БОРЬБЕ

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<u>Unofficial translation</u>

#### **CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY**

(based on mass media reports)

<u>21-27.10.2019</u> <u>№ 43</u>

# **CARICC MEMBER STATES**

## **REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

**16.10.2019** As a result of operative measures, four people involved in drug trafficking were detained in Baku. Officers of Binagadi district police department found and seized more than **1 kg of heroin** from a 26-year-old resident of Baku, police officers of Sabunchu region seized **538 g of heroin** from a 27-year-old man, and officers of Yasamal region - **210 g of heroin** from a 47-year-old resident of Baku. In addition, as a result of operational-search activities, officers of Khatai RUP detained a suspect from whom **918 grams of heroin** were found and confiscated during searches. All four incidents are under investigation. https://report.az/ru/proisshestviya/v-baku-u-chetireh-lic-iz-yati-narkoticheskie-veshestva-v-krupnom-razmere/

**23.10.2019** A local resident was detained in Baku during operation by employees of the Main Department for Combating Drugs who illegally kept **5,065 kg of heroin, 1,145 kg of methamphetamine and 805 g of opium, as well as 388 tablets of methadone with a total weight of <b>15,52 g**, prepared for further sale in the settlement of Mashtaga in Sabuncha district. Investigations into the matter are ongoing. <a href="http://www.kaspiy.az/news.php?id=112944#.Xbe9PJIzaM8">http://www.kaspiy.az/news.php?id=112944#.Xbe9PJIzaM8</a>

## **REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN**

**24.10.2019** The Almaty Department of the National Security Committee of the Republic of Kazakhstan dismantled a clandestine laboratory producing synthetic drugs. As a result of operational-search activities, a resident of Almaty, who organized its functioning, was detained. About **2 kg of synthetic drugs and 526 litres of precursors** were seized at the laboratory. The finished psychotropic drug was sold through Internet shops in the messengers "Telegram" and "VIPole". Business cards and cigarette lighters with the logo of Altyn Orda, one of the largest online drug stores, were seized at the place of residence of the detainee. Pre-trial investigation is under way. <a href="http://knb.gov.kz/ru/news/o-likvidacii-podpolnoy-narkolaboratorii">http://knb.gov.kz/ru/news/o-likvidacii-podpolnoy-narkolaboratorii</a>

**24.10.2019** Police officers in the village of Tuymekent, Zhambyl region, detained a man who illegally kept **more than 30 kg of marijuana** and **2.4 kg of hashish** in the house of his relative in the outbuilding, which the detainee intended to send to East Kazakhstan region. In addition, a 49-year-old native of Merke district, who kept more than **12 kg of marijuana**, was detained near the Tatti-Sary-Koby highway in Zhambyl Oblast. Also in Pavlodar region during a search of residential premises of a local resident **71 grams of heroin** were found and seized. In just one week, the Interior Ministry's units combating drug-related crime in the country identified and registered 33 crimes in illicit drug trafficking, including 17 cases of drug trafficking, 5 - storage on a large scale, 6 - smuggling and 1 fact of cultivation of plants containing narcotic drugs. One drug den was shut down. More than

54 kg of drugs, including **52 kg of marijuana, 106.6 g of heroin, 2.4 kg of hashish and 16.3 g of synthetic drugs**, were seized from by police.

https://inbusiness.kz/ru/last/bolee-50-kg-narkotikov-izyali-za-mesyac-v-kazahstane

**29.10.2019** Police officers in Karaganda arrested a distributor of synthetic drugs through caches. The so-called "constructor" - components of psychoactive substances are brought by drug dealers from Russia in cars. After that, they are mixed at home and sold through social networks. Customers send money to Qiwi wallets and receive photos of drug caches. During searches, more than **100 grams of psychoactive substances** ready for sale were found and seized from the suspect.

https://24.kz/ru/news/social/item/350839-sbytchika-sinteticheskikh-narkotikov-zaderzhali-v-karagande

## **KYRGYZ REPUBLIC**

**25.10.2019** Two Kyrgyz citizens aged 34 and 35 were detained by officers of the Batken Frontier Detachment of the Kyrgyz Republic during a joint operation with police. A search of their house resulted in the seizure of **600 litres of sulphuric acid**. Once relevant documents have been processed, the detained citizens and seized substance have been handed over to police for further investigation.

https://ru.sputnik.kg/incidents/20191026/1046067269/kyrgyzstan-prekursor-izyatie.html

