



Mikita Zalatarou, a teen beaten and jailed in Belarus

Until recently, Mikita Zalatarou was a typical teenager. He liked playing Minecraft and listening to music. Today, the 17-year-old who also has epilepsy has been cast into a world worse than any of Minecraft's.

In August 2020, says Mikita's dad, Mikita was waiting for a friend in the main square of Homel, a city in Belarus. Nearby, people had been peacefully protesting the recent presidential election results when police moved in. According to Mikita's father, as the crowd began running, someone told Mikita to run, too – so he did.

The following day police officers came to Mikita's door. They arrested him, accusing him of throwing a Molotov cocktail towards two officers the night before. While holding him in custody, they beat him with an electric shock truncheon. Officers interrogated him without a lawyer or responsible adult present and locked him up for six months before putting him on trial.

Mikita was convicted of mass disorder and using illegal explosives, yet video evidence did not show him taking part in violence. Media reports on the demonstrations mentioned no mass unrest. Still, the judge sentenced Mikita to five years in a child "educational" prison colony.

Tell Belarus to release Mikita and give him a fair trial.

WRITE TO BELARUS' AUTHORITIES

Tell them to release Mikita and ensure he gets a fair trial that meets international justice standards for children.

TO: Prosecutor General of the Republic of Belarus
ADDRESS: Ul. Internatsionalnaya 22

220030 Minsk, Belarus

EMAIL: info@prokuratura.gov.by

FACEBOOK:
<https://www.facebook.com/prokuraturaby>

TWITTER: @prokuraturaby

SALUTATION: Dear Prosecutor General

SHOW MIKITA THAT YOU ARE WITH HIM

Send him your messages of solidarity and friendship. If you're into Minecraft like Mikita, try creating environments that symbolize freedom and hope in the game, print them out, and send them to him.

TO: Mikita Zalatarou

ADDRESS:

Educational Colony V.K – 2

ul. Batova 4, Bobruisk

213800 Mogilevskaya Obl.

Belarus