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

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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,