



# LONG DISTANCE SWIMMER – SARA MARDINI

by Charly W. Feldman



## SYNOPSIS

One moment champion Syrian swimmer Sara Mardini is Europe's most celebrated refugee and humanitarian, the next she is a 'criminal mastermind'. While her sister competes as a swimmer at the Olympics, Sara awaits trial and a possible 25-year prison sentence.

At 20, Sara was already famous. She fled Syria in 2015 with her younger sister Yusra. When their boat broke down as they were crossing the sea to Greece, Sara and Yusra jumped into the water. The sisters, both competitive swimmers, towed the boat to safety. Their journey made headlines around the world, and is dramatized in a Netflix film called *The Swimmers*. Our story begins when the fictionalised drama ends. Sara has spent three years rescuing refugees on the same journey that made her famous, but is suddenly arrested in August 2018, accused by Greek authorities of running a criminal enterprise and charged with "international espionage and people smuggling". If convicted, she faces up to 25 years in prison and the end of...

## FESTIVALS

2023

38 DOK.fest Munich – nominated VFF Documentary Film

Production Award

30 Hot Docs Toronto

30 Sheffield DocFest

## CAST AND CREW

DIRECTOR Charly W. Feldman · SOUND Stanislaw Milkowski ·

EDITOR Franziska von Berlepsch · DOP Zamarin Wahdat

2022

88 min

ORIGINAL TITLE

GEGEN DEN STROM

FORMAL CATEGORIES

Biographie/Portrait, Sports

ORIGINAL LANGUAGES

German, English, Arabic, Greek

PREMIERE

Germany (2022)

WORLD SALES

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