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▲ Lvl. 2

State
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Italy

Alert created on: 19 May 2017

Italian Journalist Risks Being Jailed for Thirty Months for Libel

SOURCE OF THREAT ▶ State

CATEGORY ⓘ ▶ Other acts having chilling effects on media freedom

PARTNER: AEJ, Index

Gabriele Carchidi, editor in chief of the online newspaper iacchite.com, has been sentenced by a court in Cosenza, in the Calabrian region of southern Italy, to a total of 30 months in prison without suspension of sentence in four libel cases between September 2016 and May 2017. The latest conviction, handed down on 10 May 2017, resulted from a lawsuit brought by the mayor of Cosenza, Mario Occhiuto, concerning references to the mayor on Facebook. The other convictions relate to reports by the journalist about the behaviour of senior carabinieri officers, mayor Occhiuto and a Cosenza magistrate, respectively. Gabriele Carchidi is free while he awaits the result of his appeals to the Appeal court against these four verdicts. Media reports say he also faces the possibility of being tried and receiving further custodial sentences as a result of more than 60 other pending defamation lawsuits against him, mostly brought by politicians, police, magistrates and other public figures.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ▼

- ➔ Report by Ossigeno per L'Informazione: "In jail for libel. The four sentences against Gabriele Carchidi"
- ➔ Report from Il Manifesto newspaper published on iacchite.com : "Arrestate iacchite"
- ➔ Report by Ossigeno per L'Informazione : "Italy. Journalist condemned to thirty months, risks prison"

STATE REPLIES ▼



27 Jun 2017 | Reply from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

➔ Letter from the Permanent Representation of Italy to the Council of Europe

RELEVANT COE INSTRUMENTS 

19 May 2017 | Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights

➔ „Defamation in Italy: a draft law to be changed“

19 May 2017 | Venice Commission

➔ Opinion on the Legislation on Defamation in Italy, adopted by the Venice Commission at its 97th Plenary Session (Venice, 6-7 December 2013)

DISCLAIMER

This section presents a non-exhaustive selection of CoE instruments and ECHR case-law. This information is not a legal assessment of the alert and should not be treated or used as such.