

SARAH MARDINI AND SEÁN BINDER,  
GREECE

# FACING JAIL FOR SAVING LIVES

WRITE  
FOR  
RIGHTS

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL



# SARAH MARDINI AND

# SEÁN BINDER

## GREECE

In Greece, you can go to jail for saving lives. It happened to Sarahardini, 24, and Seán Binder, 25, when they volunteered as rescue workers for an organization in Lesvos. Their job was to spot boats in distress at sea and to help refugees who were fleeing abuses in their home countries.

Sarah and Seán ended up in prison charged with spying, people smuggling and belonging to a criminal organization. They spent more than 100 days in prison before being released on bail in December 2018. Their case is still under investigation. When it closes, a Greek judicial body will decide whether to send them to trial. If found guilty, they could go to prison for 25 years.

Seán was born in Germany, but has lived in Ireland since he was 5. He is there today. Seán says the scariest thing about what happened to him "is not that it put me in jail, it's that this can happen to anyone." Governments should protect a refugee's right to find a safe place to live instead of turning people who try to help refugees into criminals. When people need to escape conflict, torture or other abuses in their countries, they often have no option but to make highly dangerous journeys to reach safety.

Sarah is a refugee from Syria and is now in Germany. She knows all about such dangers. In 2015, she fled Syria's war, crossing the Aegean in a dinghy which nearly sank. She and her sister towed the boat to the shores of Lesvos, saving everyone on board.

Stigmatizing and criminalizing rescue workers has a chilling effect on individuals and organizations who have stepped in to help where the state has failed. This not only poses huge personal and psychological costs for them, but makes the situation of refugees and migrants more precarious.

**Tell Greece to drop all charges against Sarah and Seán.**



#W4R19

## WRITE TO THE GREEK MINISTER TODAY

Explain why you are concerned about the charges against Sarahardini and Seán Binder. Ask him to drop all charges against them.

### **Minister of Citizens' Protection**

*Michalis Chrisochoidis*

*P. Kannellopoulou 4, 101 77*

*Athens, Greece*

**Twitter:** @chrisochoidis

**Email:** minister@yptp.gr

*Salutation: Dear Minister*

## SHOW SARAH AND SEÁN YOU'RE WITH THEM

Send encouragement to Sarah and Seán or, as is their wish, donate to the Greek Council for Refugees at [www.gcr.gr/en](http://www.gcr.gr/en), or help refugees in Canada in some way. Neither Sarah or Seán wish to be portrayed as heroes: "Helping others should be absolutely normal," says Seán.

### **Sarah and Seán**

*c/o Amnesty International*

*Europe Regional Office*

*1 Easton Street*

*London WC1X 0DW, UK*

**WRITE A LETTER  
CHANGE A LIFE**

December 2019

Index: EUR 25/0753/2019 English Images:  
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