

*Unofficial translation*

## CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY

(based on mass media reports)

**10-16.09.2018**

**№ 38**

### ON CARICC MEMBER STATES

#### THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

**13.09.2018** Officers of Sumgayit police stopped activities of an international group of drug traffickers, which included four Azerbaijani citizens and one from Iran. As a result of the special operation two residents of the Jalilabad region were detained. During search of the criminals' car, more than **1 kg of heroin** was found and seized. The detainees explained that, together with two accomplices, they purchased narcotic substance for further sale in July of this year from an Iranian citizen named "Rza" in the Yardimli region of Azerbaijan. Further during investigations, other members of the group were detained, as well as the Iranian citizen. It was established that Azerbaijani citizens bought from the Iranian **3.5 kg of heroin and about 1 kg of opium**. The police also managed to collect the rest of the heroin, hidden by members of the gang in the territory of the Jalilabad region.  
<https://ru.sputnik.az/incidents/20180913/417008380/azerbaijan-iran-narkotiki-banda-zaderhzanie.html>

#### THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

**14.09.2018** In the Raimbek district of the Almaty region, on the road near the village of Zhalanash, police detained a Mercedes Benz in which **9 kg 339 g of marijuana** was found in the trunk of the vehicle. The car was driven by a 28-year-old driver, in the cabin was also a 19-year-old passenger. Both are residents of the city of Talgar. The detainees were taken to the local police department. [https://www.inform.kz/ru/bolee-9-kg-narkotikov-perehvatili-na-trasse-policeyskie-almatinskoy-oblasti\\_a3390820](https://www.inform.kz/ru/bolee-9-kg-narkotikov-perehvatili-na-trasse-policeyskie-almatinskoy-oblasti_a3390820)

#### RUSSIAN FEDERATION

**10.09.2018** Officers of the Directorate for Drugs Control (UKON) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia for the Kirov region and the regional Federal Security Service (FSB) of Russia suppressed activities of an organized community engaged in sale of narcotic drugs in a number of regions of the Russian Federation. Earlier, as a result of a joint operation, the officers of UKON of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Federal Security Service of Russia in the Kirov region detained five persons who illegally sold synthetic narcotic drugs through caches in the territories of four constituent entities of the Russian Federation. As a result of personal searches of detainees, searches at their place of residence, inspections of their vehicles, and also in a stash in the forest, more than **4 kg of synthetic drugs** were seized, as well as **7.5 kg of reagent** from which it was planned to produce at least 200 kg smoking mixtures. Also were seized about 50 thousand packing bags, items for manufacture and packaging of drugs. During the investigation of the criminal case, the detainees were implicated in committing more than 120 episodes of drug sales in the Kirov region. To organize the sale of drugs, the head of the criminal group, a 32-year-old resident of Kirov region, created structure of the group, in which its participants performed strictly assigned roles: packers, stash managers, an operator of Internet correspondence with drug buyers.

The structure of the criminal group even included a human resources manager who selected candidates for the criminal group on the Internet and a financier who counted the drugs sold, calculating the amount of monetary compensation for all participants in the group. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/14375079>

**10.09.2018** Staff of the road police of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in Kazan stopped a car with two 28-year-old residents of the Moscow region. During the inspection of the car, several compartments were found, equipped in different parts and mechanisms, in which there were various narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, namely: **hashish, mephedrone, cocaine, LSD and amphetamine**. The total weight seized drugs was **over 116 kg**. The driver and the passenger of the car were detained. Detainees were couriers, and narcotics were to be distributed in a contactless way in large cities of the Volga Federal District - Kazan, Naberezhnye Chelny and Ufa. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/14382270>

**11.09.2018** Officers the Inter-municipal Division of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia "Pechorsky" (Pskov region) in the course of investigation seized about **100 g of heroin** from a resident of Pushkinskie Gory. A 27-year-old man was detained in the village of Cherskaya, in the Palkinsky district, where in the course of a personal search officers seized a drug package that was intended for sale in the Pskov region. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/14387830>

**11.09.2018** The Internal Affairs Directorate for the Troitsk and Novomoskovsk Autonomous Districts of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation in Moscow, together with the Main Directorate for Drugs Control (GUNK) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia, suppressed activities of a criminal community specializing in the sale of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances through an online store. After the payment was made in crypto-currency, the site posted information about the location of caches, from which prohibited goods were picked up. Drugs were sold by members of the criminal community in the territories of the city of Moscow, Moscow, Bryansk, Yaroslavl and Tula regions and the Krasnodar Territory. More than **108 kg of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances - amphetamine, MDMA, hashish, cannabis, cocaine, mephedrone and other drugs** were seized. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/14384325>

