

CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY

(based on mass media reports)

02.12-08.12.2019**№ 49****CARICC MEMBER STATES****REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

29.11.2019 Employees of the State Border Guard Service of Azerbaijan on the service territory of the "Geytepe" border guard unit of the State Border Guard Service near the village of Garavuldash in Yardimli region stopped an attempt of illegal crossing of the state border from Iran in the direction of the Republic of Azerbaijan and an attempt of drug smuggling. The perpetrator, who did not comply with legitimate demands of the border guards, fled. As a result of search operations, a bundle of **4,618 kg of marijuana** was found at the scene. <https://news.day.az/society/1182053.html>

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

08.12.2019 Employees of the Department for combating drug-related crime of the PD of Nur-Sultan city during a search of residential premises detained 49-year-old resident of Zhambyl region, from whom more than **80 kg of marijuana**, prepared for further sale in the capital city, was found and confiscated. This fact was recorded in the Unified Register of Pre-trial Investigations. <https://24.kz/ru/news/incidents/item/359809-stolichnye-politseyskie-zaderzhali-narkotorgovtza>

10.12.2019 The Department of Economic Investigations for the city of Shymkent has identified online synthetic drug stores. Work has been organized to identify Internet websites (shops) related to the sale of drugs using the Internet. As part of monitoring Internet resources, three online shops were identified that are designed for the sale of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The principle of operation of Internet shops is as follows: in categories of the Internet site there are advertisements of shops, each of which offers specific assortment and price lists for narcotic drugs. Buyers choose a product and then pay for it with bitcoins or a QIWI wallet. Sellers in turn send customers coordinates and photos of so-called cache - an inconspicuous place where drug couriers hide bags of "substance". Some shops practice automatic sales through Telegram-bots. Thus, contact between sellers and buyers is completely excluded. Petitions were sent to the Information Committee of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan on these facts, as a result of which the "stores" were blocked. Work in this area continues¹.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

04.12.2019 A car driven by a 26-year-old native of Central Asia living in Moscow was detained by officers of UNK UMVD of Russia in Ivanovo region near the village of Uvalievo,

¹ Information provided by the Shymkent city DER press service

Lezhnevo district. While inspecting the car under the hood in the air filter, 2 bags of **heroin** were found and confiscated, the total weight of which was **236 g**. The drug was intended for sale in a contactless way in the regional center. A criminal case was initiated. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19036304>

04.12.2019 Officers of the Voronezh region UGIBDD GU MVD, in cooperation with the UNK and the regional FSB, stopped a shuttle bus running towards Rostov-on-Don at a stationary traffic police checkpoint in the Bogucharsky District of the Voronezh region at a distance of 741 km along the M-4 "Don" highway. There was a drug courier in the cabin - a 25-year-old resident of Kemerovo, who was transporting about **1 kg of mephedrone**. The detainee intended to equip drug caches in Krasnodar Krai. A criminal case has been initiated and the suspect has been taken into custody as a preventive measure. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19036624>

05.12.2019 Officers of UNK UMVD of Russia in Ivanovo region shut down a heroin supply channel to the region. Two young people, 21 and 20 years old, natives of neighboring countries living in Kostroma, brought large consignments of drugs to the territory of Ivanovo. During arrest officers found and confiscated **170 grams of heroin** prepared for sale in a contactless way through caches. A criminal case has been initiated on this fact. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19044338>

05.12.2019 A 34-year-old native of a neighbouring republic, suspected of selling drugs, was detained by officers of OKON UMVD of Russia in the Odintsovo city district of Moscow region. In the course of a personal search, more than **1 kg of heroin** was found and seized from the man. The defendant worked in a taxi and at the same time was engaged in distribution of drugs through caches, which he made in a number of Russian cities. A criminal case has been initiated. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19044138>

06.12.2019 Russian FSB, together with the KGB of the Republic of Belarus, stopped illegal actions of an international criminal group involved in organizing a channel for smuggling weapons and ammunition from abroad, as well as the sale of narcotic drugs. On 5-6 December 2019, a criminal business organizer and six active members of the criminal group were detained on the territory of the Novgorod and Leningrad regions when a consignment of weapons and drugs was sold illegally. Degtyarev's machine gun, Shpagin's submachine gun, three pistols (TT, PM and Browning), about 60 cartridges of various calibers, drugs (**amphetamine and cocaine**), 560 thousand rubles and 17600 US dollars were seized. Further steps are being taken to identify possible accomplices of the detainees, as well as channels for weapons and drugs.

