A news website with an undisclosed anti-immigration agenda that frequently publishes false and misleading information.

### Ownership and Financing

The site, whose name translates to “stop censorship,” does not provide any information about its ownership. Giuseppe Paolo Caraglia, who replied to an email that NewsGuard sent to the general address on the Contact (Contatti) page, referred to StopCensura.info as “my site” (“il mio sito”). Caraglia also identifies himself as affiliated with the site in his Instagram’s profile. He did not respond to NewsGuard’s query about the site’s ownership.

StopCensura.info derives revenue from advertising and sponsored content.

### Content

On its Contacts (Contatti) page, the site describes itself as an “Independent publication of news and information taken from the web,” providing “daily coverage of politics, economy, society and entertainment, with a focus on the (im)migration issues in our country.” (“Pubblicazione web indipendente di notizie e informazioni riprese dalla rete. Una rassegna stampa quotidiana su politica, economia, società e costume, con un occhio di riguardo alla questione (im)migratoria nel nostro Paese”).

Articles are organized in sections including Politics (Politica), Immigration (Immigrazione), Current Affairs (Cronaca) and Economy (Economia). The Current Affairs section mainly covers crimes allegedly committed by migrants in Italy. The Politics section focuses on topics related to migration and supports the anti-immigration agenda of Matteo Salvini, leader of the League party.

Typical headlines have included: “NGOs, Ocean Viking and Sea Watch towards Italy with 400 illegal migrants on board” (“ONG, Ocean Viking e Sea Watch verso l’Italia con 400 clandestini a bordo”); “Italy under
assault: one hundred landed in Lampedusa, more migrants on their way” (“Assalto all’Italia: sbarcano in cento a Lampedusa, altri migranti in arrivo”); and “Bologna, drug dealing in Montagnola park, 79 percent of pushers are immigrants” (“Bologna, spaccio nel parco della Montagnola: 79% pusher sono immigrati”).

StopCensura.info’s articles often contain false or unproven claims to support its anti-immigrant agenda.

For example, a January 2020 article was headlined “Democratic Party brings Tunisians to vote against Salvini: they use migrants against Italians” (“PD ha portato i tunisini a votare contro Salvini: usano migranti contro italiani”). The article was based entirely on a comment by Vilmer Poletti, secretary of the Democratic Party’s Circolo del Pilastro in Bologna, who said that when Salvini rang the bell of a Tunisian family’s home to ask them over the intercom if they were drug dealers, the move prompted more Italians of foreign origin to vote against him.

StopCensura.info treated Poletti’s comment about the impact of Salvini’s behavior toward the Tunisians as evidence that his party, according to the site, “brings Tunisian to vote against Salvini” and “uses migrants against Italians.” However, that claim was based only on Poletti’s comment, and the article does not mention any actual moves by the Democratic Party to mobilize Tunisians or other immigrants to vote against Salvini. There is no evidence of any such mobilization.

Another February 2020 headline stated that “The Democratic Party accompanies the elderly to places where there are Chinese people: ‘You can trust the coronavirus’” (“PD accompagna gli anziani dai cinesi: ‘Non diffidate del coronavirus’”). The article links to a video posted on Twitter by Radio Savana in which a Democratic Party politician from Bologna, Matteo Lepore, appeared in an unspecified location with elderly people and with people who appeared to be Asian. The quote in the headline does not appear in the article or the video.
The article treated Lepore’s comment and the presence of the Asian and elderly people as evidence that the Democratic Party is purposefully facilitating encounters between elderly Italian people and Chinese people, despite the Wuhan coronavirus outbreak. However, the article does not back this claim with any evidence, other than the video, and StopCensura.info does not provide any information about where or when the video was recorded.

The site regularly advances the Great Replacement Theory, popularized by right-wing French philosopher Renaud Camus, claiming that there is a plot to substitute the white population of Europe with non-whites from Africa, amid a declining white birth rate.

For example, a February 2020 article was headlined “The left party wants to replace Italians with immigrants: ‘it is worthwhile’” (“La sinistra progetta di sostituire gli italiani con gli immigrati: ‘conviene’”). Another February 2020 stated: “The goal of the Democratic Party is now clear and loud: replacing Italians with immigrants” (“L’obiettivo del Pd ormai viene sbandierato ai quattro venti: sostituire gli italiani con gli immigrati”). A January 2020 article about the arrival in Italy of Syrian migrants stated: “The ethnic replacement plan is proceeding full steam ahead.” (“Il piano di sostituzione etnica procede a gonfie vele.”)

There is no evidence that any political party in Italy is working to “replace” Italians with migrants.

Because StopCensura.info regularly publishes inaccurate or unsubstantiated claims, NewsGuard has determined that the site repeatedly publishes false content, does not gather and present information responsibly, and does not avoid deceptive headlines.

The site does not disclose its right-leaning, anti-immigration agenda, yet it cherry-picks stories and details that advance that agenda, and regularly inserts opinion into its coverage.

For example, a February 2020 article labeled as “infamous” (“famigerato”) the National Asylum Program, the government program overseeing the
acceptance of asylum seekers and migrants.

In another February 2020 article, the author wrote “Thank God” (“Sarebbe l’ora”), in reaction to a tweet in which Salvini said that when he returns to power, “we will not close our Italian borders, we will SEAL them” (“Appena torneremo al Governo, e sarà molto presto, non chiuderemo ma SIGILLEREMO le nostre frontiere italiane.”)

A third February 2020 article called for closing the ports to boats from Africa to protect the country from the Wuhan coronavirus, stating, “We should close the ports before it’s too late” (“Il CoronaVirus è in Africa. Chiudete i porti, prima che sia troppo tardi.”)

Because StopCensura.info’s articles regularly advance a right leaning, anti-immigration perspective that the site does not disclose, NewsGuard has determined that the site does not handle the difference between news and opinion responsibly.

StopCensura.info does not articulate a corrections policy, and NewsGuard did not find corrections on the site.

Asked about the site’s editorial practices, the distinction between news and opinion, and the site’s approach to corrections, Caraglia, who apparently runs the site, told NewsGuard in an email: “I have graduated with honors in Sociology and Social Research and in my life I have passed over 40 university exams. I believe that another exam with an American private company is professionally useless and morally insulting.”

**Transparency**

The site does not provide any information about its ownership, editorial leadership, and content creators. Articles do not include the names of authors.

The site provides an email address on the Contact page.

Advertising and sponsored content are clearly labeled.

Caraglia did not respond to NewsGuard’s questions about the site’s transparency practices.
The domain was registered in April 2019.

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Send feedback to NewsGuard: Click Here

Sources

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History

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