## **RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**14.10.2019** Officers of GUNK of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation together with their colleagues from the Kaluga region detained a 22-year-old resident of the city of Ludinovo, suspected of selling drugs using Internet application in a non-contact way. In places of caches and at the woman's place of residence, **988 g of synthetic drug** "salt", prepared for further sale in the cities of Ludinovo and Kaluga, were seized. Criminal proceedings have been instituted in this regard. <a href="https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18597747">https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18597747</a>

**15.10.2019** Sakha Republic (Yakutia) officers of UNK Ministry of Internal Affairs detained a 21-year-old native of Ust-Yansky district on suspicion of selling drugs. The detainee kept about **1.7 kg of synthetic drug** in his apartment. A criminal case has been initiated against the detainee. <a href="https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18610608">https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18610608</a>

**16.10.2019** Staff members of UNK GU of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation for the Novosibirsk Region detained two residents of Novosibirsk born in 1982 and 1995, suspected of manufacturing and selling drugs in Novosibirsk. At personal inspection, and also in places of residence of the defendants, car and garage boxing more than **500 g of various narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (heroin, hashish, amphetamine, mephedrone and others)**, intended for sale were seized. In addition, police found laboratory equipment, ingredients and precursors for manufacture of narcotic drugs in a caravan in the yard of the house where one of the defendants lived. A criminal case has been initiated on this fact. <a href="https://xn--blaew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18621321">https://xn--blaew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18621321</a>

**15.10.2019** Russian police officers in Nefteyugansk, Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Area, detained a 43-year-old resident of Mozhaisk, Moscow Region, who sold synthetic drugs in a non-contact manner. In the course of personal search, **330 g of a narcotic drug of synthetic origin** were seized from the man. A criminal case was initiated. Previously, the

НЕЗАКОННЫМ ОБОРОТОМ НАРКОТИЧЕСКИХ СРЕДСТВ, ПСИХОТРОПНЫХ ВЕЩЕСТВ И ИХ man had come to the attention of police for similar illegal acts. https://xn--b1aew.xn--

15.10.2019 Employees of ONK UMVD of Russia in the city of Kemerovo detained a 19year-old local resident within the framework of the operative and preventive measure "Mak", after he stashed drugs. During a personal search, a smartphone with correspondence in a messenger confirming illegal activities was seized from the detainee. Bundles of hashish, methamphetamine and mephedrone with a total weight of about 100 g were extracted from the caches. Around 300 packages of bundles of prepared for sale synthetic drugs, as well as hallucinogenic mushrooms, were seized at the suspect's place of residence. The total weight of seized illicit substances was about 1 kg. A criminal case has been initiated. https://xn-b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18610642

**21.10.2019** Officers of UNK GU of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation in Krasnodar region together with their colleagues from GUNK of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation detained a 22-year-old resident of Krasnodar suspected of drug trafficking. When inspecting the dacha property rented by the perpetrator, 2.5 kg of mephedrone, 300 liters of chemicals and precursors were found and seized. The man sold the drug in large batches via the Internet. Police officers seized 1.3 kg of **mephedrone** at cache sites in Krasnodar. An investigation into this fact is under way. https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18677484

**25.10.2019** Staff members of UNK GU of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation for the Novosibirsk Region detained two residents of the city of Berdsk at the age of 24 and 25 years, suspected of selling drugs on a large scale in the Novosibirsk Region. During a personal search of one of the detainees, police found drug of synthetic origin weighing about 970 grams, intended for sale. Later, police seized 460 g of "synthetic" and 12.6 g of cocaine from caches in the Novosibirsk Region, as well as in a garage box rented by defendants in the city of Berdsk. Police officers seized more than 2.4 kg of narcotic drugs (a-PVP, MDMA, hashish and cocaine) in total. A criminal case has been initiated. https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18728119

#### OTHER COUNTRIES

### **BRAZIL**

p1ai/news/item/18616445

13.10.2019 Federal Highway Police (PRF) discovered and seized 2 tons 832.7 kg of marijuana in a tanker truck from Paraguay at the PRF operating post on the BR-277 highway in Santa Tereziglia de Itaipú in western Parana, Brazil.

https://www.prf.gov.br/agencia/prf-descobre-2-8-toneladas-de-maconha-em-caminhao-tanque-no-parana/ Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=toyRtfAACWQ

