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The actions undertaken by variety of armed groups, and particularly by the terrorist organizations, pose a serious threat to the international community. In media, especially after the so called Islamic State became a powerful actor, there are recently numerous information on crimes committed by this one, as well as other groups, including mass executions, prosecution of religious minorities, tortures, recruitment of child-soldiers and destruction of monuments of world cultural heritage. Despite the attempts to neutralize the consequences of the actions carried out by such groups by force, until now, no effective means were found in order to halt their activities. That is why, it is indispensable, to bring to the justice and try in the course of the just and fair trials those who perpetrate these crimes.

The aim of the project is to find answer for the question what are the effective methods of drawing the responsibility of armed non-state actors in case of commitment of the most serious crimes. The project will focus then on drafting the model of liability for crimes committed by armed non-state actors, regardless if this liability refers to the individual members or armed non-state actors as such. Models of criminal liability, which are used today, are aimed at determining the responsibility of individual members of armed groups, which are then convicted for the role they perform in the group. Nevertheless, these traditional models of liability do not seem to be adequate to the structure of armed non-state actors, like terrorist organizations, the numbers and type of ties between their members, as well as complexity of these structures.

The applied research methods will focus on the historic and dogmatic analysis of the models of criminal liability used both in internal, and in international legal orders. The purpose of this analysis will be to find the model (or compile the characteristic of few models) which seems to be the most adequate to the given case. Thus, it will require also the analysis of the works presented in the doctrine of law, to take into account the state of the art, as well as case study, in order to analysis current practice.

The reasons behind the rational of the project are challenges for the international community, as well as for the doctrine of law, connected with the effective imposing liability on armed non-state actors as the perpetrators of the most serious international crimes. The outcome of the project could find application in the practice of the criminal proceedings, both international and national, as well as to contribute to the more just trials, both from the perspective of victims of crimes, and perpetrators.