

CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY

(based on mass media reports)

17-23.12.2018

№ 52

CARICC MEMBER STATES

THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

20.12.2018 On the territory of the village of Deman, Yardimli district, police officers prevented and countered an attempt to smuggle large quantities of narcotic drugs from Iran. The smugglers, noticing border guards, abandoned their goods and fled. Border guards seized **6 kg 580 g of marijuana and 70 g of heroin** belonging to trespassers.
<https://haqqin.az/news/142141>

THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

21.12.2018 Department for Combating Drug Trafficking of the Department of Police of Pavlodar region blocked a large synthetic drugs supply channel from Europe to Kazakhstan. Police neutralized a group of young people aged 20 to 30 who planned to sell narcotic drugs through the Internet. More than **2 kg of synthetic drugs** were seized from the detainees during searches. Market value of drugs is estimated at 12 million tenge. Pre-trial investigation is being carried out on this fact is. Suspects face up to 20 years in prison.
<https://24.kz/ru/news/incidents/item/285307-krupnyj-kanal-postavki-sinteticheskikh-narkotikov-perekryli-v-pavlodare>

THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

16.12.2018 As a result of a special operation conducted by the SBNON officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic aimed at identifying and stopping international channels used for smuggling large quantities of psychotropic substances from Iran to Kyrgyzstan, a case of smuggling and distribution of the psychotropic substance methamphetamine was revealed. Three Iranian citizens and one citizen of Azerbaijan were detained in Bishkek, from whom about **1 kg of methamphetamine** was seized. This group consisted solely of a number of citizens of foreign countries, the age of detained men varied from 22 to 49 years old. On this fact, a criminal case was instituted.
<http://svodka.akipress.org/news:1487162?from=portal&place=last&b=3>

THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

17.12.2018 Officers of the UKON GA of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the Krasnoyarsk region detained a 49-year-old local resident, his 58-year-old spouse and their 62-year-old associate for organization of the delivery of narcotic drugs from St. Petersburg to Krasnoyarsk and their subsequent sale. During searches in apartments of the suspects more than **2.6 kg of hashish were** found, it was prepacked and prepared for further sale.
<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15270656>

17.12.2018 Police officers detained a 30-year-old resident of Vyborg and during a personal search found and seized a plastic bag containing the psychotropic substance **amphetamine**

weighing more than 500 g. A criminal case has been initiated. The suspect is a member of an organized group that sells amphetamine and spice smoking mixtures in Vyborg and Vyborg district of the Leningrad region. During a search at the place of residence of the woman, 23 packages with **amphetamine weighing 270 g** were found and seized. In addition, another member of an organized group, a 36-year-old local resident, was identified and arrested. During a search of the house, **a narcotic drug, a derivative of ethyl ether, weighing about 100 g** was found and seized from the suspect. A criminal case was also initiated on this fact. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15296627>

18.12.2018 Members of the UKON GA of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in St. Petersburg and the Leningrad region, found and seized **cocaine weighing 248.6 g** from a 37-year-old resident of St. Petersburg during a personal search and a search at place of residence. According to this fact, a criminal case was opened. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15285007>

18.12.2018 Officers of the UKON of the Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the Bryansk region detained a 20-year-old resident of a neighboring state. During a search, several single doses of synthetic drug **alpha-PVP prepared for the sale of a total weight of 700 g were seized** from the man. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15290936>

19.12.2018 UKON Ministry of Internal Affairs officers in the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) detained a 29-year-old member of an organized group specializing in the sale of synthetic narcotic drugs in the Republic. The suspect carried out packaging, accounting of drugs, as well as equipped caches with drugs for transfer to retail drug dealers in Yakutsk. About **1 kg of a synthetic drug** was seized from the discovered cache and at the place of residence of the detainee. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15296612>

