

CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY

(based on mass media reports)

05-11.11.2018

№ 46

CARICC MEMBER STATES

THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

07.11.2018 Employees of technical and observation posts of the Coast Guard of the State Border Service of Azerbaijan (SBS) found a vessel on the border waters that came from Iran in the direction of the village of Shahagachi, Astara region. The vessel remained at the specified site for a short time and turned back in the direction of territorial waters of Iran. The ship caught eye of the border guards. The next day, the frontier patrol ship detained two residents of the village of Shahagachy of the Astara region, 33 and 24 years old, who, under the guise of anglers travelled to the sea. Border guards inspected the boat and found three packages containing **2.42 kg of opium**. The Investigation Department of the State Border Service initiated a criminal case. <http://dsx.gov.az/xeber/727>

08.11.2018 Employees of the Bilasuvar checkpoint on the state border of Azerbaijan carried out a border and customs inspection of an Iranian citizen who was born in Iran in 1987. As a result, **opium** was found in his shoes and in his internal organs, **weighing 440 g**. The detainee admitted that he smuggles drugs. Investigation is underway. <http://www.dsx.gov.az/xeber/729>

THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

06.11.2018 Officers of the Main Directorate for Drugs Control (GUNK) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia and the Directorate for Drugs Control (UNK) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia for the Kaluga Region suppressed the activity of a criminal group engaged in illegal sale of narcotic substances in Obninsk. Men, residents of Kaluga 34 and 40 years old, were detained red-handed during the shipment of a batch of synthetic drugs. During inspection of a car on which drug couriers moved, about **1.5 kg of a narcotic mixture containing a derivative of N-methylephedron and 211 g of spice smoking mixtures** prepared for sale in contactless way were found. It was established that the wholesale supply of prohibited substances originated in Moscow. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/14880707>

07.11.2018 Officers of the Directorate for Drugs Control (UKON) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia for the Krasnodar Territory, together with colleagues from the GUNK of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia, detained a resident of Primorsky Krai on suspicion of illegally selling synthetic drugs through social network. During the inspection of a household in which the 27-year-old suspect lived, the drug **N-methylephedron and its derivatives weighing about 300 g** were found and seized, as well as vessels used for chemical research, a vacuum pump and glass flasks. It has been established that the suspect produced drugs using precursors and equipment seized from him, which he had previously ordered on the Internet. After that he planned to sell narcotic drugs in Krasnodar through

social networks where he placed an advertisement for the sale of prohibited substances. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/14890840>

07.11.2018 Police in the household of a 32-year-old resident of the village of Zyatkovo, Pankrushikha district of the Altai Territory, found and seized **17 kg of marijuana**. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/14890787>

08.11.2018 Police officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the city of Samara detained a 22-year-old resident of Samara for an administrative offense suspected of involvement in drug trafficking on a large scale. During personal search of the man, 20 bags of synthetic narcotic drug **N-methylephedron weighing more than 940 g** were found that were intended for further sale. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/14904497>

08.11.2018 Police units to combat drug trafficking in the Sverdlovsk and Novosibirsk regions during a special joint operation near Yekaterinburg discovered and seized a large batch of hashish and synthetic drugs with a total weight of more than 30 kg. A cache with prohibited substances was equipped in the forest in the area of 297th km of the Perm-Yekaterinburg highway, in which packages with **psychotropic substance weighing more than 4 kg, about 5 kg of a mixture containing mephedrone, and more than 21 kg of hashish** were found. Main Investigative Department (GSU) GU MIA of Russia in the Sverdlovsk region began investigations on this fact. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/14914586>

09.11.2018 The Investigative Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia, under the operational support of the GUNK officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia completed investigation of a criminal case against an international criminal community engaged in illegal production and sale of synthetic drugs in the Russian Federation. Three heads of structural subdivisions and 19 active participants in the international criminal community under the name "ChimProm" («ХимПром») were charged with illegal production and marketing of large-scale synthetic drugs in various regions of Russia. The investigation of this criminal case presented an exceptional difficulty due to high secrecy of the organization and international nature of illicit activities. It was established that this criminal community was created no later than December 2015 and was active until December 2016 when its activities were suppressed by law enforcement officers. 21 nationals of Ukraine and one citizen of the Russian Federation were involved in criminal activities. Narcotic drugs were produced in three drug laboratories equipped in rented cottages in the Moscow region and were delivered by car in large bulk quantities to various regions of Russia as they were manufactured. The sale and distribution of drugs among community members took place in a "non-contact" way through caches. Coordination of their actions was carried out through the Internet, as well as through various instant messengers. As a result of measures held, active participants and heads of structural units were detained. More than **9 tons of precursors, 800 kg of drugs of synthetic origin**, as well as equipment used for their production were seized. The accused are charged with committing 30 episodes of crimes related to organization and participation in criminal community, sale of drugs and forgery of official documents. Currently, a criminal case has been sent to the Moscow Regional Court. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/14927030>

10.11.2018 Police officers in the city of Volzhsky, Volgograd region, detained a 19-year-old citizen of Tajikistan red-handed, who was selling drugs through caches. During detention 10 convolutions with heroin were found. The suspect pointed to 9 caches, where he had already placed heroin. During a search at the place of residence of the suspect, heroin was also found and seized on an especially large scale. A total of **915 grams of heroin** were seized. The man is arrested, a criminal case is instituted.

