

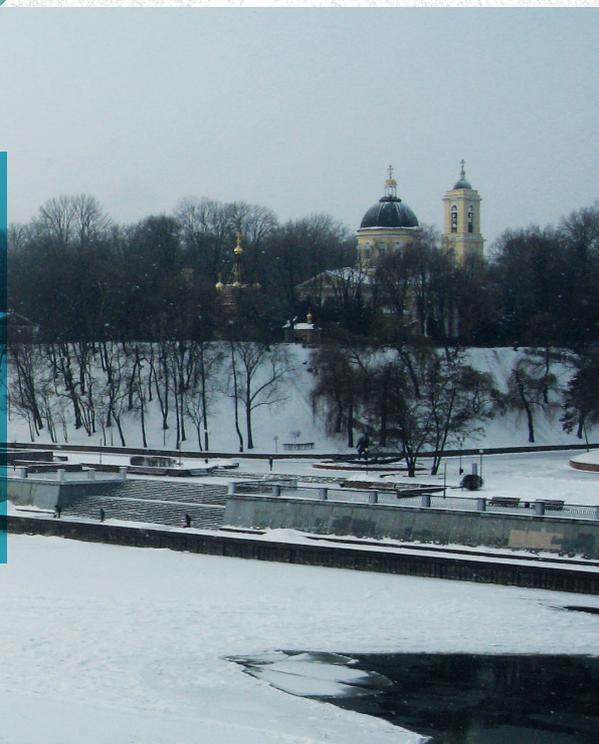
**WRITE  
FOR  
RIGHTS**

AMNESTY  
INTERNATIONAL



**MIKITA ZALATAROU  
BELARUS**

**TEEN BEATEN,  
ELECTROCUTED  
AND JAILED**



# MIKITA ZALATAROU BELARUS

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

It all began in August 2020, says Mikita's dad, when Mikita was waiting for a friend in the main square of Homel city, south-eastern Belarus. Nearby, people had been largely 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 – 11 August – police officers came to Mikita's door. They arrested and beat 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 footage showed no evidence of 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.**

## ACT NOW

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

Grab a petition and start collecting names and emails.

## SHOW MIKITA YOU'RE WITH HIM

Print off the solidarity letter template and write Mikita a message of support and friendship.

## SEND TO

Post your petitions, letters and solidarity letters to:

Amnesty International Australia,  
Locked Bag 23,  
Broadway NSW 2007  
Australia.

Make sure you post them to us  
by 31 January 2022.

We'll post them to the target,  
include them in the handover in  
February 2022 and make sure  
that Mikita gets your solidarity  
messages.

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