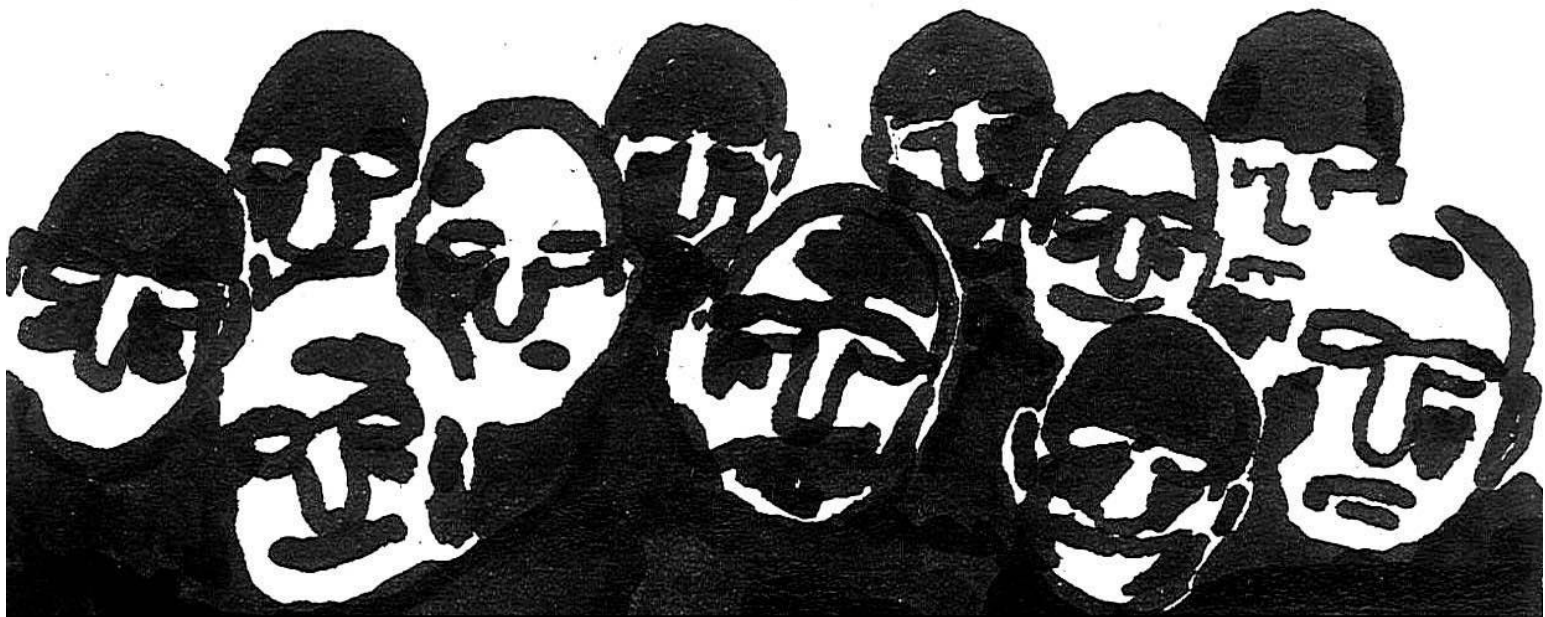


# FREE THE RÖSZKE 11



## FREE AHMED H.!

Ahmed H. is one of the many people who protested on the border of Hungary at the Röszke/Horgos crossing to open the borders again on 15<sup>th</sup> of September 2015. On the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2016, after one year of isolation in prison, he was sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment for committing an "act of terrorism" and is since then in high security prison in Budapest. Now the second instance trial started and will end on 14<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2018. The trial against Ahmed H. is a racist showcase that tries to strengthen the idea that all migrants are terrorists and to criminalize protest against the European border regime. We demand freedom for Ahmed H.!

### MIGRATION IS NOT A CRIME!

[www.freetheroszke11.weebly.com](http://www.freetheroszke11.weebly.com)

# Who is Ahmed H.? Who are the Rösztke11?

**Ahmed H. is one of the many people who protested on the border of Hungary at the Rösztke/Horgos crossing to open the borders again on 15th September 2015.** A few hours before Hungary had closed them and had made any crossing a criminal offense. Afterwards Ahmed H. was captured by Hungarian authorities at the train station in Budapest and they claimed he was a terrorist leader of the protests. On the 30th of November 2016, after over one year of isolation in prison, **he was sentenced to 10 years of imprisonment for committing an "act of terrorism"** and is since then in high security prison in Budapest. All requests for visit were rejected or simply ignored by the authorities until some months ago. He is being isolated.

On the 15th of June 2017 in Szeged, Hungary, Ahmed H. had **his second instance trial** which referred the case back to the first instance court to reconsider the terrorism charges due to "lack of reasoning and interpretation". This reconsideration started in October 2017 and will **end on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2018, where the verdict is expected.** The trial against Ahmed H. is a racist showcase that tries to strengthen the idea that all migrants are terrorists and to criminalize another protest against the EUropean border regime.