<http://reporter34.ru/content/novosti/v-voljskom-zaderjali-jityelya-tadjikistana-rasprostranyavshego-narkotiki~110861>

THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

09.11.2018 In Tashkent, from October 23 to November 7, law enforcement agencies detained 46 suspects in the sale of "**Tramadol**" and "**Lyric**" («Лирика»). A total of **3,023 packages** of medicines included in the Schedule of Narcotic Drugs, the circulation of which is prohibited in Uzbekistan, were seized from the detainees. Based on these facts, the preliminary investigation bodies of internal affairs bodies instituted 19 criminal cases. During operational and preventive measures on November 2, a 28-year-old man was detained in Uchtepa district, and 16 packs of Tramadol were found and seized. On November 6, in the Yashnabad district in a car driven by a 39-year-old resident of Uchtepa district, 6 packs of drugs prohibited for free sale were found and seized. On November 7, a 47-year-old man was arrested in the Shaykhantakhur region and 120 tablets of tramadol were found and seized by criminal investigation officers. <https://www.podrobno.uz/cat/proisshestiya/v-tashkente-zaderzhany-46/>

OTHER COUNTRIES

AUSTRALIA

07.11.2018 The Australian Federal Police (AFP) and the Australian Border Forces (ABP) officers stopped drug smuggling during a joint investigation in Melbourne. A 25-year-old Iceland citizen was detained at the Melbourne International Airport, in whose luggage upon arrival at the airport ABR officers found about **4 kg of cocaine**. In the course of further investigation, another 30-year-old drug trafficker from Iceland was identified in Melbourne, living in a hotel who kept **2.7 kg of cocaine** found during a search in the room. Both Icelanders are accused of importing and possessing drugs controlled at the border. Penalty for the commission of this crime in Australia provides life imprisonment. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2018-11/07/c_137588787.htm

08.11.2018 In Adelaide, police officers seized **15 kg of heroin** during an investigation into an organized criminal group. Police also found **1 kg of cocaine** in Angle Park, a northwestern suburb of Adelaide. During a search of a house located in Mansfield Park, officers discovered cash and equipment that criminals used to prepare the sale of heroin. Currently, police identify members of organized criminal groups smuggling, manufacturing, and delivering drugs to Australia.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-08/huge-heroin-bust-in-adelaide/10477606>

ARMENIA

01.11.2018 Armenian customs officers prevented an attempt to smuggle a large amount of **heroin weighing about 105 kg** to Iran from Armenia. A refrigerator belonging to

Omertransport LLC, registered in Georgia and operated by a Turkish citizen, was examined using x-ray equipment resulting in the discovery of heroin.

http://arka.am/en/news/incidents/armenian_customs_officers_foil_heroin_smuggling_attempt/

03.11.2018 The National Security Service of Armenia foiled activities of a group of drug dealers and found opium on a particularly large scale. Three Iranian citizens imported an opium shipment into Armenia through the Meghri checkpoint on the border with Iran. The drugs have been delivered to Yerevan during seven hours then were hidden in a rented apartment. Two drug dealers attempted to sell **1454 g** of opium in Yerevan, but were detained during a transfer.

<https://ru.armeniasputnik.am/incidents/20181103/15477295/zrya-priekhali-specsluzhby-armenia-pojmali-gruppu-narkodilerov-iz-iran.html>

GERMANY

09.11.2018 Hamburg police uncovered and seized more than **1 ton of cocaine** as a result of an investigation that lasted several months, eight people were arrested. In the course of monitoring a truck used to transport drugs to a Hamburg company, it was established that five members of an organized criminal group had unloaded more than 1 ton of cocaine in packs of 1 kg each. Among the five arrested members of the criminal group there are three Germans, an Italian and a Pole. In addition, three other drug traffickers were arrested, including alleged member of the "Hell's Angels" («Ангелы ада») group, who had contact with drug smugglers. During special raids, police seized 170,000 Euros obtained criminally.