<http://www.fsb.ru/fsb/press/message/single.htm%21id%3D10438488%40fsbMessage.html>

Video: <https://rg.ru/2019/12/06/specsluzhby-rf-i-belarusi-zaderzhali-kontrabandistov-oruzhiia-i-narkotikov.html>

06.12.2019 Officers of OKON UMVD of Russia in Samara detained five residents of Samara aged 21 to 27 years, suspected of attempting to sell narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances on a large scale. About **5 kg** of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including **amphetamine, cocaine and LSD**, were seized. The prohibited substances were to be sold in a contactless manner through caches. Criminal proceedings have been instituted against the detainees. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19056653>

06.12.2019 Drug control officers detained the 20-year-old organizer of an online store selling illegal substances and its two accomplices at the age of 21 in Perm. A few months ago, the young man decided to illegally produce mephedrone for sale. He lacked knowledge in chemistry and asked a peer for help. He, in turn, found a student in chemistry department. The group set up a drug lab in a rented house in the village of Skobelevka, where mephedrone was manufactured. After several chemical processes, the dealers hid equipment and reagents in forest. Police officers seized large quantities of flasks, test tubes and chemicals, which were used to manufacture illicit substance. **500 g of mephedrone**, prepared for sale through stashes, were discovered in the apartment of the main defendant. A criminal case has been initiated on the fact of drug trafficking.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19057063>

06.12.2019 Two men aged 23 and 27, suspected of selling drugs, were detained by officers of UNK UMVD of Russia in Tver. They seized **300 g of high quality heroin**, which was to be sold in a contactless manner in Tver. For this purpose, they arrived in the Tver region from the Irkutsk region. A criminal case has been initiated. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19057220>

OTHER COUNTRIES

BELGIUM

26.11.2019 Customs at the Port of Antwerp intercepted **2 tons of cocaine** in a Colombian ship hidden among a fertilizer cargo. The berth in the harbor where the ship moored has not yet been declared. https://www.gva.be/cnt/dmf20191204_04751138/douane-onderschept-twee-ton-cocaine-in-lading-meststoffen

BRAZIL

06.12.2019 The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) at the port of Santos confiscated **1029 kg of cocaine**. On December 5, customs identified three containers with signs of contamination. The first container was destined for the port of Rotterdam, the Netherlands, and the destination country was Germany. Eight bags of cocaine, weighing a total of 259 kg, were found at the doors of the container after being opened. On 6 December, 444 kg of cocaine were found in the second container carrying a shipment of alloy steel destined for the port of Antwerp, Belgium. The third container held a consignment of instant coffee packed in plastic bags and cardboard boxes destined for the port of Antwerp, Belgium, contained 326 kg of cocaine. The seized cocaine has been handed over to the federal police, who will continue their investigations based on information provided by customs. <http://receita.economia.gov.br/sobre/acoes-e-programas/acoes-da-receita-federal/noticias/2019/dezembro/8a-regiao-fiscal/receita-federal-localiza-mais-de-uma-tonelada-de-cocaina-em-menos-de-24-horas-no-porto-de-santos>

VIETNAM

04.12.2019 The police of Hai Phong city arrested members of a transnational criminal group, one Vietnamese citizen aged 64 and four Lao people aged 19 to 22. Drug couriers charged with drug smuggling entered Vietnam by car at the border gate of Cau Treo in Ha Tinh province, which borders Laos, illegally moving **15 kg of heroin**.



<https://e.vnexpress.net/news/news/one-vietnamese-four-lao-men-caught-trafficking-heroin-4024057.html>

05.12.2019 Ho Chi Minh City Police searched a warehouse in Binh Chan district and seized 6 bags with **446 packages of heroin (no weight reported)** worth nearly 180 billion VND. <https://vnexpress.net/phap-luat/lo-heroin-180-ty-dong-nguy-trang-trong-6-bao-tai-4022898.html>

GREECE

03.12.2019 Police at Athens International Airport detained two foreign nationals aged 30 and 56 for attempting to smuggle **9 kg of heroin**. Drug couriers arrived on a flight from Lahore, Pakistan, via Doha, Qatar. A 30-year-old Pakistani national and a 56-year-old British national hid heroin in a secret compartment in their bags.