## A political trial can never be a fair trial



*Closing of the Hungarian border at Rösztke in 2015, Ahmed in court at Szeged in 2016*

**Since the 30th of October 2017 the Hungarian states' trial against Ahmed H. went into the next round of seemingly absurd and endless rounds.** Ahmed's case is now back at the first court level, after the second instance referred it back to the first level for lack of consideration of contradictions in the evidence. The court proceeded, going over the same testimonies of the same cops and the same videos again and again, with no new witnesses or evidence. The only new thing in the courtroom was the judge. This time the judge did not play the role of the prosecutor or asserted Ahmed's guilt from the start. For a change, he asked Ahmed questions and even let him answer, listening to his statements. So are we witnessing a fair trial now as some reports and monitors say? Is Hungary's justice system functioning properly after all and will justice finally proceed?

**Fact is, that Ahmed is imprisoned in isolation,** separated from his family for over two years, that he was picked up by the state sleeping at the train station to serve their racist propaganda campaign (imagine a "terrorist" going back to the country he "attacked" three days before sleeping at a train station). Ahmed was arrested at a time when the Hungarian state itself was transporting people from Croatia to Western Europe through its territory,

transporting the very same people which the anti-terrorist troops had brutally beaten up and pushed back to Serbia in Röszke only few days before. What and when a crime is a crime always a matter of state's definition.

**Fact is, that there are fenced prisons in Hungary and all over Europe** where thousands of people are held for unknown time periods and brutally mistreated, that there are border hunters going after and torturing people without documents every single night. Was all this ever mentioned in any court hearing? To us, the discussion whether the new judge is less racist than the previous one is irrelevant, as this trial should not have been happening in the first place. The trial against Ahmed H. has always been, and remains, a politically motivated show trial.

**The Hungarian Fidesz government uses Ahmed as a scapegoat to criminalize migrants and to create an image of dangerous “migrant-terrorists”.** It has therefore even invented the “Battle of Röszke” (with its own Wikipedia page), framing it as an epic fight where the Hungarian Police defended the country heroically against the "attackers". They also started a Facebook page called “Ahemd H. is a terrorist”. Thereby it can frame itself as the defender of Europe and its Christian values. That criticism of European officials remains sparse and is in any case hypocritical is no surprise. EUrope is happy about the role Hungary plays with such pride. The more “civilized” countries of the EU benefit from the ongoing brutality Hungary exerts on migrants at its borders. And EUrope can point the finger at someone else, all the while an EUropean Frontex-mission operates on that very border. All this context is forgotten when we talk about 'fairness' in this current trial.

In the current court hearings we are witnessing how history is written through a silencing of the collective memory of previous struggles. Remembering and keeping strength to remind us and others is part of our everyday resistance. **A political showtrial can never be a fair trial.** We do not accept the fake fairness of a new trial with another 'nicer' judge, remembering the context of all the ongoing crime by the state, its created 'terrorism-migration-connection' and repression of solidarity actions.



**Ahmed's next trial will take place in Szeged on 14<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2018, where also the verdict is expected. Join us and show solidarity with Ahmed during the hearings.**

# How can you support?

## 1) Join the protests

Join and organize decentral actions all over Europe to put pressure on the Hungarian government and court system and show Ahmed that he is not alone! **During the days around the trial dates on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> of March we will protest at the court in Szeged, Hungary. You are welcome to join us!** If you want to organize a protest at your local embassy/consulate or other solidarity actions contact us and we will link it on our website. Also more creative and subversive forms of protest are welcome!

## 2) Support for lawyer costs

To support Ahmed and his family with the **high lawyer costs** (still over 10.000 Euro missing), please visit our **fundraising campaign**:

[www.generosity.com/fundraising/justice-for-ahmed-fundraising-for-defense-lawyer](http://www.generosity.com/fundraising/justice-for-ahmed-fundraising-for-defense-lawyer)

or use our **donation account**:

Rote Hilfe e.V. Ortsgruppe Frankfurt Donation Reference: Röscke 11

IBAN: DE24 4306 0967 4007 2383 90 BIC: GENODEM1GLS

## 3) Spread the word

Spread flyers, the information about the trials, our website and the crowdfunding over your networks! Solidarity is our weapon!

## 4) Write letters to Ahmed

Verein zur Förderung feministischer Projekte, Kleeblattgasse 7, 1010 Vienna, Austria

### ***More Information:***

*Find us on Facebook: [facebook.com/11personfreedom](https://www.facebook.com/11personfreedom)*

*Check our Blog: [www.freetheroszke11.weebly.com](http://www.freetheroszke11.weebly.com)*

*Contact us: [freetheroszke11@riseup.net](mailto:freetheroszke11@riseup.net)*

*Follow the trial on Twitter: [@freetheroszke11](https://twitter.com/freetheroszke11)*

**Freedom for Ahmed H.! Freedom for all imprisoned migrants! Freedom for all political prisoners!**

**Migration is not a crime!**