<https://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/article221412150.html#navlink=SecList>

IRAN

05.11.2018 Iranian intelligence forces in the city of Delfan, Lorestan province, found **650 kg of opium** transported in a truck. A consignment drugs was discovered and seized on the Nahavand-Nour Abad road. One of the smugglers is arrested, other accomplices of the crime are identified. Measures are being taken to detain them. <http://www.irna.ir/en/News/83089566>

05.11.2018 Intelligence forces found and confiscated **1,190 kg** of opium in southern Iran in two separate operations in Bushehr and Kangan. Several smugglers were arrested, two cars carrying a drug cargo were also arrested. Smugglers intended to deliver the shipment of opium to central provinces. <http://www.irna.ir/en/News/83089694>

SPAIN

05.11.2018 Joint investigation by Mossos d'Eskvadra and customs supervision resulted in discovery of **1 ton of cocaine** in the port of Barcelona. A consignment of narcotic is found in a cargo container on a ship arriving from Brazil. <https://www.elperiodico.com/es/sociedad/20181105/localizados-1000-kilos-de-cocaina-en-el-puerto-de-barcelona-7130054>

ITALY

08.11.2018 Police found about **270 kg of heroin** in a container in the port of Genoa, which arrived from Iran. http://www.ansa.it/english/news/2018/11/08/270-kg-of-heroin-found-in-port-of-Genoa_d9498d69-dbca-4f16-aa16-d0984737838d.html

MEXICO

06.11.2018 Members of the Ministry of Navy of Mexico near El Calvario seized a vessel that transported a large shipment of cocaine off the coast of Acapulco. The boat with suspicious cargo was detected from an aircraft during a sea surveillance operation. In a joint operation with ships, naval units and personnel of Marine Corp to arrest a suspicious vessel, the Navy managed to get close to the boat when it moored to the shore in the municipality of Petalan. The crew members managed to escape. The "Reformeña" type boat carrying narcotics was equipped with two powerful engines. On board, officers found 19 bags containing **1 ton of cocaine** and forty-two 50-liter fuel barrels. Cocaine, fuel and boat were seized. <https://www.mexico-news-today.com/another-massive-cocaine-shipment-seized-off-coast-of-acapulco/>

USA

06.11.2018 US Customs and Border Protection officers at Calexico East, California, found **22.68 kg of methamphetamine**. CBP officers at the Calexico Border Crossing stopped a 21-year-old US citizen living in Bakersfield who was driving a Buick Regal. A CBP officer sent a driver and vehicle for additional in-depth inspection. During inspections, officers found 46 packages containing 22.68 kg of methamphetamine hidden inside the gas tank. The market value of the consignment is about 125 thousand US dollars. The female driver was arrested for attempting to smuggle drugs. Car and methamphetamine were seized. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-officers-discover-man-under-vehicle-seat-and-more-50-pounds>

08.11.2018 Border Patrol at the Welton interstate border checkpoint in Yuma, Arizona, detained a US citizen and four illegal migrants from Mexico trying to smuggle more than **13.6 kg of methamphetamine** into the US. The agents found four people leaving the desert to the east of Tacna, who, bypassing the interstate border checkpoint, loaded a Nissan Altima car and headed east along the border. The agents stopped the vehicle with a 25-year-old US citizen and 4 Mexicans who illegally entered the US. In the car agents also found **13.79 kg of methamphetamine** in two backpacks, worth about 91 thousand US dollars. All five men are arrested for transporting controlled substance. Four illegal migrants are also brought for justice for violation of immigration rules. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/yuma-sector-border-patrol-seizes-91k-incrystal-meth-and-arrests-5>

08.11.2018 US Customs and Border Protection officers in Tucson, Arizona, detained a Mexican citizen while smuggling more than **86.18 kg of methamphetamine** into the United States. The officers stopped a Ford SUV driven by a 44-year-old Mexican. As a result of inspections in the rear of the vehicle floor, 170 packages of smuggled methamphetamine were found. The worth of the consignment is estimated at 571 thousand US dollars. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-officers-port-lukeville-seize-571k-meth>

06.11.2018 In an attempt to smuggle heroin on a large scale, a 23-year-old US citizen from Houston was detained by US Customs and Border Protection officers at the International Bridge in Hidalgo, Texas. A female driver was driving a Ford Edge when the vehicle was stopped for inspection. As a result of the inspection, officers discovered two packages containing **6.14 kg of heroin** hidden inside the vehicle. Drugs and car were confiscated. Suspect was transferred to US Immigration and Customs Enforcement’s Homeland Security Investigations. <https://www.kveo.com/news/local-news/over-300k-of-heroin-seized-at-hidalgo-international-bridge/1591056061>

