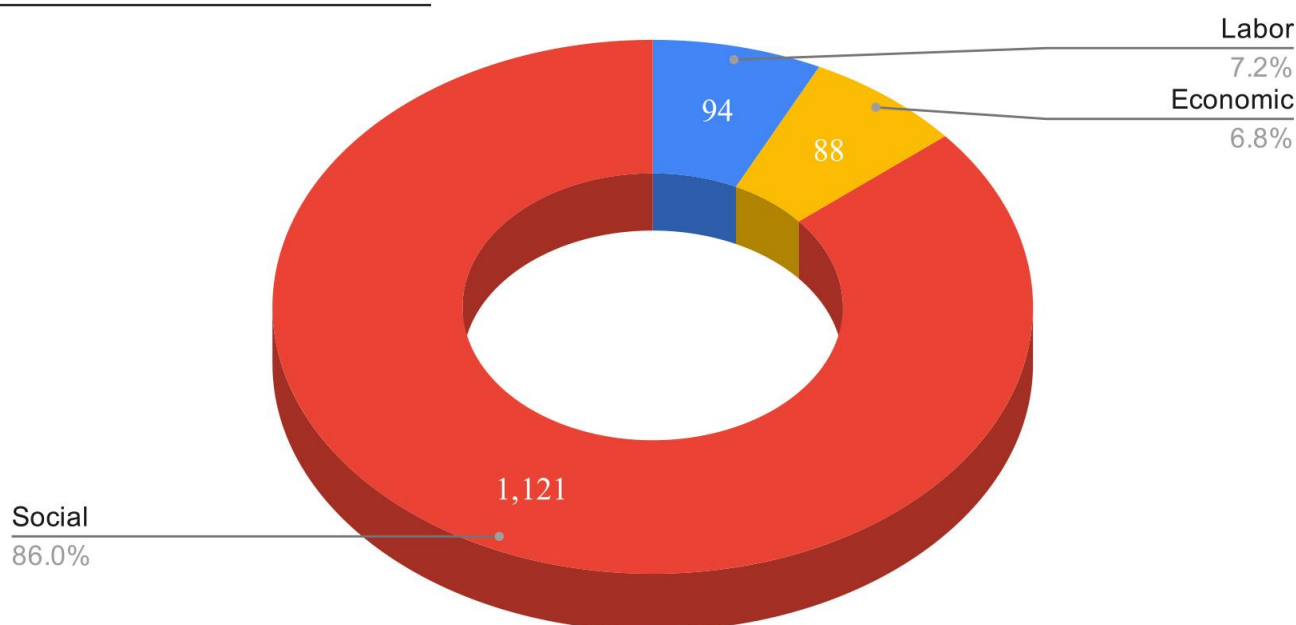
The diversity of these protests shows continuous discontent with the state's economic policy and government-provided services or hence the lack of it.

On July 5th, the Egyptian state decided to further slash fuel subsidies, hence raising petrol and diesel prices by about 25%,¹ as part of the government's commitment to reduce subsidies according to the reform plan that was agreed upon with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in order to secure a \$12bn loan.

Following a sensational media campaign on newspapers, radio, and television outlets, the cuts, which are the fifth since 2014, are not expected to be the last, as it is planned² that fuel prices will now be redefined according to the international fuel prices of crude oil every three months.

The continued price hikes will consequently affect the prices of food, essential goods, transportation, medication, and various services, which all have already witnessed increases in June 2018.