**11.09.2018** Officers of UKON of the Ministry of Internal Affairs for the Republic of North Ossetia-Alania seized **1,045 kg of potent tramadol** from illicit traffic. Staff of the drug police as a result of search of a house in the village of Tsalyk found a cardboard box with blisters of **tramadol in the amount of 2090 units** belonging to a resident of the village of Sadon. Earlier, from a 27-year-old man, police officers seized over **700 tablets of tramadol**. He kept the drugs for subsequent sale. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/14394984>

**12.09.2018** The Main Investigative Department of the Main Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the Voronezh region initiated a criminal case against 13 local residents aged 19 to 39 years. The suspects carried out their criminal activity in the territory of Voronezh and the Voronezh Region. The sale of narcotic drugs took place through the use of caches using electronic payment systems and Internet resources. Participants in the drug group sold more than **13 kg of synthetic drugs**. Suspects are in jail. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/14402987>

**14.09.2018** Staff of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in Nizhnedevitsky district (Voronezh region) received prompt information that a 43-year-old resident of Voronezh was

involved in illegal storage of narcotic drugs. The suspect was detained by police officers in the village of Verkhnee Turovo. In the course of personal search, four bags with **cannabis** weighing **more than 15 kg** were found and seized. The detainee explained that he had learned from a friend about the growth of wild hemp on the territory of an abandoned farm. With a view to preparing the drug, he came from Voronezh, collected four bags of narcotic plants, decided to equip a cache and hide the bags, so that they could later be transported on passing vehicles. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/14425217>

**14.09.2018** A 23-year-old man, suspected of selling synthetic drugs, was detained by officers of OKON of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the city of Tver. The young man distributed synthetic drugs in a non-contact way through caches. During personal search, from the suspect were found and seized convolutions with **N-methylephedron**. Police found similar substance intended for sale at the place of residence of the criminal. The total weight of the seized drug **exceeded 150 g**. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/14422311>

**14.09.2018** Officers of UKON of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the Novosibirsk region detained a 23-year-old citizen who arrived in Novosibirsk from abroad for the purpose of selling narcotic drugs in the city. During the inspection of the passenger compartment of the car operated by the detainee, police officers discovered and seized four packages of **heroin**, weighing **more than 180 g**. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/14424350>

**14.09.2018** Staff of UKON of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the Penza region stopped illegal activities of a 27-year-old local of the city of Kuznetsk suspected of drug trafficking. The citizen who lived on the territory of the Samara region, was an interregional courier and was responsible for delivery of **synthetic drugs** to the territory of the Penza region and neighboring regions. During the inspection of his car under the trunk lining police found a compartment with **about 3.5 kg of drugs**. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/14426675>

## THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

**11.09.2018** As a result of measures taken as part of Koradori-2018 campaign in the Uzbekistan district of the Fergana region, **7,627 kg of marijuana** were found on the roof of a local resident's house along with **589 g of opium poppy**. <http://www.mvd.uz/ru/lists/view/4104>

**12.09.2018** After measures taken as part of Koradori-2018, in the Bustanlik district of the Tashkent region, in the house of a resident in the village of Soylik, **6.07 kg of a cannabis** were found and seized. <http://www.mvd.uz/ru/lists/view/4117>

## ON OTHER COUNTRIES

### ARMENIA

**11.09.2018** Officers of the Border Service of the Russian FSB in Armenia at the checkpoint "Karchevan" in Syunik region, while inspecting a car that arrived from Iran, found tablets of

semisynthetic drug on opium basis that had been banned for import. The driver of the car - an Iranian citizen was handed over to staff of law enforcement agencies of Armenia.

<https://ru.armeniasputnik.am/incidents/20180911/14376679/grazhdanin-iran-pytalsya-provezti-narkotiki-v-armenia.html>

**12.09.2018** Russian border guards and Armenian police officers at the Artashat border guard detachment identified and destroyed **773 kg of cannabis** as a result of preventive measures taken to combat illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs near the Armenian-Turkish border. Earlier on the site of the Armavir border detachment, similar actions were carried out to eradicate crops of wild cannabis.

