

To
Konstantinos Tsiaras
Minister of Justice
96 Mesogeion Avenue
P.O. 11527, Athens
Greece



OPEN LETTER

Dear Minister Tsiaras,

25,000 people have drowned on the Mediterranean route since 2014. There could be almost twice as many casualties, unless organizations such as “Sea Watch” tried to save lives through legally regulated, but dangerous missions.

But although the International Convention on the Law of the Sea requires the search and rescue of people who are in danger at sea, employees of rescue organizations repeatedly find themselves as lawbreakers in court.

Currently, a trial is being conducted against Sean Binder and Sarah Mardini, both of whom have been cited to court as members of the NGO “Sea Rescue”. Sarah Mardini is a rescue swimmer who pulled an unseaworthy boat with refugees ashore. Sean Binder’s violation of law includes providing refugees with blankets and flashlights. He is accused of the illegal use of radio equipment, of espionage, aiding and abetting illegal entry, etc. For four years he has been waiting for his trial, which is now – in 2023 – taking place, divided into different charges.

For us as convinced Europeans, such measures mean a blatant criminalization of people who take the moral obligation to help people in need seriously and show solidarity with refugees. Trials like the one mentioned above contradict the legal duty to assist people in precarious situations.

The biggest problem from our point of view is that there are no legal ways to enter Europe, and therefore many people die or can only choose illegal and dangerous escape routes.

We call on you as Minister of Justice of Greece to stand up for the observance of human rights in your country.

We all know that our survival in this endangered world depends massively on the respect of these rights.

Sincere regards,

representing the platform:
Molly Mlinar-Steixner
SO SIND WIR NICHT

*SO SIND WIR NICHT is a platform on the subject of migration, supported by **728 individuals** and **77 organisations**, and based in Innsbruck, Austria.*

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