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NEWS BULLETIN ON PAST EVENTS IN THE COUNTER-NARCOTICS SPHERE (based on mass media reports)

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REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN



LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME FOR ACTIVISTS, WHO SPOKE AT THE EURASIAN MEDIA FORUM IN ALMATY

The XVI Eurasian Media Forum ended in Almaty, on the last day of which foreign and domestic experts discussed issues of marijuana legalization.

According to experts, the issue of legalization of marijuana is only a matter of time, as, according to open sources, the WHO is ready to recognize marijuana as a medicine, and there is a possibility of its exclusion from the schedule of narcotic drugs.

Professor of the Department of Pharmaceutical Biology at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, Borut Strukel, noted that today, the public increasingly agrees with medical benefits of marijuana.

"Marijuana is the only plant on the schedule of narcotic drugs that has a medical purpose, but not every country is ready to make a decision to legalize marijuana. However, it is important to regulate this area in the right direction," he said.

Commenting on participation of Bakhyt Tumenova in the forum, the president of PF "Aman-Saulyk" noted that to date, the policy of drug control has brought nothing significant to the world. In an era of economic, political and social upheaval and instability, people feeling stressed will always seek and find comfort in drugs. Therefore, according to the expert, it is important for both society and the government to pay attention to more scientific methods of solving problems.

"...Our organization has a long history of protecting human rights, and we promote the concept of harm reduction. There are more than 120,000 drug dependent people in Kazakhstan and it is important to give them a way out of this illness, such as methadone substitution therapy. Everyone who smokes and is dependent on nicotine rather than cigarettes is switching to less harmful electronic cigarettes. That is, it is important to adhere to the concept of harm reduction. But it is important to remember that any action aimed at harm reduction must have a science-based approach," Tumenova said.

<https://otyrar.kz/2019/05/legalizatsiya-marihuany-eto-lish-vopros-vremeni/>

RUSSIAN FEDERATION



EXPERT STRESSED THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN CHARGES FOR INVOLVEMENT OF ADOLESCENTS IN DRUG TRADE

The lower limit of punishment for involving children and adolescents in drug market should be 10 years. This was stated by president of the non-profit foundation "Healthy Country" Olga Vanatova at a round table on drug abuse in the Federation Council.

"It is necessary to reclassify the involvement of children in sale of narcotic drugs as a particularly serious crime and to establish a lower level of punishment for at least 10 years," the expert explained to the Parliamentary Newspaper after the round table.

Article 150 of the Criminal Code, "Involvement of minors in commission of a crime", must be amended.

According to the Non-profit Foundation "Healthy Country", many drug traffickers are now involving minors in the sale of illicit substances.

"Children are lured by a promise of easy and fast money," Vanatova said. The expert also pointed out that today not all teenagers know that sale of illegal substances is not just delivery of drugs for money, but also a transfer, donation and injection of drugs to another person.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs also supports the proposal of public activists to toughen penalties for involving children in drug trade.

"It's beneficial for drug business to attract minors to the sale of drugs," said a representative of the Main Directorate on Drug Control of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Alexander Zubkov, at the round table.

A proposal to consider amendments to the Criminal Code in terms of toughening criminal liability for involving minors in illegal production, sale or transfer of drugs is included in a Resolution on results of the round table in the Federation Council.

<https://www.pnp.ru/social/ekspert-otmetila-neobkhodimost-uzhestocheniya-otvetstvennosti-za-vovlechenie-podrostkov-v-sbyt-narkotikov.html>

OTHER COUNTRIES

MEXICO

LENTA.RU

HOW MEXICAN DRUG LORDS GAIN POWER OVER OIL, GOLD AND ENTIRE COUNTRIES

Cocaine, heroin, a wide range of synthetic drugs - Mexican drug cartels control production and sale of almost all of the most famous illicit substances. This has allowed them to achieve unprecedented power and turn their own country into a territory of street wars and terrible corruption, as we wrote in a previous article. But a baron who does not want to be king is a bad one. Over time, drug cartels have decided to subdue mining, migration flows and oil revenues - that is, almost all significant sources of income." Lenta.ru dealt with how cartels subjugated Mexico and Latin America.

Drug lords decided to take up resources not from a good life - authorities are countering them, and revenues from "traditional" business are declining, although they still have enough political and forceful influence. For more than a decade now, the "business" interests of drug cartels have included mining - its products are an important part of Mexican exports.

Involvement of cartels in the industry varies: in some cases, they "tax" each tonne of minerals mined, in other cases, they force mine owners to use their own vehicles to transport raw materials or to hand over their mining licenses. Bandits are not shy about taking direct control of the mines. However, sometimes mining companies themselves conspire with drug trafficking organizations for mutual benefit.

Drug traffickers clearly stated their "rights" to extract iron and coal. The Los Caballeros Templarios and Los Setas cartels have been particularly successful here. The first "specializes" in illegal sale of iron ore, which is "exported" to China through the port of Lazaro Cardenas. For example, Mexico exported eight million tons of iron ore in 2012, of which two million tons were smuggled out.

Los Setas, in turn, is involved in illegal hard coal mining, mainly in the north-eastern state of Coahuila, where the largest reserves of this mineral in Latin America are located. The mined coal is sold through intermediaries to legal companies, including public companies. A number of other states in the country are in a similar situation. Illegal sale of iron and coal fetches good profits to cartels: in 2013 their total income amounted to 100 million dollars.

Another important source of income for Mexican drug groups was illegal migration. It is well known that illegal migration from Central America to the United States passes through Mexico. Every year, tens of thousands of people in the region - mostly young people from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador - try to get into the United States in search of a better life.

To overcome the route without difficulties, they resort to the help of professional "guides". These unscrupulous businessmen not only charge exorbitant tariffs, but often resell them at the border to Mexican drug cartels. They use them as slaves in the same mines, keep them in detention for ransom payments from relatives or force them to join drug traffickers.

Mexican drug lords are violent, inventive, and assertive bandits adaptable to circumstances, kings of criminal world and key players in political and social life of the country. Efforts of the authorities to combat them have only hardened them and made them respond to violence with violence. In 2017, more than 23,000 murders took place in Mexico, a sad record for the past two decades.

Mexican experience demonstrates that an attempt to fight drugs only by means of suppression is doomed to failure: former leaders are replaced by new ones, and new ones appear in place of defeated groups, and endless wars for money and influence are organized. Obviously, in order to end the lawlessness, it is not enough to use force alone, it is necessary to take up the solution of acute social problems. In addition, we must not forget that drug trafficking is a form of commercial activity that is subject to the law of supply and demand. Therefore, as long as there is demand for and prohibition of drugs in the world, illegal business will not go away.



CENTRAL ASIAN REGIONAL INFORMATION AND COORDINATION CENTRE FOR COMBATING THE ILLEGAL
TRAFFICKING OF NARCOTIC DRUGS, PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND THEIR PRECURSORS
ЦЕНТРАЛЬНОАЗИАТСКИЙ РЕГИОНАЛЬНЫЙ ИНФОРМАЦИОННЫЙ КООРДИНАЦИОННЫЙ ЦЕНТР ПО БОРЬБЕ
С НЕЗАКОННЫМ ОБОРОТОМ НАРКОТИЧЕСКИХ СРЕДСТВ, ПСИХОТРОПНЫХ ВЕЩЕСТВ И ИХ ПРЕКУРСОРОВ

https://lenta.ru/articles/2019/05/29/cartels_2/

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