<http://www.ekathimerini.com/247130/article/ekathimerini/news/athens-airport-arrivals-caught-with-9-kilos-of-heroin>

INDIA

03.12.2019 In a joint operation conducted by the police and paramilitary units in the Toubal area of Manipur, a laboratory was dismantled in which about **40.61 kg of heroin** were seized, as well as a bottle of ammonium chloride and 10 litres of morphine used for drug production. The laboratory was equipped by two brothers in a house in the village of Sada Humbi. The perpetrators have been arrested and further investigations are under way.

<https://www.newindianexpress.com/nation/2019/dec/03/heroin-worth-over-rs-165-crore-seized-in-mega-drug-lab-busted-in-manipur-2070808.html>

CHINA

02.12.2019 Officers from the Narcotics Bureau and the Key Points and Search Division seized **75 kg of cocaine** during a raid at logistics centre in Sheung Shui. 36 bags of cocaine were concealed in a shipping container with cow skins. Seizures are estimated at \$90 million (US\$11.5 million). Six people have been arrested. Cow skins came from South America. Six men aged 26 to 36 are charged with drug trafficking.

<https://www.scmp.com/print/news/hong-kong/law-and-crime/article/3041038/drug-police-seize-75kg-cocaine-worth-us115-million>

COLOMBIA

02.12.2019 Colombian Navy and national police seized more than **106 kg of high-purity cocaine** in Barranquilla. The cargo was concealed aboard the British-flagged cargo ship Monterey Bay, which was due to depart from a port in Brazil for the port of Rio Haina, Dominican Republic. The consignment value on the international black market is more than USD 3.5 million. <https://www.armada.mil.co/es/content/armada-colombia-y-policia-nacional-incautan-mas-100-kilogramos-cocaina-en-barranquilla>

MEXICO

07.12.2019 A truck carrying **432 kg of methamphetamine and 2,200 pills of fentanyl** were seized by members of the Ministry of National Defence in support of civilian authorities south of Navojoa, Sonora State. The shipment is estimated at 124 million pesos.

<http://www.borderlandbeat.com/2019/12/navajoa-sonora-monster-bust-of-meth-and.html>

THE NETHERLANDS

02.12.2019 Fruit delivery company employees in Ridderkerk discovered a shipment of cocaine - **330 kg of cocaine**. The drugs were hidden in a container between melons. The container was on a ship from Brazil and was unloaded at the port of Rotterdam. It was then taken to a relevant company. The investigation is being carried out by the NARC team, the customs forces, together with FIOD, the seaport police and the Rotterdam public prosecutor's office. <https://www.ad.nl/rotterdam/330-kilo-cocaine-verstoopt-tussen-meloenen-bij-ridderkerks-fruitbedrijf~a7c0cc88/>

UAE

04.12.2019 Dubai police seized **135 kg of hashish, 10 kg of opium, 46 kg of methamphetamine and 3 kg of heroin** during an international operation to combat drug trafficking in the Al Ras area of Dubai Creek harbour. Twelve persons who were members of two international criminal groups smuggling drugs by sea into the country were arrested. The drugs were hidden in different places between the wooden panels under the deck of the boat. Arrested persons were referred to relevant authorities for prosecution. <https://gulfnews.com/uae/crime/dubai-police-foiled-drug-smuggling-operation-1.1575479479853>

PAKISTAN

02.12.2019 Police officers in Lodhran, Punjab province, stopped a car carrying a large shipment of drugs. **60 kg of opium** were seized. Two drug traffickers were arrested and one managed to escape the scene. <https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/police-recovered-60-kg-opium-two-drug-peddl-776685.html>

02.12.2019 National highway and motorway police officers near Hanka Dogran discovered **26 kg of heroin** on the Islamabad Lahore highway in a suspicious Honda Civic vehicle that was not carrying a driver and passengers. The vehicle and the heroin shipment were seized and handed over to the Faroukabad police station for further investigation. The search for heroin smugglers continues. <https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/motorway-police-recover-26-kg-heroin-776920.html>

