**Abs: Ort, Datum:**

**An:**Botschaft der Republik Belarus
S.E. Herrn Denis Sidorenko
Am Treptower Park 32
12435 Berlin

Dear Prosecutor General,

I am extremely concerned about the renewed arbitrary detention of human rights defenders and educator Nasta (Anastasia) Loika and reports of torture and other ill-treatment.

On 28 October, Nasta Loika was arbitrarily detained in Minsk and sentenced to 15 days in prison under fabricated charges of "petty hooliganism" (Article 19.1 of the Code of Administrative Offences). However, she was not released after serving her 15-day sentence but given an additional 15 days in jail for the same alleged offence. This is the fourth time since the beginning of September that Nasta Loika has been handed the same sentence for the same absurd charge, in what constitutes a clear pattern of harassment against a human rights defender.

Importantly, during the last online hearing Nasta Loika reported being tortured with electric shock during questioning and left out in the cold without outerwear for eight hours. The prison authorities are also refusing to hand her parcels with warm clothes, personal hygiene items and medicines she urgently needs.

Nasta Loika has committed no crime and is being relentlessly targeted by the authorities in retaliation for her human rights work.

I urge you to do everything in your power to ensure Nasta Loika’s immediate release, and end the misuse of the criminal justice system to target human rights defenders.

Ensure that Nasta Loika is not tortured or otherwise illtreated, and that she is treated in accordance with international human rights laws and standards.

Yours sincerely,