20.12.2018 Employees of GA of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia for the Irkutsk region in Irkutsk have dismantled a clandestine laboratory cultivating cannabis. Seventy-two containers of cannabis and **15 kg of cannabis** obtained by hydroponic method were seized from illicit trafficking. In the premises of the drug lab there was a special equipment used in cultivation of cannabis and forbidden to cultivation plants placed in pots. During a search, fertilizers, packaging, educational literature on plant growing, and communication facilities were seized. In addition, illegal firearms and ammunition were found. The organizer of criminal business was a 38-year-old local resident. The man equipped the base of a private house for the manufacture and storage of drugs and their subsequent sale in the regional center. a criminal case was instituted on this fact. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15310027>

20.12.2018 Officers of OKON of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the city of Nizhnevartovsk, Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Okrug, Yugra detained young people born in 1989 and 1995 on suspicion of distributing narcotic drugs. During a personal search and at the place of residence officers detected **synthetic drugs weighing more than 307 g**, Suspects were engaged in preparation and packing of synthetic drugs in satshes. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15307765>

21.12.2018 Officers of UKON of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in the Republic of Dagestan detained a 35-year-old resident of Makhachkala - organizer and supplier of the drug N-methylephedron. The suspect was detained while he was equipping a cache. The man,

using instant messengers to exchange information and an electronic payment system, was engaged in drug trafficking in a contactless way. For several months, the man distributed drugs through an online store. He also organized a drug lab. In total, more than **1 kg 160 g of N-methylephedron**, as well as items and equipment used in criminal activities were seized from illicit trafficking. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15324487>

21.12.2018 Officers of GA of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the Novosibirsk region identified and curbed activities of a group of persons who sold narcotic drugs in the Novosibirsk region. The group consisted of two Iskitim residents - a 39-year-old man and his 32-year-old spouse. The woman communicated with suppliers, packaged drugs and was responsible for distribution of funds. Her spouse, traveling in a private car, sold drugs. During detention, police officers blocked the car in which suspects were located. As a result of inspection of the vehicle's interior, **170 g of heroin** were found and seized. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15317964>

22.12.2018 Staff members of the Division for Drugs Control of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the Primorsky region identified and prevented illegal manufacture of narcotic drugs of cannabis group on a large scale. Policemen in a village of the Khorolsky district of the Primorsky region found **1.7 kg of cannabis oil and over 190 kg of marijuana**. Large containers with drugs, as well as 60 ml medical syringes used as containers for packaging and storage were collected. On this fact a criminal case was opened. The suspects, two 66-year-old natives of Transcaucasia, were detained. In relation to the 24-year-old resident of the village of Lugovoye, a preventive measure was chosen in the form of recognizance and proper behavior. Preliminary criminal investigation is ongoing. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15322444>

OTHER COUNTRIES

ARGENTINA

15.12.2018 The National Gendarmerie in the fight against drug trafficking carried out by the Ministry of National Security in the province of Corrientes seized **86 kg 34 g of marijuana** hidden in a vehicle. One person was arrested. Members of the Road Safety Group "Tapebicua" of the squadron "Cabo Misael Pereyra" 7 drove a Mercedes-Benz vehicle along the route Misiones-Buenos Aires. During a relevant check, gendarmes using a drug detector discovered anomalies in the car. As a result of inspections in the vehicle's baseboards, 192 marijuana packages were found. The Federal Court and the Federal Prosecutor's Office of Paso de los Libres ordered seizure of drugs, as well as arrest of the driver. <https://prensagendarmeria.gob.ar/prensa/Detienen-a-un-hombre-que-viajaba-con-86-kilos-de-marihuana/606>

20.12.2018 The National Gendarmerie, subordinate to the Ministry of National Security, in the province of Salta, using a borescope found a cache inside the wing of a Ford Ranchera car with 23 packages containing **24 kg 175 g of cocaine**. Federal Court of Tartagala ordered the seizure of drugs. <https://prensagendarmeria.gob.ar/prensa/Incautan-mas-de-24-kilos-de-cocaina-acondicionados-en-una-camioneta/616>

BRAZIL

20.12.2018 The Customs of the Federal Revenue Office in the port of Paranaguá in the state of Paraná, together with the Federal Police, in a container that was bound to the port of Antwerp in Belgium discovered and seized **88 kg of cocaine**. After receiving intelligence information, customs control and supervision section together with the federal police searched the ship at the berth and discovered narcotic drugs. The seizure data has been submitted to the Federal Police, which is investigating the case.

