

EMIL OSTROVKO,
BELARUS

WRITE
FOR
RIGHTS

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



JAILED TEENAGER YEARNS FOR FREEDOM



EMIL OSTROVKO

BELARUS

Emil Ostrovko was waiting for his girlfriend at a bus stop on the outskirts of Minsk in April 2018. They were going to spend the day together. Suddenly police officers arrived – they beat Emil and arrested him for distributing illicit drugs. He was just 17.

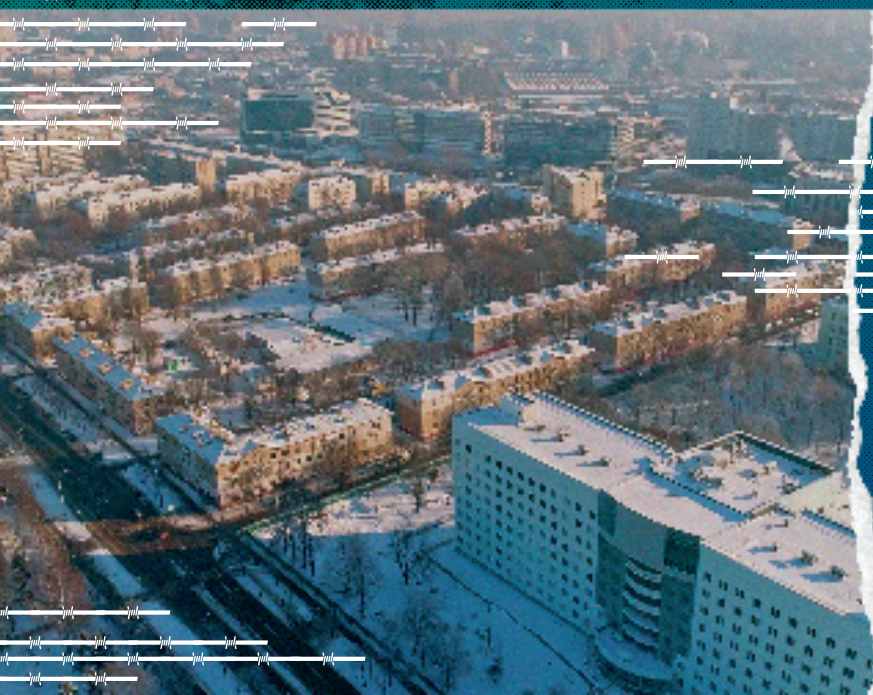
Earlier in 2018, Emil had got an after-school job as a courier for an online company. His employer had told him the parcels he was delivering contained legal smoking mixtures.

After spending months detained, Emil received a 10-year prison sentence for drug trafficking, later reduced to eight years when some charges were dropped. Investigators never looked for the owner of the company, nor anyone else. Only Emil was prosecuted.

Before his arrest Emil was an energetic, caring young man who loved studying, reading and taking care of his little sister. Now in prison, he hasn't been allowed to finish high-school and his plans to go to university have been crushed.

Emil is one of around 15,000 children and young people serving lengthy prison sentences in Belarus for petty drugs offences. They are treated far worse than other offenders and made to do long hours of hard labour. Emil wasn't allowed to carry his asthma medicine and got frostbite from carrying snow with his bare hands. Things got a little better when he went to adult prison, but Emil's youth and potential are being wasted.

Tell Belarus to free Emil.



WRITE TO THE BELARUS AUTHORITIES TODAY

Urge them to immediately release Emil, clear his criminal record and demand that other children are no longer imprisoned for minor drug offences.

Prosecutor General of the Republic of Belarus

*Internatsionalnaya Str. 22,
220030*

Minsk, Belarus

Email: info@prokuratura.gov.by

Twitter: [@prokuraturaby](https://twitter.com/prokuraturaby)

Salutation:

Dear Prosecutor General

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT FOR EMIL

Send your messages of solidarity and strength so he knows he is not alone.

Emil Vadimovich Ostrovko

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Belarus

**WRITE A LETTER
CHANGE A LIFE**

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