

## PRESS RELEASE

### **Indictment against F. Hassan for committing terrorism and crime against humanity – with VIDEO footages and photos**

*The Prosecution Office of Investigation of the Capital, Budapest proposes life imprisonment without parole against the Syrian national*

Today the Prosecution Office of Investigation of the Capital, Budapest has filed an indictment against F. Hassan, a 27-year-old Syrian national with the Regional Court of the Capital, Budapest for the act of terrorism committed by a criminal organization involving homicide and as well as for crime against humanity.

According to the indictment, after joining the terrorist organization Islamic State F. Hassan became a commander of a minor armed troop of the terrorist organization by the year 2015. The accused adopted the aims of the terrorist organization, which included overturning the constitutional, social and economic order of the Syrian Arab Republic, setting up the regime and maintaining the power of the Islamic State in the occupied territories. Those aims also included, by use of deterrent methods, the systematic intimidation of civilians living in the territory controlled by the Islamic State by executing and torturing them, as well as punishing or killing people or communities that had not joined the terrorist organization and were considered to be as “enemies of the Islam” under the newly introduced laws of the Islamic State. At the beginning of May 2015, the accused was entrusted with the task of occupying al Shokni, a city of Homs Governorate, which was a key military base, so that the terrorist organization Islamic State could later occupy Palmyra, a city rich in art treasures. As part of the aims of the military attacks, the accused was also given the task to collect the names of inhabitants who had not adopted the aims of the terrorist organization and to make a “death list” of them. The list was approved by the high leadership of the Islamic State, and it was F. Hassan’s and his troop’s task to execute the people on the list.

As part of the systematic and comprehensive attacks against local population the accused committed the following acts between 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> May 2015:

- on the main square of the city of al Shokni he and his comrade beheaded the Imam, the city’s religious leader, and a third, unknown person recorded, videotaped and later made public their acts in order to intensify intimidation of local people;
- he and some other members of the terrorist organization, in order to further intensify deterrence, forced the city’s population, later victims’ family members – including women and children – to watch the beheadings and to apologize in exchange for their own lives.

Moreover, on the days following 13<sup>th</sup> May 2015, while ravaging through they city, the accused and his armed comrades killed at least twenty-five people including women and children.

According to the indictment relating to the systematic murders, F. Hassan was directly involved in the execution of at least two persons, while a third civilian was killed personally by him with pistol shot.

The Prosecution Office of Investigation of the Capital, Budapest carried out a large number of investigations by powerful forces during the five months following the date 18<sup>th</sup> March, 2019, when the investigation was ordered. As part of this, F. Hassan was interrogated as suspect for a total of 29 hours.

During the investigation, altogether ten witnesses, including eyewitnesses, were being interviewed, outside the territory of Hungary in Malta and Belgium as well.

The Counter-Terrorism Center contributed to launching investigations in several Member States of the European Union, including Malta, Belgium and Greece.

Co-operation among judicial authorities of the Member States was coordinated by the Hungarian National Member of Eurojust, seated in The Hague, and evidence was obtained as a result of altogether fifteen legal assistance requests issued during this co-operation, and substantial assistance was provided by the Belgian, Greek and Maltese National Members. In particular, the Maltese police and court, as well as the Belgian and Greek police were involved in carrying out investigative measures abroad.

Eight prosecutors of the Prosecution Office of Investigation of the Capital, Budapest participated in the investigation, and their work was assisted by fifteen staff members of the Counter-Terrorism Center. The length of the investigation documents covers 2200 pages.

The Prosecution Office of Investigation of the Capital, Budapest has proposed in its indictment filed with the Court of the Capital, Budapest that the accused being in pre-trial detention from 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 be sentenced to life imprisonment without parole.

The Prosecution Office of Investigation of the Capital, Budapest is conducting further investigation under a separate case number in criminal acts related to the case against a yet unknown perpetrator.

Previous news about the case is available at:

<http://ugyeszseg.hu/az-iszlam-allam-egyik-tagjat-vette-orizetbe-es-hallgatja-ki-gyanusitottkent-a-fovarosi-nyomozo-ugyeszseg/>

<http://ugyeszseg.hu/eredmenyesen-inditvanyozta-a-fovarosi-nyomozo-ugyeszseg-az-iszlam-allam-egyik-tagjanak-letartoztatasa/>

[http://tek.gov.hu/video/19\\_03\\_24\\_kiseres\\_HASSAN.mpg](http://tek.gov.hu/video/19_03_24_kiseres_HASSAN.mpg)

[http://tek.gov.hu/video/19\\_03\\_22\\_kiseres\\_HASSAN.mpg](http://tek.gov.hu/video/19_03_22_kiseres_HASSAN.mpg)