Debunked: No, Italy does not want to charge Bill Gates with crimes against humanity

The claim has its origins in a speech made by Sara Cunial, a member of the Italian Parliament. A Facebook post circulated in recent days claims that Italy wants to charge Microsoft founder Bill Gates with crimes against humanity. Gates, one of the world's wealthiest people, has made headlines in recent months as part of his foundation's efforts to find a vaccine for Covid-19.

This specific claim – "Italy wants to charge Gates with crimes against humanity" – has its origins in a speech made by Sara Cunial, a member of the Italian Parliament. On 14 May during a parliamentary session, Cunial, once a member of Italy's right-wing Five Star Movement, addressed the Italian parliament and Prime Minister Giuseppe Conte.

Addressing Conte, Cunial said: "Next time you receive a phone call from the 'philanthropist' Bill Gates, forward it directly to the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity."

During her speech, Cunial also claimed that Gates had used vaccines to sterilise millions of women in Africa and criticised his connections to telecommunications companies behind the adoption of 5G in the United States. She also claimed Gates had once said only genocide could save the world.

Towards the end of her 14 May speech in which she called for Gates to be charged with crimes against humanity, Cunial is interrupted and heckled in the chamber, suggesting there is not widespread support among Italian parliamentarians for her call.

Cunial is just one MP and, therefore, her speech does not represent the Italian government's position.

A controversial figure in Italy, Cunial was expelled from the Five Star Movement in 2019 after accusing the party of being "agri-mafias". Before that, in 2018, she was suspended from the party after comparing vaccines to "genocide". She is now an independent. In fact, the Facebook claim appears to stem solely from Cunial's speech and nowhere else. No other member of Italy's parliament has called for any such action against Gates in recent weeks.

FACT CHECK

This claim is false. Italy nor its Parliament wants to charge Bill Gates with crimes against humanity. There is a lot of false news and scaremongering being spread in Ireland at the moment about coronavirus.

Source: Journal.ie FactCheck: https://jrnl.ie/5108760