POLAND

05.12.2019 Border Guard Service (KAS) and the Centralne Biuro Śledcze Policji (CBŚP), the Polish police unit for combating organized crime, have stopped the biggest drug smuggling attempt in recent years in the EU. Officers of Pomeranian KAS and CBŚP from Gdansk stopped a criminal group engaged in drug smuggling on a large scale. In a special operation at the Gdynia port container base, **1 tonne and 850 kg of high-quality cocaine** hidden in two chalk containers officially arrived in Poland from Colombia. Cocaine was found in 74 bags of 1,600. After that, a room where drugs were produced on a large scale was discovered in the Wielkopolskie Voivodeship. A large amount of equipment for drug production, more than **10 kg of pure cocaine** destined for Germany, were seized, together with about **600 litres of cocaine-containing liquid** (under manufacture). A warehouse prepared for the storage of drugs has also been identified and shut down. The investigation was assisted by German customs and police officers. In Germany, a member of the same

criminal group was arrested and drugs were found. Citizens of Colombia, Iran and Germany were detained as a result of the operation. <https://www.gov.pl/web/finanse/kas-i-cbsp-udaremnily-najwieksza-od-lat-probe-przemytu-narkotykow-w-ue>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1yOBxicTdwY>
<http://cbsp.policja.pl/cbs/aktualnosci/182370,KAS-i-CBSP-udaremnily-najwieksza-od-lat-probe-przemytu-narkotykow-w-UE.html>

USA

02.12.2019 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials aboard a sailing boat in the port of Everglades, Florida, discovered more than **189.15 kg of cocaine**. Cocaine was found at two locations on the keel of a sailboat. The seized cocaine and evidence were transferred to the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), U.S. Homeland Security Investigations (HSI). <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/us-customs-and-border-protection-seizes-over-400-pounds-cocaine-port>
 Video: <https://wsvn.com/news/local/cbp-agents-find-cocaine-stashed-inside-sailboat-at-port-everglades/>

02.12.2019 U.S. border officials at the Carrizo Springs, Texas, immigration checkpoint on Route 277 arrested a 19-year-old drug courier from Dallas who concealed more than **7.7 kg of methamphetamine** under the central console of a car. Value of the consignment is more than 700 thousand dollars. The man and drugs have been transferred to the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/record/border-patrol-k9-discovers-methamphetamine-immigration-checkpoint>

03.12.2019 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the Office of Field Operations have arrested four Mexican citizens and three U.S. citizens for individual attempts to smuggle drugs through ports of entry into Arizona:

- 1) officers at the port of Lukeville apprehended a 31-year-old Mexican citizen in an attempt to smuggle **25.4 kg of methamphetamine** worth nearly \$92,000 in a Dodge truck. The drug was concealed in the vehicle's frame rails;
- 2) officers at the port of San Luis detained the 18-year-old driver of a Dodge vehicle in an attempt to smuggle more than **36.74 kg of methamphetamine** concealed in the vehicle's doors. The shipment costs \$134,000;
- 3) a 37-year-old U.S. citizen from Phoenix was detained by staff of the Dennis DeConcini Crossing's Pedestrian area when attempting to smuggle more than **900 g of fentanyl** worth \$25,000.
- 4) officers at the Dennis DeConcini Crossing detained a 31-year-old Mexican woman in an attempt to smuggle about **6.35 kg of methamphetamine** concealed in a spare wheel in a KIA car. The value of the consignment is 23 thousand dollars.
- 5) officers at the DeConcini Crossing detained a 36-year-old U.S. citizen in an attempt to smuggle **61.23 kg of methamphetamine** worth more than \$222,000 in a Toyota car.
- 6) officers at the port of Lukeville detained a 38-year-old Mexican woman while trying to smuggle more than **31.3 kg of methamphetamine**, worth \$115,000, hidden in the back of a Ford SUV.
- 7) officers at the DeConcini Crossing detained a 29-year-old Mexican woman while trying to smuggle almost **13.6 kg of cocaine** worth \$338,000 in a Nissan SUV.

