Italian journalist and writer Roberto Saviano has been sued on 20 July 2018 by the Italian Minister of Interior and leader of right-wing League party Matteo Salvini on defamation. Minister accuses Saviano of accusing him of an alleged support for the mafia. Earlier, Salvini called on Twitter for reviewing current police protection for journalists, to which Saviano responded in calling Salvini “a buffoon” and “minister of the underworld”, followed by critique on his immigration policies. In his work, Saviano exposed the work and influence of Camorra mafia in Campania region of Italy in a publication “Gomorrah” (2006). Journalist has been critical towards current migration policy applied by current office of the Minister of Interior and the League party. Saviano has collaborated with local and international newspapers in line with his work on Camorra crime syndicate and organised crime in general. Due to the numerous death threats the journalist received for his work, Saviano is under regular police protection.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- NEW Article on the CPJ website on “Italy's Matteo Salvini pursues criminal defamation against journalist Roberto Saviano"
- Article published by Le Monde: "Le ministre Matteo Salvini porte plainte contre l'écrivain Roberto Saviano"
- Article published by The Guardian: "Far-right Italian minister sues anti-mafia writer over 'underworld' tweet"
- Statement from the Italian Federation of Journalists (FNSI): "'Querela di governo' contro Saviano, Fnsi e Odg: Ennesima variante delle aggressioni alla libertà di informazione"