Olga Chupris

Karla Marksa Street 38

220016 Minsk

BELARUS

Datum

**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 seem him, until the next day. *Vladislav Sharkovsky* was accused of belonging to an organized group which carried out illicit activities. Despite the lack of information regarding the composition of the group and its operations, on 4 September 2018 he was found guilty and sentenced after an unfair trial.

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 grant *Vladislav Sharkovsky’s* immediate release by quashing his conviction. Moreover, I respectfully ask you to ensure the release of all children who were imprisoned for minor, non-violent drug offences in Belarus.

Yours sincerely,