<https://ru.armeniasputnik.am/society/20180912/14414806/sovместnaya-operaciya-na-armyano-tureckoj-granice-unichtozhenoko-oko-vo-smi-tonn-konopli.html>

## THE BAHAMAS ISLANDS

**13.09.2018** On board a plane at the Lynden Pindling International Airport (LPIA), a US citizen was detained, carrying about **2.09 kg of cocaine**. Officers of Drug Enforcement Unit and US Border Control relying on information received, conducted an operation on board an aircraft that was prepared for departure to Atlanta, and found in the toilet a bag of cocaine. The officers asked all passengers leave the plane and continued inspection. The search in the departure lounge at the airport also led to a discovery of a second package of cocaine in one of men's toilets. According to the authorities, a total of 2.09 kg was found, worth about 30 thousand US dollars.

<https://thenassauguardian.com/2018/09/13/american-arrested-in-lpia-cocaine-bust/>

## BANGLADESH

**10.09.2018** Customs officers at the International Airport Hazrat Shahjalal in Dhaka seized **140 kg of Khat<sup>1</sup>**, a new psychoactive substance (NPS). A team of the Dhaka Customs House jointly with officials from the National Security Intelligence (NSI) discovered the substance in eight cardboard boxes in the cargo department of the airport. Herbal drug similar to green tea was delivered to the country by Jet Airways from India. Earlier on August 31 and September 8, customs officers confiscated **460 kg and 160 kg of similar substance**. <https://www.thedailystar.net/city/news/new-drug-khat-seized-at-dhaka-airport-1631914>

## BRAZIL

**10.09.2018** Staff of the Federal Revenue Service in the port of Santos discovered and seized **107 kg of cocaine** in export cargo. The customs teams searched cargo containers on board a ship at the port terminal and determined that two of them contained drugs. Inside one of the containers, which arrived from Montevideo, Uruguay, and was destined for Las Palmas, Spain, three bags containing a total of **79 kg of cocaine** were found. In the

<sup>1</sup> Khat or qat (Catha edulis , qat from Arabic : القات) - a flowering plant that grows in the Horn of Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. Khat contains alkaloid cathinone, a stimulant that causes excitement, loss of appetite and euphoria. Among communities from areas where the plant is native, khat chewing has a history as a social custom dating back thousands of years, similar to the use of coca leaves in South America and betel nut in Asia. The World Health Organization (WHO) classified it in 1980 as a drug of abuse that can cause psychological dependence, although WHO does not consider a serious problem dependence on khat. This substance is controlled in some countries, such as Canada, Germany, the United Kingdom and the United States, and its production, sale and consumption are legal in other countries, including Djibouti, Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Somalia and Yemen. Consumption of leaves of plants in their natural state is also allowed in Israel.

second container, which arrived from El Salvador and to be sent to Valencia, also in Spain, officers found a plastic bag with **28 kg of cocaine**.

<http://idg.receita.fazenda.gov.br/sobre/acoes-e-programas/acoes-da-receita-federal/noticias/2018/setembro/8a-regiao-fiscal/receita-federal-intercepta-107-kg-de-cocaina-em-cargas-de-exportacao-no-porto-de-santos>

## DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

**11.09.2018** In the cargo terminal of Las Americas International Airport, representatives of the National Drug Control Directorate (DNCD), with the support of the Airport Security Specialized Body (CESAC) and under the direction of the Public Ministry discovered and seized **91.11 kg of cocaine**. The drugs were hidden in three boxes and were discovered after the inspection conducted at one of the warehouses of an aviation company. The drugs were to be shipped on a commercial flight to France. Of the 91 packs, 89 contained cocaine, and the remaining two were imitations of cocaine packs. DNCD, along with other intelligence agencies located at the airport, interviewed more than 10 people and continued the investigation process to arrest the persons involved in the case. Drugs were confiscated.