<http://idg.receita.fazenda.gov.br/sobre/acoes-e-programas/acoes-da-receita-federal/noticias/2018/dezembro/9a-regiao-fiscal/receita-federal-apreende-88-kg-de-cocaina-em-terminal-de-containers-em-paranagua>

21.12.2018 More than **330 kg of cocaine** were found in a container by the Federal Revenue Office together with the Federal Police in the port of Santos, near the coast of São Paulo. The cargo was bound to Europe and was intercepted before it was reloaded onto a ship at the pier. As a result of risk analysis, it was possible to identify the container in which pavement stones intended for the port of Antwerp in Belgium were transported. Drugs were transferred to the Federal Police for investigation. <https://g1.globo.com/sp/santos-regiao/porto-mar/noticia/2018/12/21/mais-de-330-kg-de-cocaina-sao-localizados-em-container-no-porto-de-santos-sp.ghtml>

BULGARIA

18.12.2018 Customs officers of the border checkpoint "Kapitan Andreevo" at the border in Turkey found inside a spare tire of a Peugeot vehicle under the control of a 45-year-old Serbian 20 packages containing **10.345 kg of heroin**. Market value of the consignment is more than 930 thousand leva. The driver is charged. Investigation of the case is underway.

<https://www.novinite.com/articles/193990/Kapitan+Andreevo%27s+Customs+Officers+Discovered+Heroin+for+BGN+1+Million+in+a+Car+Tire>

GREECE

20.12.2018 Customs officers at the Athens International Airport Eleftherios Venizelos detained a 43-year-old citizen of Pakistan in an attempt to smuggle **11 kg 180 g of heroin** into Greece. The suspect was a drug courier of a criminal group that organized the smuggling of drugs from Asia to Greece. The suspect was detained after arriving from Lahore in Pakistan through Qatar's capital Doha. Drugs were found in 4 packages in a cache inside the double bottom of a suitcase. <https://greekcitytimes.com/2018/12/20/foreign-national-arrest-at-athens-airport-over-heroin/>

SPAIN

20.12.2018 The Tax Agency in the port of Algeciras in the province of Cadiz, Andalusia seized 275 packages of high-purity **cocaine with a total weight of 300 kg**. The drug was discovered after a thorough search of ten containers from South America with equipment declared as legal cargo. The method of concealment is known as the "blind hook", which is placing of drugs by criminal groups in containers with a legal load. Usually, drug is found in backpacks and bags, which are located behind the container door or above the load. When sealing containers, criminals use fake seals. All cocaine consignment were seized.

<https://www.europapress.es/andalucia/cadiz-00351/noticia-aprehendidos-puerto-algeciras-300-kilos-cocaina-contenedores-procedentes-sudamerica-20181220153456.html>

IRAN

18.12.2018 Security officers at Tehran's postal center found opium packets. Counter-narcotics police detained a suspect for attempting to smuggle opium from Iran to Canada in postal parcels. The investigation in this case is carried out by the police. In total **8 kg of opium extract** were seized. <https://www.tehrantimes.com/news/430838/Man-arrested-for-trying-to-smuggle-opium-to-Canada>

