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**ITALY'S DEPUTY PM SALVINI CLEARED IN KIDNAP TRIAL OF MIGRANTS BLOCKED AT SEA**

- 23.12.2024

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BBC News (20 December 2024)

Italian Deputy Prime Minister Matteo Salvini has been acquitted in a long-running case over his refusal to let a migrant rescue boat dock in Italy in 2019.

Judges in the Sicilian city of Palermo cleared him of two counts of kidnap and dereliction of duty, after prosecutors had sought a jail term of six years.

Salvini, who's leader of the right-wing Lega party and a government ally of Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni, has always argued he was guilty only of wanting to "protect Italy".

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