

Press Release

Frankfurt/Main, April 2, 2024

No. 17/2024

Higher Regional Court Frankfurt/Main: Accreditation conditions and information for media representatives regarding the State security proceedings concerning the indictment of nine defendants for membership of a terrorist organization

The main hearing begins on **May 21, 2024 at 9:30 a.m.** Principally, all hearings are held in public. There are a total of **59 seats** available for media representatives. By decision dated March 22, 2024, (amended on March 28, 2024) the presiding judge ordered **accreditation proceedings**.

Please note in particular:

1. Seats reserved for members of the media will be assigned with **priority** to accredited media.
2. The accreditation procedure opens on **April 10, 2024, 12:00 p.m.** and ends on **April 19, 2024, 12:00 p.m.**
3. **Freelance journalists** and **media companies** are entitled to accreditation. Media companies accredit themselves through a journalist working for the company.
4. If the number of applications for accreditation exceeds the number of reserved seats, media groups will be formed for the purpose of allocation of seats; applica

5. tions will be considered **in the order in which they are received in the press office's e-mail inbox.**
6. Media pools will be set up for taking photos and for filming in the courtroom. The accreditation procedure opens on **April 10, 2024, 12:00 p.m.** and ends on **April 16, 2024, 12:00 p.m.** Each pool has to communicate the result of the mutual agreement found to the press office until **April 24, 2024.**

Please refer to the following excerpt of the presiding judge's accreditation order for the exact procedures and formalities of accreditation:

“ ...

1. Order to implement an accreditation procedure

- a) In preparation of the main hearing, the implementation of an accreditation procedure according to sec. 176 of the Court Constitution Act (Gerichtsverfassungsgesetz, GVG) is ordered. The press office of the Higher Regional Court is commissioned with the implementation.

In the courtroom, a total of 59 seats are reserved for representatives of the press. Priority for these seats will be given to accredited press representatives who identify themselves with a confirmation of accreditation issued by the press office of the Higher Regional Court Frankfurt/Main.

- b) Depending on press interest, the Senate reserves the right to allow audio transmission into a separate media working room pursuant to sec. 169 para. 1 sentence 3 of the Court Constitution Act (Gerichtsverfassungsgesetz, GVG). Details remain subject to a separate order of the Senate.

2. Accreditation procedure

- a) Freelance journalists and media companies are entitled to accreditation.
- b) Media companies accredit themselves through a journalist working for the company. Accreditation is freely transferrable within a company. This also

applies, if the journalist accredited for the company leaves the company. In the event of transfer, the recipient of the transfer must demonstrate his or her press affiliation on the day of the court session by presenting the documents laid out under section c) (below).

- c) All interested media companies and freelance journalists are kindly requested to notify the press office of the Higher Regional Court by sending an e-mail to

pressestelle@olg.justiz.hessen.de

stating the case file number 8 St 2/23.

The accreditation request must contain the following information:

- first and last name
- date of birth
- the seconding media company, if applicable
- contact information (phone number, e-mail).

The application for accreditation must be accompanied by proof of press affiliation (valid press card or card of broadcasting or television institution under the Press Act and/or a letter of reference (confirmation of employment or commission) of such a broadcasting or television institution or other proof of active journalistic work).

Accredited media companies will be granted access authorization for one seat for an editor or journalist.

- d) Applications for accreditation received in other form as detailed above will not be accepted and will not be forwarded. Previous expressions of interest to the press office of the Higher Regional Court or listing on an e-mail distribution list do not replace accreditation.

Please note that collective applications cannot be considered. Each press representative or media company must obtain separate accreditation.

e) The accreditation process opens on

Wednesday, April 10, 2024, 12:00 p.m.

and closes on

Friday, April 19, 2024, 12:00 p.m.

Accreditation requests received before or after the aforementioned period will not be accepted.

Subsequent accreditation is not possible even if the main hearing continuous for a longer period of time.

3. Allocation of seats / media groups

- a) If more press representatives / media companies notify their interest than reserved seats are available in the courtroom, accreditation requests will be considered in the order in which they are received during the time period set out in section 2.e) above. Decisive is the time of receipt of the application in the e-mail inbox of the press office (date, time).
- b) In case the accreditation requests exceed the number of seats reserved for press representatives, the media will be broken down into groups. Within each group, the accreditation requests will be considered in the order in which they are received. The following groups will be established:
 - aa) German press and picture agencies headquartered in Germany (3 seats)
 - bb) international press and picture agencies headquartered in Germany or abroad (2 seats)
 - cc) print and online media:
 - (1) daily newspapers
 - regional daily newspapers (6 seats)

- domestic national newspapers (8 seats)
- foreign newspapers (3 seats)

(2) weekly or monthly publications (5 seats)

- domestic (4 seats)
- abroad (1 seat)

dd) television (6 seats)

(1) domestic public television stations (2 seats: 1 seat each for ARD and ZDF)

(2) domestic private television stations (3 seats)

(3) foreign television stations (1 seat)

ee) video agencies domestic or abroad (2 seats in total: one seat each)

ff) radio stations (7 seats)

(1) domestic public radio stations (2 seats)

(2) domestic private radio stations (4 seats)

(3) foreign radio stations (1 seat)

gg) freelance journalists (10 seats)

(1) domestic freelance journalists (8 seats)

(2) foreign freelance journalists (2 seats)

hh) All other applicants who haven't been allocated a seat (7 seats, plus any unused seats from the aforementioned quotas).