<http://www.dncc.mil.do/index.php/noticias/item/dncc-ocupa-91-kilos-de-cocaina-en-area-de-carga-del-aeropuerto-internacional-de-las-americas>

## IRAN

**09.09.2018 1,008 kg of opium group drugs** smuggled into the Islamic Republic of Iran were seized in the province of Sistan and Baluchestan bordering with Afghanistan and Pakistan. The forces of the Iranian police and special services in the provinces of Sistan and Baluchestan dismantled activities of a group of smugglers and seized a little more than one ton of narcotic substances - 957 kg of opium were found in one of the vans of drug traffickers and another 51 kg of opium in personal vehicle. This is the fourth time in a month in this province, which may indicate the intensification of drug production in neighboring Afghanistan and the possible negligence of border services that overlooked the fact of transportation of tons of drugs across the border. <https://regnum.ru/news/2478571.html>

## COLOMBIA

**10.09.2018** The Antinarcotics Directorate of the National Police at the sea terminal in the port of Cartagena discovered a batch of **cocaine weighing 214 kg**, waiting to be shipped to Germany. Using profiling method, as a result of checking the container located on the measuring platform from where the ships were shipped, the police found damage to the security seal of one of the freight containers. This illegal procedure was done by participants of drug cartels and corrupt officials working in the port engaged in illicit drug trafficking, who at night, approached containers with export cargo, broke seals and opened doors, placed illegal goods in containers, and then restored the seal to a counterfeit with the same characteristics. In the process of profiling, police officers analyzed the route by which the ship should have travelled to Europe and concluded that the consignment of cocaine was destined for unloading at the port of Hamburg in Germany.

[http://caracol.com.co/emisora/2018/09/11/cartagena/1536618102\\_230024.html](http://caracol.com.co/emisora/2018/09/11/cartagena/1536618102_230024.html)

**MEXICO**

**11.09.2018** As a result of an operation of the Mexican Navy, with support from the air off the coast of Chiapas, a suspicious vessel was discovered. After detention and inspection, 17 large packets of **cocaine with a total weight of 520 kg** were found on board the vessel. The boat and drugs were transferred to the Public Ministry for further investigation. No one was detained during the operation, as the crew of the boat managed to escape. <https://www.mexico-news-today.com/a-boat-load-of-cocaine-seized-off-coast-of-chiapas/>

**THE NETHERLANDS**

**09.09.2018** The Special Assistance Team of Amsterdam arrested eight people suspected of smuggling cocaine. The drugs were discovered in the port of Rotterdam by the HARC group and was on its way to Germany. **14 kg of cocaine** were hidden in the front of a container with pineapples coming from the Dominican Republic. As suspects in this supply, men between the ages of 22 and 47 were arrested, five of them Dutch from Amsterdam and Tilburg. In addition, citizens of the Dominican Republic, Turkey and Albania were arrested. The value of seized consignments of cocaine is not less than 350,000 euros. <https://www.om.nl/actueel/nieuwsberichten/@103987/acht-arrestaties/>

**13.09.2018** Police in Amsterdam found **473 kg of cocaine** when a 30-year-old man from Bred was transporting it in a van. The drugs were in the hidden compartment of the van. The value of the drugs is about 19 million euros. The police stopped the van on the A2 highway in Amsterdam for inspection. The cargo area of the van was empty, but officers noticed that it looks smaller. As a result of further inspection, a cache was found, which was a double wall at the end of the loading space. Inside the cache, police found 473 packages of cocaine, each weighing 1 kg. The driver is arrested and is in custody for further investigation. <https://nltimes.nl/2018/09/13/amsterdam-police-find-473-kilos-cocaine-delivery-van>

**UAE**

**11.09.2018** During an operation, called "Poisoned Scissors", police detained the owner of a shop, who sold synthetic drugs to his clients in Abu Dhabi. The man was arrested, during his detention **6 kg of methamphetamine** were seized. <https://www.thenational.ae/uae/police-arrest-tailor-arrested-for-selling-crystal-meth-in-abu-dhabi-1.769220>

**OMAN**

**10.09.2018** The Royal Oman Police (ROP) in Dhofar seized more than **4,800 khat packages** in two separate operations. The Drug Control Directorate in Dhofar, with the assistance of a special task force, captured more than 3,400 packs of khat that were hidden in Wadi Mashroob, Wilayat Mirbat. In other case, officers prevented another 1,400 packages of contraband from being smuggled, which were found in Ain Hamran, Salalah. <https://timesofoman.com/article/140987/Oman/Over-4800-packs-of-khat-seized-in-Oman>

**USA**

**11.09.2018** Employees of the Bureau of Narcotics in the rural district of Jefferson Davis County, Mississippi found seven major marijuana plantations, valued at about 70 million US

dollars. In total, more than **40 hectares of illegal cannabis crops** have been discovered. According to the authorities, the crops belong to a large drug cartel. The Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, the Mississippi Bureau of Investigation, the Mississippi Highway Patrol, the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Parks, the Mississippi Department of Transportation, Jefferson Davis County, and the US Forestry Commission took part in the operation.