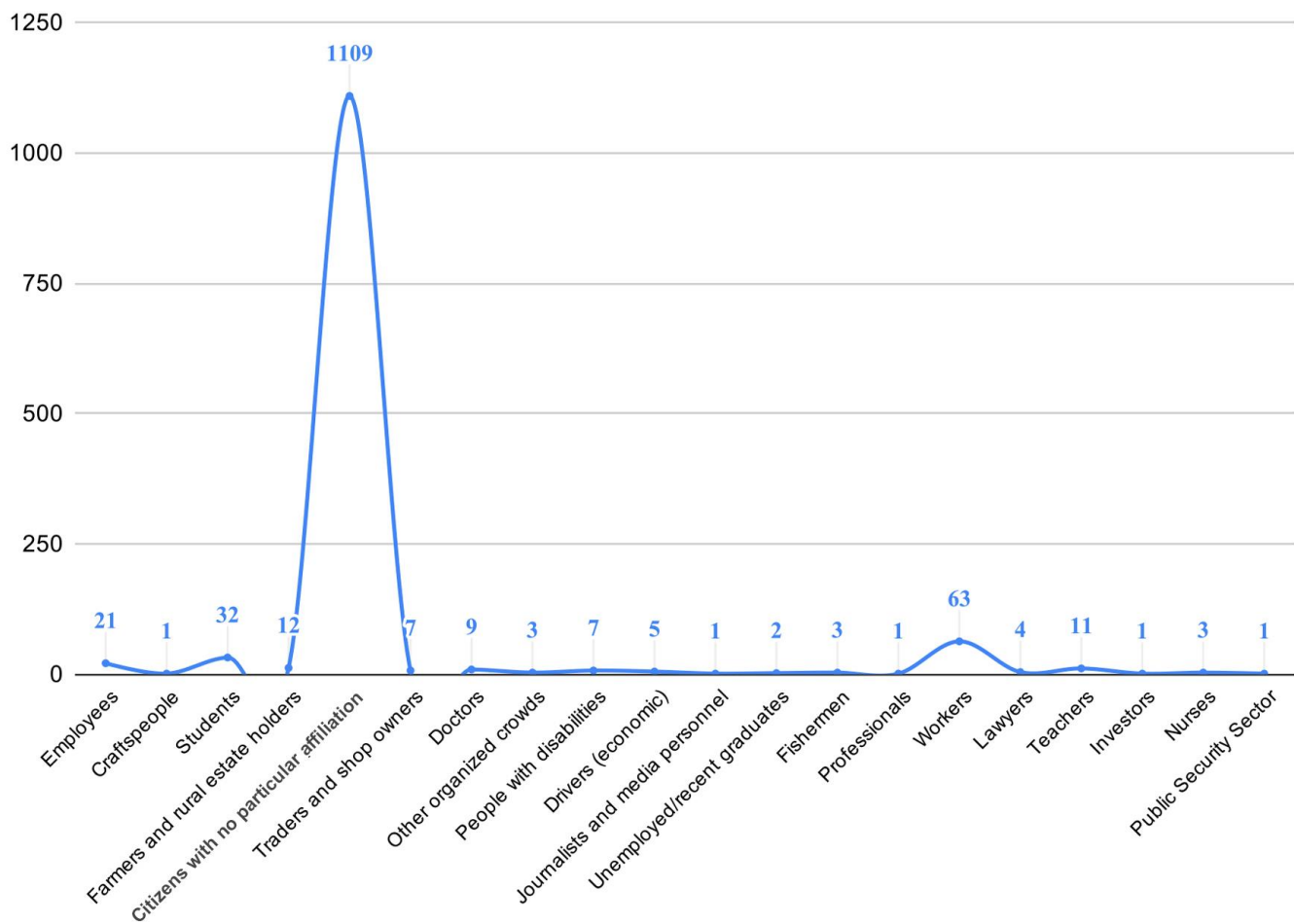
Percentages of Protest Categories in the First Half of 2019



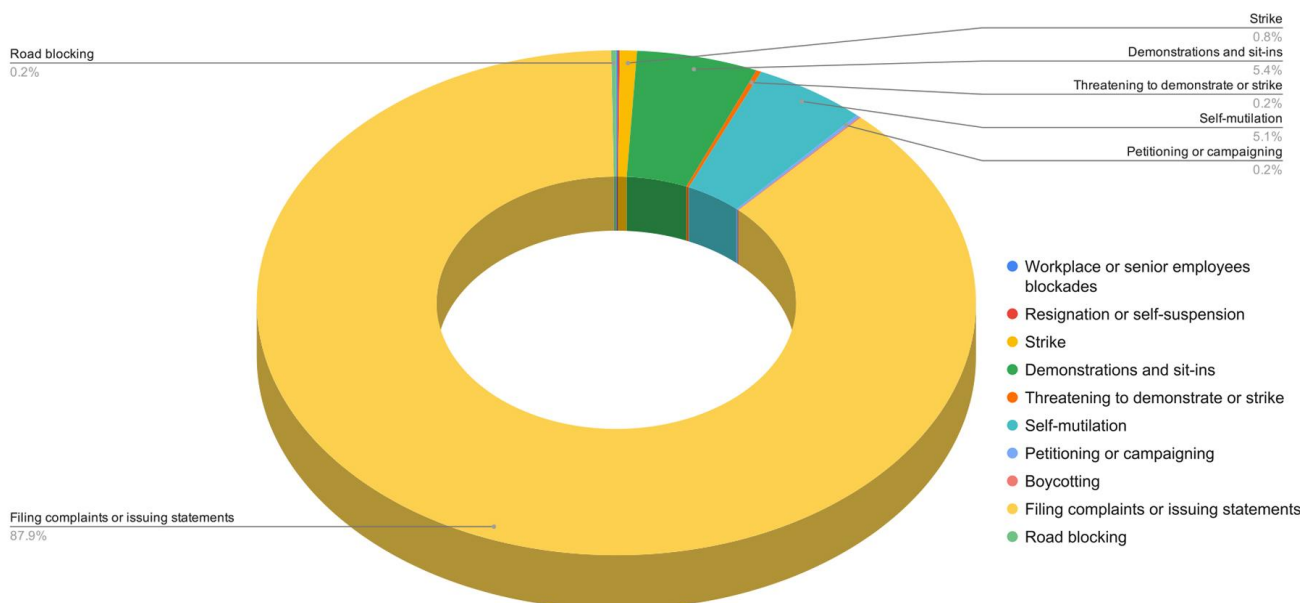
¹ *Daily News Egypt*, "Egypt Slash Fuel Subsidies Raising Petrol and Diesel Prices By 25%," Cairo: Daily News Egypt, online at <https://bit.ly/2JXE5YI>.

