Olga Chupris, Deputy Head of Presidential Administration of the Republic of Belarus

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(Plaats, datum)

Dear Ms Chupris,

I wish to express my concern about Vladislav Sharkovsky. He was arrested when he was 17 years old and has been imprisoned for minor, non-violent drug-related offences. He was sentenced to 8 years and 2 months in prison after an unfair trial.

According to his mother, during the night of 16 March 2018 law enforcement officials coerced Sharkovsky into admitting his guilt and told him to sign a dictated “confession”. He was also not provided with a lawyer until the next morning.

Vladislav Sharkovsky’s right to a fair trial and his rights under the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child have been variously violated.

I urge you to release Sharkovsky and facilitate his full social reintegration, including by clearing his criminal record. Furthermore, I call on you to end the practice of imprisoning children for minor, non-violent drug-related offences under Article 328. Please take measures to release all children and young people who were children at the time of the offence.

Thank you for your time. I am looking forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely,

(Naam, adres)