<https://www.clarionledger.com/story/news/local/2018/09/11/drug-agents-find-50-million-marijuana-jefferson-davis-county/1262947002/>

## THAILAND

**13.09.2018** In the Khon-Buri district of Nakhon-Ratchasima, police detained a 23-year-old resident of the Nong Bunmak district, a member of a large drug group, and seized about **1200 amphetamine tablets**. The suspect belongs to the drug group "Mun Tuk Med" (Fun with every pill), which uses social networks to sell drugs and attract young dealers across the country. <https://www.bangkokpost.com/news/crime/1538862/cops-nab-drug-gang-suspect-seize-ya-ba>

## PANAMA

**08.09.2018** On a merchant ship in the port of Colon, a team of divers found a cylindrical device on the hull of the ship "Selina Star" that did not belong to the regular structure of the ship. The vessel arrived at the port in Manzanillo Bay from the port of Buena Ventura. The device was detached and lifted. After the cache was opened, two suitcases were found, loaded with 87 bags of **cocaine**, weighing **about 87 kg**. On this fact, the police started investigation. Drugs were confiscated. <https://www.panamaamerica.com.pa/provincias/confiscan-87-paquetes-de-droga-en-buque-mercante-en-puerto-de-colon-1115628>

## PUERTO-RICO

**11.09.2018** Workers on a banana farm in the San Juan Parish discovered 85 packs of drugs that were hidden in the refrigerating area of a container. Drugs were found immediately before sending bananas to the seaport of Guayaquil. Presumably the truck had to be exported to Europe. About **85 kg of cocaine hydrochloride** were seized. On suspicion of involvement in this crime, a suspect was arrested. <http://elrio.ec/noticias-los-rios-ecuador/482383-trailer-con-droga/>

## FRANCE

**11.09.2018** Customs officers Dunkirk seized **252 kg of cocaine** while inspecting a refrigerated container with bananas. The total value of a consignment of cocaine is estimated at more than 20 million euros. The cargo terminal agents drew attention to a container loaded with bananas coming from Suriname via Pointe-a-Pitre in Guadeloupe. At its opening, 20 pallets with boxes of bananas were found. As a result of the decision to unload the container to conduct a thorough check inside it, metal plates abnormally pasted to the cylinder block of the container were found. After the dismantling of these structures, customs officers collected 225 packs of cocaine with a total weight of about 252 kg. <https://france3-regions.francetvinfo.fr/hauts-de-france/nord-0/dunkerque/dunkerque-grosse-saisie-cocaine-conteneur-bananes-1538806.html>

**14.09.2018** Customs officers in the port of Le Havre seized 752 kg of cocaine during containers inspection activities. A group of officers against illegal traffic by container (Celtics) in Le Havre was sent to inspect a container suspected of carrying drugs from South America. When the container was opened, agents found sports bags that contained 752 kg of cocaine, with a total value of more than 30 million euros. This method of drug trafficking, known as "Rip Off," is well known to customs officers. It consists of placing in a perfectly legal and registered commodity container, a consignment of drugs, just before leaving the port of origin of the goods, and then extracting a batch of drugs already upon arrival at the port of destination. <https://france3-regions.francetvinfo.fr/normandie/seine-maritime/havre/saisie-plusieurs-centaines-kilos-cocaine-port-du-havre-1541454.html>

## UKRAINE

**12.09.2018** The Military Prosecutor's Office of the Kiev Garrison of the Central Region of Ukraine with the operational escort of the Main Directorate of Military Counterintelligence of the Department of Counterintelligence of the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) detained a criminal group of law enforcement officers - dealers of amphetamine. The detainees were a Major of the National Guard (NGU), a Senior assistant to the Head of the Financial Department of the Military Base of the NGU, and a sergeant-major of the NGU, a commandant of the same base. Since the beginning of September 2018, a number of facts of the distribution of amphetamine among servicemen have been documented. During the detention, the suspects were selling part of the drugs to a person who acted under the control of law enforcement agencies, for a total of 20 thousand hryvnia. From detainees were seized 16.3 thousand hryvnia, received for the last batch of drugs weighing **50 g**. <https://ru.tsn.ua/ukrayina/na-kievshchine-razoblachili-nacgvardeycev-kotorye-postavlyali-voennym-narkotiki-1216740.html>