

Dear Sir,

Emil Ostrovko was only 17 years old when in April 2018 he received a 10-year prison sentence for drug trafficking, later reduced to eight years. Emil had worked after school as a courier for an online company. His employer told him that the parcels he was delivering contained legal smoking mixtures – it was a lie; he was delivering illegal drugs. Investigators never looked for the owner of the company, or anyone else. Only Emil was prosecuted.

In Belarus, people serving lengthy prison sentences for petty drugs offences are treated far worse than other offenders and made to do long hours of hard labour. Emil was denied immediate access to vital medication and got frostbite after being forced to clear snow with his bare hands. While life has got a little better for Emil since he was moved to an adult prison in June, his youth and potential are being wasted because of highly punitive drug laws.

I urge you to immediately release Emil, clear his criminal record and ensure no children are imprisoned for minor, non-violent drug offences.

Yours sincerely

親愛的總檢察長，

年僅 17 歲的艾彌爾·奧斯克洛維克 (Emil Ostrovko) 於 2018 年 4 月因販毒遭判 10 年刑期，之後減至 8 年徒刑。艾彌爾課後在一家網路公司當快遞打工。雇主告訴艾彌爾，運送包裹內裝的是合法的菸草混合物—但這是謊言，艾彌爾運送的正是非法毒品。調查人員完全沒有追究該公司老闆或是其他人，只有艾彌爾遭到起訴。

在白羅斯，因輕微毒品罪而遭判多年刑期者，在獄中待遇遠比其他受刑人還要惡劣，且被迫從事長時間勞役。艾彌爾無法取得重要氣喘藥物，且在被迫徒手除雪時得到凍瘡。艾彌爾轉至成人監獄後情況有些許好轉，但他的青春和潛能仍在獄中逐漸消逝；具高度懲罰性的毒品法正是背後原因。

我在此敦促您立即釋放艾彌爾，清除他的犯罪紀錄，並確保今後不再會有孩童因輕微、非暴力的毒品罪而遭監禁。

敬此