



11

Sep 2017

Lvl. 2

Italy

n° 19/2016

Alert created on: 04 Feb 2016

Italian Journalist Lirio Abbate Faces Hate Speech in Courtroom

Resolved

SOURCE OF THREAT ▶ Non-state

CATEGORY ▶ Harassment and intimidation of journalists

PARTNER: EFJ/IFJ, CPJ, RSF

Lirio Abbate, a journalist of the weekly L'Espresso, who has been under police protection since 2007 after he exposed an alleged network of corruption and mafia-related affairs in Rome, is now a target for hate speech and slander. He is one of the main witnesses in the on-going court case (dubbed Mafia Capitale). Abbate has been a constant target for the main defendant accused of mafia crimes Massimo Carminati.

RESOLVED

11 Sep 2017: On 11 September 2017, after consideration of the judgment of the Civil Court of Rome which dismissed the action of libel against Abbate, the partners of the Platform declared this case to be "resolved", concluding that it was no longer an active threat to media freedom.

UPDATES

04 Nov 2016: On 4 November 2016 the judge of the Civil Court of Rome dismissed the action for libel against Abbate and sentenced Massimo Carminati to bear the legal costs incurred by the weekly 'l'Espresso'.

- Article published by l'Espresso (in Italian)
- Article published by Notizie Ossigeno per l'Informazione: "Mafia Capitale. Journalism of inquiry is not defamation"

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION


- ➔ Article published on the website of Ossigeno per l'Informazione (in Italian): "Ossigeno FNSI ODG: I giornalisti non sono bersagli, rispettare Lirio Abbate"
- ➔ Article published on the website of Il Fatto quotidiano (in Italian): "Lirio Abbate, l'avvocato di Carminati lo attacca in aula: "Delirio Abbate". Ecco l'audio"
- ➔ Article published on the website of La Repubblica (in Italian): "Mafia capitale, la minaccia in aula contro il cronista"

STATE REPLIES



21 Jun 2016 | Reply from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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