

14
Jun 2019

▲ Lvl. 1

State replied

Italy

n° 62/2019

Alert created on: 04 Jun 2019

Journalist Roberto Saviano Threatened with Withdrawal of his Police Protection

SOURCE OF THREAT ▶ State

CATEGORY  ▶ Harassment and intimidation of journalists

PARTNER: EFJ/IFJ, AEJ, RSF

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."

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



14 Jun 2019 | Response from the Italian authorities

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