

Olga Chupris
Karla Marksa Street 38
220016 Minsk
BELARUS

Vladislav Sharkovsky

Dear Ms Chupris,

Vladislav Sharkovsky is currently serving a prison sentence of eight years and two months for minor, non-violent drug-related offences. On 16 March 2018, the then 17-year-old was arrested on the street without an arrest warrant and immediately taken to the police station. He was not provided with a lawyer, nor was his mother allowed to see him, until the following day. Vladislav Sharkovsky was accused of belonging to an organised group involved in illicit activities. On the basis of very weak evidence and, on what appear to be trumped-up charges, he was given a guilty verdict.

It is estimated that thousands of children and young people are serving lengthy sentences for minor, non-violent drug-related offences in Belarus. They face many human rights violations from the moment they are arrested, during the investigation and trial, and once they are sentenced; many are held in conditions that violate international human rights law.

I urge you to quash Vladislav Sharkovsky's conviction and further ask you to ensure the release of all children who were imprisoned for minor, non-violent drug offences in Belarus.

Yours sincerely,