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PRESS REALASE

Indictment issued against camerawoman who assaulted migrants

Public Prosecutor's Office of Szeged issued today an indictment against the camerawoman who kicked migrants breaking through a police line near Rösztke, a Hungarian village, in September 2015.

According to the indictment, on 8th September 2015, the accused arrived at collection point "Rösztke 1" in the company of a colleague at the request of the editor-in-chief of the television company she worked for. The task of the accused was to record reports about the migrant crisis developing in the vicinity of Rösztke. On the afternoon of 8th September, around 1300 migrants were present at the waiting area where Hungarian law enforcement units were carrying out guarding duties. Soon after 13:30, 400 migrants broke out from the holding area and started to walk in the direction of Szeged, a nearby Hungarian city. The accused stood right behind the police line surrounding the migrants when the break-out happened and she stayed there even after a group of migrants broke into a sprint next to her. The accused, while she continued filming the scene, kicked a young man in the shin with a swift movement of her right foot, and immediately after that, she also kicked a minor girl at knee high with her right leg. Then the accused kicked towards a migrant who was running with a child in his arms with the intention to trip him, however, her leg did not reach the migrant. Nevertheless, the migrant fell while he was holding the child because a policeman tried to grab him so that he couldn't leave the designated area. The migrant wrenched himself out from the grip of the policeman and this movement made him lose his balance.

The violent actions of the accused did not inflict injury, however her behaviour was capable of provoking indignation and outcry in the members of the public present at the scenes.

The accused is charged by the Public Prosecutor's Office of Szeged with breach of peace. During the investigation, which was closely supervised by the Public Prosecutor's Office of Szeged, it was thoroughly examined whether the actions of the accused could have realized other more serious crimes. However, the evidence collected during the investigation showed that there was no reasonable chance for the actions of the accused to cause injury. Also, no data emerged which would have indicated that the conducts of the accused were motivated by ethnic considerations or by the migrant status of the victims.

The trial will be held by County Court of Szeged.

7th September 2016, Szeged

Zsolt Kopasz
chief prosecutor