**14.10.2019** Federal Highway Police (PRF) on the BR 116 in Feira de Santana, Brazil, about 116 km from El Salvador, stopped and inspected a cargo van with a hidden compartment in the floor of the trailer and found 930 packs of cocaine, weighing about 1 ton. A man and a woman in the car were arrested. The driver explained that he had "received" the truck in Barreiras and was on his way to the tourist town of Walesa, Bahia Reconcavo. The drugs and the arrested were taken to judicial police https://www.prf.gov.br/agencia/prf-apreende-1-tonelada-de-cocaina-na-br-116-em-feira-de-santana-ba/ Video: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\_continue=1&v=ayv0\_70P40w">https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\_continue=1&v=ayv0\_70P40w</a>

ILLICIT

**15.10.2019** Internal Revenue Service (IRS) at the port of Santos, on the coast of São Paulo, Brazil, discovered **364 kg of cocaine** in a container loaded with coffee. The drug was destined for the port of Antwerp, Belgium. The drugs were concealed in a properly declared container without the consent of the cargo owner. The federal police seized the drug and initiated an investigation.

https://g1.globo.com/sp/santos-regiao/porto-mar/noticia/2019/10/15/caes-localizam-mais-de-360-kg-de-cocaina-misturada-com-cafe-em-sp.ghtml

#### GREECE

**22.10.2019** A 36-year-old foreign national was detained by customs officials at Athens International Airport in an attempt to import **1.45 kg of cocaine** intracavitarily. The man flew to Athens from São Paulo, Brazil, through Rome, Italy, and swallowed 34 containers of cocaine.

http://www.ekathimerini.com/245752/article/ekathimerini/news/aia-arrival-caught-with-145-kg-of-cocaine

#### **NIGERIA**

**23.10.2019** Officers of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency arrested two Nigerians in two separate cases for attempting to transport **5 kg and 3.1 kg of cocaine** from Sao Paulo, Brazil, to Nigeria. Both couriers arrived at Nnamdi Azikive International Airport in Abuja at different times on Ethiopian airline flights. The drug was concealed in the first case in luggage, in the second case in musical equipment.

http://saharareporters.com/2019/10/23/brazil-based-ibeh-chukwuma-arrested-entering-nigeria-5kg-cocaine

#### **IRELAND**

**11.10.2019** Customs officers at Dublin Airport, Ireland, found a parcel containing a "sample pulley" from South Africa inside a cylindrical metal housing containing about **650 grams of heroin** in a parcel. The package was destined for a recipient in North Dublin. Investigations into this fact are ongoing.

https://www.revenue.ie/en/corporate/press-office/press-releases/2019/pr-161019-revenue-seize-heroin-worth-70000-at-dublin-airport.aspx

https://www.irishmirror.ie/news/irish-news/heroin-seized-package-dublin-airport-20635838

#### **SPAIN**

**24.10.2019** During an investigation into a separate incident in parking lot, the National Police noticed a suspicious person near a parked car in the parking lot of a shopping mall in Madrid. During searches of vehicle, 7 bags of construction materials with 66 packages of methamphetamine concealed inside were found. The total weight of the **methamphetamine** was **100 kg**. The man was arrested at the scene.

https://www.rte.ie/news/newslens/2019/1024/1085317-madrid-police-meth-seizure-by-chance/

### **CHINA**

**25.10.2019** Customs officers at Hong Kong airport seized liquid cocaine worth HK\$23 million (\$2.9 million) twice in two days. Ten bottles of alcoholic beverages containing **22 kg of liquid cocaine** were found in the luggage of a 39-year-old man and a 28-year-old

woman arriving at Hong Kong International Airport from Lima, Peru, via Paris, France. A day earlier, customs officers discovered five bottles of wine with liquid cocaine worth more than \$1.4 million from a drug courier arriving from Malaysia. The detainees are charged with trafficking in dangerous drugs, which entails a maximum penalty of life imprisonment and HK\$5 million (about \$638,000).

https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/law-and-crime/article/3034665/hong-kong-airport-customs-nabs-liquid-cocaine-worth

### **COLOMBIA**

**13.10.2019** An 81-year-old woman was detained at the José Maria Córdoba International Airport in Ríonegro, Colombia, who intended to fly to Madrid, Spain, while attempting to move **3 kg of cocaine** in her wheelchair. <a href="https://www.elcolombiano.com/antioquia/capturan-a-anciana-con-droga-en-su-silla-de-ruedas-en-aeropuerto-de-rionegro-antioquia-IC11757618">https://www.elcolombiano.com/antioquia/capturan-a-anciana-con-droga-en-su-silla-de-ruedas-en-aeropuerto-de-rionegro-antioquia-IC11757618</a>