² *Ahram Online*, "Egypt Says Will Implement Quarterly Price Index Mechanism on All Petroleum Products," Cairo: al-Ahram, online at <https://bit.ly/2Jg1C6B>.

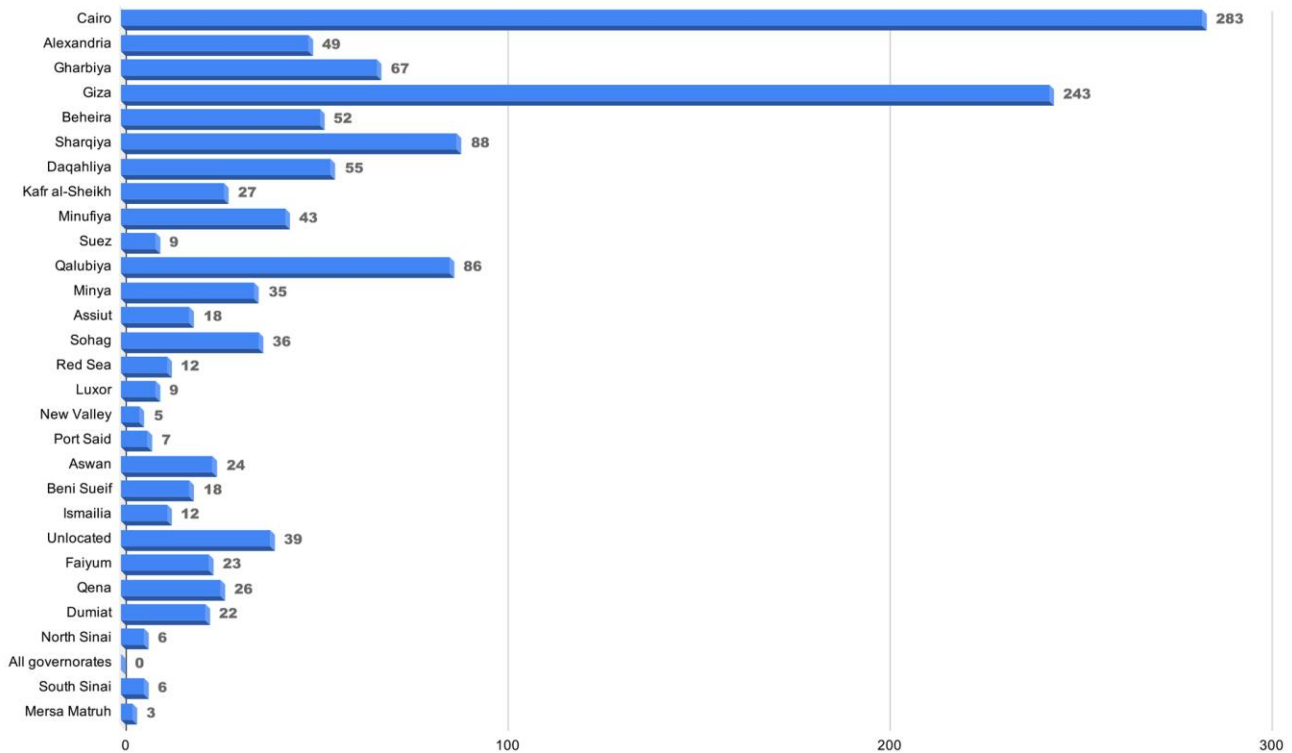
Top Protesting Groups the First Half of 2019



Top Methods of Protesting for the First Half of 2019



Top protesting governorates in the First Half of 2019



Self-mutilation in the first half of 2019