08.11.2018 US Customs and Border Protection officers at the port of entry in El Paso, Texas, detained two smugglers who tried to smuggle methamphetamine intracavitarily. A Chevrolet Malibu vehicle entered the USA from Mexico with a driver inside the car, as well as a 37-year-old man and a 26-year-old woman who are US citizens. CBP officers began a secondary check, during which the dog indicated to presence of drugs. The man was found to carry about **450 g of methamphetamine** hidden in the crotch area. The woman also found to have about **450 g of methamphetamine**, which she hid inside her vagina. Both suspects were transferred to special agents of Homeland Security Investigations. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-stops-two-methamphetamine-body-carriers>

COSTA RICA

06.11.2018 Agents of the Ministry of Public Security (MPS) of Costa Rica detained four Nicaraguan citizens in San Jose who were transporting about **60 kg of cocaine** in the trunk of a car. Three men and a woman were in the vehicle that was detained at a police checkpoint, and when they were checked, cocaine packs were found in the trunk. The packages contained the logos “Brutal” and “Barça”, as well as the logo of the football club “Barcelona”. Suspects were delivered to San José Prosecutor’s Office for legal proceedings. <https://www.plenglish.com/index.php?o=rn&id=35623&SEO=costa-rican-public-force-seizes-60-kg-of-cocaine>

UKRAINE

12.11.2018 Officers of the Security Service of Ukraine jointly with the Civil Guard of the Kingdom of Spain, in cooperation with the Foreign Intelligence Service of Ukraine, under the procedural guidance of the Prosecutor's Office foiled smuggling of **5 kg of cocaine**. Drug traffickers planned to smuggle cocaine from a Central American country in transit through Spain using international mail. During the joint operation, law enforcement officers established that a consignment of drugs was sent to four shipments with electrical appliances to Spain for subsequent shipment to Ukraine. Cocaine was addressed to two individuals from Kiev who had no idea about the true content of the items. In Kiev, the organizer of the drug trafficking was identified and detained. Currently, under criminal proceedings it is planned to obtain evidence from the Spanish side. Pre-trial investigation continues to be carried out. <https://ssu.gov.ua/ua/news/1/category/2/view/5417#.iAvqNhhM.dpbs>

ECUADOR

05.11.2018 The National Police of Ecuador, through the National Narcotics Directorate designed several operations in the cities of Guayaquil, Shell-Mera and Tulcan, which resulted in the seizure of **1 ton 283 kg** of cocaine and arrest of 5 people. In the seaport Simon Bolivar, agents of the Ports and Airports Information Unit (UIPA) executed an operation called "White Roof". Investigating the risk profile of a container belonging to the company "EXAGRISURSA", during a check inside the structure of the container's roof, 155 packages with AMS and 20X logos containing **180 kg of cocaine** were found. A citizen who was guarding the container destined for Holland, suspected of involvement in a criminal organization, was detained. In another operation called "Red Skin", conducted by the Anti-Narcotics Special Group (GEMA) in the province of Pastaza, after checking several vehicles using profiling methods, a Jeep was stopped, in the trunk of which had a double bottom with 84 kg of cocaine base packs. The driver was detained. In the same area, UIPA agents in Guayaquil's Simon Bolivar seaport conducted an operation called "Bananatrade II", which resulted in **877 kg of cocaine** being found after checking the risk profile of a container owned by BANANATRADE. This consignment was hidden in export banana boxes destined to Belgium. A perpetrator, suspected of involvement in a criminal organization engaged in the international drug trafficking through container transport, was detained. Moreover, GEMA agents at the International Rumichaka Bridge conducted an operation called "Finados", stopped a vehicle traveling along the route "Ipiiales-Tulkan-Santo Domingo". During inspection of the vehicle **42 kg of cocaine** were found in a double bottom in the car's construction. Two passengers were detained. Cocaine seized in the course of these operations was destined both for the domestic market of Ecuador and for international trafficking to Belgium and the Netherlands. <http://www.policiaecuador.gob.ec/1-tonelada-de-cocaina-incautada-deja-como-resultados-operativos-policiales-realizados-a-nivel-nacional/>

06.11.2018 Agents of the Ports and Airports Information Unit (UIPA) and the Regional Canine Training Center (CRAC) during a special operation "Poseidon" in the port of Guayaquil seized **589 kg of cocaine**. Agents using a profiling method checked a container destined for the port of Antwerp in Belgium which resulted in discovery of 20 bags containing 600 packs of cocaine inside the container. The police actions were carried out in coordination with the Prosecutor's Office which ordered the seizure of drugs and their placement in the warehouses of the Anti-Drug Group. <http://www.policiaecuador.gob.ec/en-operacion-poseidon-agentes-del-uipa-y-crac-decomisan-589-000-gramos-de-cocaina/>