Drugs and vehicles were confiscated, and the subjects were arrested and then transferred to U.S. Homeland Security Investigations. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-officers-seize-948k-hard-drugs-over-weekend>

03.12.2019 During a special operation in the Anza Valley, the Riverside County Sheriff's Office, supported by California Department Fish and Wildlife agents and the county Code Enforcement officers, seized a total of **3,957 cannabis plants** at various stages of growth and **25.85 kg of marijuana** during searches on Brant Valley Road. The plants containing drugs were grown in pots in closed greenhouses. <https://kesq.com/news/2019/12/03/rso-seizes-3957-marijuana-plants-in-anza-raids/>

05.12.2019 CBP Air and Maritime Operations (AMO) P-3 "Orion Long Range Tracker", assigned to the National Air Security operations Center in Jacksonville, Florida, intercepted two high-speed vessels in two separate events on 21 and 22 November and confiscated **2,838.58 kg of cocaine** smuggling. The AMO operation was supported by Panamanian law enforcement agencies, which launched two interceptor ships. Drugs are valued at more than \$81.5 million. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-air-and-marine-operations-crew-intercepts-two-boats-loaded-over-815>

06.12.2019 Police stopped two vehicles on the I-15 near Cedar City, Utah, during a patrol that found **18.14 kilograms of methamphetamine** in the first vehicle and **910 grams of heroin and fentanyl** in the second. Three people were arrested in connection with the incidents. <https://www.deseret.com/utah/2019/12/6/20999581/40-pounds-meth-found-cedar-city-traffic-stop>

08.12.2019 U.S. Coast Guard patrol in Key West, Florida, in the eastern Pacific found and seized **4,218.41 kg (9,300 lbs) of cocaine** aboard a low-profile boat. Thirteen drug smugglers were arrested. <https://www.wthr.com/article/coast-guard-seizes-9300-pounds-cocaine>

TURKEY

02.12.2019 Turkish security forces in central Nevsehir province seized **165 kg of heroin**. Heroin in liquid form was concealed in the reserve fuel tank of a truck. Five suspects were arrested during the operation. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/police-seize-165-kg-of-heroin-in-central-turkey/1661264>

04.12.2019 Police have seized more than **900 kg of cannabis, 799 kg of heroin, 100 kg of marijuana, more than 1 kg of methamphetamine and more than 50 kg of acid anhydride** during operations in the provinces of Van, Diyarbakir, Kocaeli and Istanbul. In addition, police officers seized more than 155,000 Turkish liras (\$26,953), \$12,500 and 31 million Iranian rials (\$736). A large amount of ammunition for shotguns was also seized. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/turkish-police-seize-large-amount-of-drugs/1663438>

06.12.2019 Police seized **1,036 kg of marijuana** during the counter-terrorism operation Kiran in the south-east of the country in the provinces of Van, Hakkari, Sirnak, Mardin and Batman. Shelters used by terrorist group of the Kurdistan Workers Party (a banned organization in Turkey) were destroyed. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/police-seize-over-1-ton-of-marijuana-in-se-turkey/1665564>

ETHIOPIA

05.12.2019 Ministry of Revenue customs officials, together with Ethiopian national intelligence units, stopped an attempt to smuggle **7.4 kg of cocaine** at the passenger terminal at Bole Addis Ababa International Airport. A drug courier was sent to India from



South Africa via Ethiopia. A citizen of Azerbaijan was subsequently detained in connection with the case, and **4 kg of cocaine** were seized from her. The female drug courier left Moscow, Russia, for Addis Ababa, then stopped and checked in at a hotel in Addis Ababa and planned to fly to Bangkok, Thailand, the same day. **Cocaine** smuggled and seized totalled **11.4 kg**. <https://borkena.com/2019/12/05/ethiopia-11-4-kilograms-of-cocaine-seized-at-bole-airport/>

RSA

04.12.2019 Police officers in Pongola, KwaZulu-Natal, stopped a vehicle that had **15 kg of heroin** in its spare tire. The drug was found during a vehicle search and the 40-year-old driver was arrested. <https://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/kzn-cops-intercept-vehicle-from-mozambique-with-r27m-worth-of-heroin-20191204>