

President of Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko  
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Dear President,

I wish to express my concern about **Vladislav Sharkovsky and Emil Ostrovko** who were arrested as children and have been imprisoned for minor, non-violent drug-related offences. They both have serious health issues. **Emil Ostrovko** is suffering from chronic asthma and **Vladislav Sharkovsky** has developed a cough, flashes and floaters in his vision, and more recently deep vein thrombosis. With the rapid spread of the COVID-19 virus, their health and potentially life, and those of numerous other prisoners are at risk.

In light of the above, I urge you to approve an early or conditional release **for Vladislav Sharkovsky and Emil Ostrovko**. I also urge you to review the need for continued custodial detention of all prisoners in Belarus who are at heightened risk due to COVID-19, including people with pre-existing medical conditions. Not carrying out such a process may amount to a violation of the right of an effective remedy.

Lastly, I call on you to end the practice of imprisoning children for minor, non-violent drug-related offences under Article 328, and 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 kindly awaiting your reply.

Yours sincerely,