On 29 May 2019, Italian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of the Interior Matteo Salvini published a video on Facebook in which he threatened journalist Roberto Saviano with the withdrawal of his police protection from mafia. Saviano has been under constant police protection since 2006, after he published the book “Gomorrah”, denouncing the practices of the Camorra, the Neapolitan mafia.

In the video, Matteo Salvini sends a kiss to the camera, saying "A kiss to Saviano. I'm working on a revision of the criteria for the escorts that every day in Italy commit more than two thousand law enforcement workers." This is not the first time that Salvini has threatened Saviano to take away his police protection. In 2017, Matteo Salvini had already stated that he "assessed whether there was any risk" justifying the security measures for Saviano, "in order to see where the Italians' money was going."

On 26 March 2021, considering that the police protection of Roberto Saviano has been maintained, as reflected in the letter from the Permanent Representation of Italy of 14 June 2019, the partner organisations to the Platform declared this case to be "resolved", concluding it was no longer an active threat to media freedom.

On 8 July 2019, Minister Salvini signed a new decree on police protection, and confirmed the protection of Saviano.

Article from Next Quotidiano: “Così Saviano avrà ancora la scorta nonostante le minacce di Salvini”
### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Article on RTBF website: "Le ministre italien Matteo Salvini menace le journaliste Roberto Saviano de lui retirer sa protection"
- News report from Wired.it: "Che pena Salvini che minaccia Saviano e gli manda “bacioni” intimidatori"
- Video message from Matteo Salvini on Facebook

### STATE REPLIES

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