Paolo Borrometi, a journalist known for investigative reporting of organised crime in Sicily, had documents and his computer hard-drive stolen when his residence in Rome was broken into in his absence by unknown intruders in the summer of this year. Information about the break-in was announced on August 20 by the president of the Sicilian region, where the journalist is well known as the editor of an online publication LaSpia and for his original reports in other media outlets. It is the latest in a series of acts of intimidation against Borrometi, who lives under police protection. He said no valuables had been taken in the break-in, only materials related to his anti-mafia reporting activities. Paolo Borrometi was forced to leave Sicily after receiving death threats in his home region, as well as being beaten up by hooded attackers in 2014 and having the front door of his family's apartment in Modica, in Ragusa province, set on fire in the same year. The press freedom organisation Ossigeno per l'Informazione reported that a suspect in that arson attack is currently on trial in Sicily. Mr Borrometi is one of about 20 journalists in Italy now under police protection because of threats related to their investigations into mafia crimes.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Report on Mapping Media Freedom platform: "Italy: Home of investigative journalist burgled, hard disk stolen"
- Article published by Index on Censorship: "Mafia versus the media: Italian journalists face upsurge in threats and intimidation"
- Report by Ossigeno per l'Informazione: "Rome. Stolen documents and archives from home of Paolo Borrometi"
19 Dec 2019 | Reply from the Italian authorities (information provided by the Ministry of Interior)

Letter from the Permanent Representation of Italy to the Council of Europe (in Italian and English)