- c) The press office will create lists for each media group to allocate seats. Seats are allocated in the order in which the accreditation requests were received. Each group's list will state the order of the reception of the respective accreditation requests with the first application received in the abovementioned accreditation period being the first item in the respective list. The allocation of seats in accordance with 3 b) hh) is based on the respective receipt of the application regardless of the groups set out above.

- d) If requests are received simultaneously and if the treatment of these applications determines whether accreditation can still be granted within a specific media group or overall, accreditation is awarded by drawing lots. An employee of the press office will keep record of the lottery procedure.
- e) The press office of the Higher Regional Court will notify the applicants by e-mail of whether their accreditation requests have been successful or unsuccessful. In case of successful accreditation, a confirmation of accreditation will be send per e-mail, stating the first and last name of the press representative, the seconding media company (if applicable) and the number of the seat allocated to the representative.

6. Accreditation for photographers, camera and sound technicians without a seat

For photographers, camera and sound technicians without a seat in the courtroom the following rules apply for accreditation:

- a) Institutions, editorial offices and agencies or photographers interested in image, audio or video reporting shall indicate their interest in accreditation by e-mail and by acknowledging the provisions set out in section 7 to the press office of the Higher Regional Court at

pressestelle@olg.justiz.hessen.de

stating the case file number 8 St 2/23.

- b) The accreditation request must contain the following information:
- first and last name
 - date of birth
 - the seconding media company, if applicable
 - contact information (phone number, e-mail).

The application for accreditation must be accompanied by proof of press affiliation (valid press card or card of broadcasting or television institution

under the Press Act and/or a letter of reference (confirmation of employment or commission) of such a broadcasting or television institutions or other proof of active journalistic work).

Furthermore, it must be stated whether there is a **willingness to assume pool leadership**.

- c) Applications for accreditation received in other form as detailed above will not be accepted and will not be forwarded. Previous expressions of interest to the press office of the Higher Regional Court or listing on an e-mail distribution list do not replace accreditation.

Please note that collective applications cannot be considered. Each press representative or media company must obtain separate accreditation.

- d) The accreditation process opens on

Wednesday, April 10, 2024, 12:00 p.m.

and closes on

Friday, April 16, 2024, 12:00 p.m.

Accreditation requests received before or after the aforementioned period will not be accepted.

7. Audio and film recording, photography

- a) Audio and video recordings and pictures are allowed 30 minutes before the respective session of the court. Due to the large number of people who are present in the courtroom and in the adjacent security gate area during the hearing breaks and after the end of the session, filming and photography are not permitted in the courtroom and in the adjacent security gate area at these times. The resulting restriction of Article 5 (1) of the Basic Law (Grundgesetz) is mandatory and proportionate in order to maintain security and order in the

main hearing in accordance with Section 176 of the GVG. Film, audio or video recordings must be stopped immediately at the request of the presiding judge,

and the devices must be switched off and removed from the courtroom. The recordings made may only be used for current reporting on the ongoing proceedings. The personal rights of the persons present as well as the provisions of press and art copyright law must be observed.

b) The following media pools are set up:

aa) Two television teams of the **accredited television stations** (see above section 3) b) dd)) will be admitted as pool leaders carrying **one camera each** (one public and one private television station)

bb) **One video editor** of the **accredited video agencies** (see above section 3 b) ee)) will be admitted as pool leader.

cc) **One photographer** of the **accredited press and picture agencies** (see section 3) b) aa) and bb) above) will be admitted as pool leader

dd) One of the **accredited freelance photographers** will be admitted as pool leader.

c) Pool leader undertake to supply, upon request, immediately their photo, audio and/or film recordings to other media companies and freelance journalists.

d) It should be noted that camera crews must apply informally to the press office for permission to film.

e) All pool members (broadcasters, editorial offices, agencies and journalists) **determine the leader** of their respective pool by mutual **agreement**. Pool members are responsible for the content of the mutual agreement. The press office is to be notified under Pressestelle@olg.justiz.hessen.de of the final result of the agreement until **April 24, 2024** at the latest.

f) If no amicable solution can be found, the press office - entrusted with this task by the presiding judge - shall take a decision.

- g) After the expiry of the deadline, the press office will inform via e-mail who is installed as pool leader respectively. A confirmation of accreditation for the team will also be sent to the pool-leading media company or pool-leading freelancer.
- h) For the positioning of the cameras and while recording, the instructions of the press office staff and the security guards must be followed.

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English version: deputy spokeswoman Dr. Kerstin Wierse