MALTA

20.12.2018 Employees of the Customs Department in the international port of Freeport found **5020 kg of hashish** inside a freight container, worth about 7 million 450 thousand Euros. The container ship arrived from the port of Algeciras in Spain. The consignee was a company registered in Malta. The container carried large rolls of black mulch film - a thick plastic sheet used in agricultural industry. During scanning of the container, customs officers noticed discrepancies in images. Inspection activities resulted in discovery of caches - containers for concealing drugs. Under the film inside a plastic tube lined with a thick layer of lead used by criminals to exclude detection using x-ray equipment there were packages of drugs under the foam layer. Customs officers asked for help from the anti-drug police. The judicial investigation is being conducted under the direction of the Magistrate Rachel Montebello. <https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20181220/local/customs-make-second-largest-drug-haul-in-maltas-history.697261>

21.12.2018 Customs officers found and seized **48 kg of cocaine** in a refrigerated container arriving from Ecuador and destined for Greece. The container was selected for scanning after a risk analysis had been conducted by the department's container monitoring unit. After scanning, 40 packets of cocaine were found located behind the panel above the refrigerant compressor. The approximate street value of the consignment is 5 million Euros. The case is transferred to the drug police for further investigation. <https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20181221/local/5-million-worth-of-cocaine-found-in-refrigerator-headed-to-greece.697369>

MOROCCO

18.12.2018 Moroccan Intelligence Service BCIJ seized **1 ton of smuggled cocaine**. During the seizure of cocaine, 17 suspects were arrested, including 2 Spaniards and 3 Colombians. Subsequently, the investigation established that in Bujdura, located in Western Sahara, a Colombian citizen belonging to the Colombian drug cartel was engaged in preparing a large smuggling channel of cocaine with the help of aviation. He organized construction of aviation runways in Western Sahara for the supply of cocaine directly from Colombia to Western Sahara, from where cocaine would go to Europe. The Colombian stayed in Morocco illegally. He was arrested. <https://www.crimesite.nl/cokebende-wilde-landingsbanen-ontwikkelen-in-marokko/>

UAE

17.12.2018 Officers of the Directorate for Drug Control in the Criminal Security Sector of the Police of Abu Dhabi seized **60 kg of heroin** and arrested three suspects aged from 24 to 45 years old who organized a major drug business. The suspects were storing drugs in the basement of a commercial workshop that deals with used car parts. Part of the drug found was hidden in the doorway of used cars. This seizure was a continuation of the operation to curb activities of an international drug group engaged in transportation of drugs for the sale of heroin and methamphetamine in vehicle parts in a container in the industrial area of the Emirates. Suspects were sent to the Prosecutor's Office for further trial under the case. <https://gulfnews.com/uae/crime/abu-dhabi-police-seize-60kg-heroin-in-major-drug-bust-1.60986931>

PAKISTAN

19.12.2018 The Airport Security Force (ASF) at Islamabad detained a drug trafficker in an attempt to export more than **1 kg of heroin**. Drugs were hidden in boxes of vaseline and cosmetic creams. The suspect was heading for an international flight to Jeddah in Saudi Arabia. He was transferred to the Anti-Narcotics Forces for further investigation. <https://www.samaa.tv/news/2018/12/asf-foils-heroin-smuggling-bid-at-islamabad-airport/>

PANAMA

18.12.2018 The National Police Intelligence Directorate (DIP) units of the National Police, in coordination with the Prosecutor's Office in the port in Colón province found **300 kg of cocaine** in a container. Police officers received information about illegal supply of large quantities of cocaine in one of the containers, so they started a search and found a container that was destined for Europe, in particular the port in Belgium. The Drug Prosecutor's Office launched an investigation to determine whether Panama was the destination country of the consignment or was on the path of drug trafficking. <https://www.critica.com.pa/nacional/hallan-300-kilos-de-pichi-en-un-contenedor-en-colon-535943>

PERU

18.12.2018 Aboard the container ship "San Clemente" under the flag of Singapore, during an inspection in the port of Callao in Peru, **27 kg of cocaine** were found. The inspection was carried out while the ship remained at the berth at the DP World Callao terminal. Authorities seized the contraband, which was found in a black bag with dozens of packages wrapped in black foil. Sea divers also conducted an underwater ship inspection. The ship sailed from the port of Buenaventura in Colombia and headed for the port of Puerto Angamos in Chile. The vessel was owned by the German shipping company Hamburg Süd, which cooperated with authorities throughout the investigation. <https://worldmaritimeneews.com/archives/267025/cocaine-found-on-board-san-clemente-boxship/>

