Volha Ivanauna Chuprys
Chairperson of the Clemency Commission
Presidential Administration
ul. Karla Marxa
38220016, Minsk
BELARUS

**Ref: Stop Death Penalty**

Dear Ms Chupris,

I am addressing you in your capacity as the Chairperson of the Clemency Commission and am writing to urge you to take all necessary steps to facilitate the granting of clemency to Viktar Serhil after the Supreme Court upheld his conviction and death sentence on 31 January 2020.

On 25 October 2019, Brest Regional Court found Viktar Serhil guilty of murdering an eight-month old girl and sentenced him to death. His co-defendant and mother of the child, Natallia Kolb, was sentenced to 25 years’ imprisonment as women cannot be sentenced to death in Belarus. Viktar Serhil is now at imminent risk of execution following the Supreme Court decision.

Viktar Serhil was convicted of a terrible crime but no state should resort to the death penalty, whatever the crime.

The death penalty is the ultimate cruel, inhuman and degrading punishment and has no place in any criminal justice system today. Belarus is the only country in Europe and the former Soviet Union which still carries out executions.

I urge you to:

- Take all necessary steps in your capacity as the Chairperson of the Clemency Commission to ensure that Viktar Serhilis granted immediate clemency, and that his execution and that of all those on death row in Belarus is halted;

- Use your leverage to seek an introduction of a moratorium on all executions in Belarus as a first step towards full abolition of the death penalty.

Yours sincerely,