USA

17.12.2018 US border patrol agents seized **59 kg of methamphetamine**, consignment of drugs delivered by ultralight aircraft from Mexico. The plane landed north of Calexico, California, and then flew back to Mexico. In the landing area of the aircraft agents found

two bags containing methamphetamine. Two drug users were arrested. Market value of the consignment was about 1.4 million US dollars.

https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2018/12/17/methamphetamine-drug-drop-bicycle-calexico-mexicali/2345377002/?utm_source=feedblitz&utm_medium=FeedBlitzRss&utm_campaign=usatoday-newstopstories

17.12.2018 Border patrol agents in Laredo, Texas at I-35 checkpoint stopped a Chevrolet Colorado car run by a US citizen in an attempt to smuggle drugs. As a result of inspection activities of the vehicle, five packages containing **cocaine weighing 5.9 kg** were found in a hidden compartment. Street value of drugs is about 680 thousand US dollars. Driver was arrested and transferred to the Homeland Security. <https://www.kgns.tv/content/news/Border-Patrol-agents-seize-over-half-a-million-dollars-worth-of-cocaine-503061041.html>

21.12.2018 Police in Wisconsin detained a woman for transporting a large shipment of methamphetamine in her car. During a traffic stop in Grant County on Highway 151, service dog K-9 alerted on the smell of drugs in the car. As a result of vehicle screening, about **2.72 kg of methamphetamine** were detected. Approximate market value of drugs is 100 thousand US dollars. Driver, a 28-year-old woman was arrested.

<https://www.channel3000.com/news/crime/-100k-worth-of-meth-found-in-madison-woman-s-vehicle-officials-say/944386654>

TURKEY

22.12.2018 The Customs Service of the Ministry of Commerce in the port of Ambarly in containers with a cargo of bananas arrived from Ecuador found and seized **32 kg 605 g of cocaine**. Employees of the Smuggling and Intelligence Directorate of a Customs Warehouse in Istanbul stated that the cargo of bananas in six containers falls under the risk profile. As a result of inspection activities using x-ray equipment in the cooling section located behind one of the containers there was a suspicious density of a substance. During a search, a cache with a large number of packages with cocaine was found in the indicated place.

<https://www.haberler.com/muz-yuklu-konteynerden-kokain-cikti-11564826-haberi/>

19.12.2018 The Anti-Drug Unit in Erzincan province stopped a long-haul road train on suspicion of drug trafficking along the road from Istanbul to the eastern province of Van along the Erzincan-Erzurum highway. In the truck, **1 ton 271 kg of heroin** were found hidden in frozen animal fat. Three people, including the driver, who were in the vehicle were arrested. <http://en.brinkwire.com/news/over-1-ton-of-heroin-seized-in-eastern-turkey/>

20.12.2018 Security forces in the south-east of the country during operations against the Kurdistan Workers Party, a terrorist organization banned in Turkey, seized **175 kg of hashish**. In Turkey, the PKK is accused of being involved in drug trafficking in order to generate revenues directed to finance terrorist activities.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/investigations/2018/12/20/175-kg-of-hashish-seized-in-anti-pkk-terror-operation-in-southeastern-turkeys-diyarbakir>

THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

17.12.2018 Busan Main Customs on board a container ship inside a container found a bag containing packages of smuggled **cocaine** with a total weight of **63.5 kg**. The container was shipped in Ecuador, had a stop in the port of Mexico and arrived in the southern port



city of Busan. The final destination of the shipment was China. South Korean officials conducted an operation to confiscate drug consignment on the basis of operational information received from the Mexican side. <https://www.upi.com/South-Korea-seizes-140-pounds-of-cocaine-on-a-container-ship/4571545026017/>