### **COSTA RICA**

**21.10.2019** The Costa Rican Coast Guard in the southern Costa Rican coast, after receiving a warning from the Colombian national fleet intercepted a boatload of **1,410 kg of cocaine** and arrested three Colombian crew members, aged 29, 38 and 44 years, on charges of international drug trafficking. The intercepted vessel was taken to the port city of Cuepos, Puntarenas, in the central Pacific Ocean, where it was inspected. During the inspection, 47 containers were found, each containing 30 packages of cocaine weighing 1 kg each. The Pacific coast is one of the most frequently used destinations for movement of drugs from South America to the United States, a major consumer market.

https://ticotimes.net/2019/10/22/three-colombians-detained-in-costa-rica-with-1-4-metric-tons-of-cocaine

**22.10.2019** An inspection carried out by the Ministry of Public Security's Drug Control Police (PCD) at the port of Moine de Limón, Costa Rica, in a container that was in a ship carrying ornamental plants in boxes, found bags of **250 kg of cocaine**. The final destination of the shipment was the port of Rotterdam (Netherlands).

Video: https://www.facebook.com/seguridadcrc/videos/389178171970794/

**28.10.2019** Drug Control Police (PCD) at the port of Moine de Limón seized **954 kg of cocaine** concealed in a container loaded with bananas and lemon concentrate. The final destination of the shipment was Belgium. The shipment was in 954 packages inside 29 bags. <a href="https://www.crhoy.com/nacionales/frenan-contenedor-de-pulpa-de-banano-con-954-kilos-de-cocaina/">https://www.crhoy.com/nacionales/frenan-contenedor-de-pulpa-de-banano-con-954-kilos-de-cocaina/</a>

### **PAKISTAN**

**22.10.2019** A special police unit seized **11.2 kg of high-quality heroin** smuggled from Khyber Agency to Karachi on the Indus Highway during a vehicle search on the Kohat Indus Highway. A woman belonging to a gang of drug smugglers was detained in a passenger vehicle. The detainee was sent to police station for further investigation.

 $\underline{https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/11200-grams-heroin-seized-lady-smuggler-arr-743618.html}$ 

**25.10.2019** Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) seized **4.7 kg of heroin and 400 g of opium** from two Afghan nationals on the border with Torkham. Heroin was

concealed in a bag of dried fruits. According to the Law on Drug Control, cases have been registered and those arrested are under investigation.

https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/heroin-recovered-two-arrested-in-pehsawar-746014.html

**26.10.2019** Saddra police raided two villages near Dingranwali and near Head Sagar and seized **3.59 kg of heroin**. Both drug traffickers arrested were supplying heroin to different areas. <a href="https://nation.com.pk/26-Oct-2019/3-5kg-heroin-seized-from-dens-of-drug-wholesalers">https://nation.com.pk/26-Oct-2019/3-5kg-heroin-seized-from-dens-of-drug-wholesalers</a>

### **PUERTO RICO**

**15.10.2019** U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials seized **53 kilograms of cocaine** hidden in four flower boxes that arrived at Rafael Hernandez International Airport (BQN) with cargo from Colombia. Estimated value of the cocaine seized is \$1.3 million. <a href="https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-seizes-117-pounds-cocaine-inside-flower-boxes-aquadilla">https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-seizes-117-pounds-cocaine-inside-flower-boxes-aquadilla</a>

https://twitter.com/CBPCaribbean/status/1184192255046889477/photo/1?ref\_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1184192255046889477&ref\_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.wipr.pr%2Ffederales-incautan-53-kilos-de-cocaina-dentro-de-cajas-de-flores-en-aguadilla%2F

**21.10.2019** U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials seized **141 kg of cocaine** that had been hidden inside a tanker arriving at the Santo Domingo-San Juan ferry at the Pan American dock. Estimated value of the cocaine seized is \$3.5 million. At the entrance to the port of San Juan, CBP officers used non-intrusive scanners to inspect cargo arriving from Santo Domingo and found cylindrical containers with 122 packs of cocaine inside the tank. U.S. Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) agents confiscated cocaine for further investigation. <a href="https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-seizes-311-pounds-cocaine-inside-tank-san-juan">https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-seizes-311-pounds-cocaine-inside-tank-san-juan</a>

### **SERBIA**

**25.10.2019** Officers of the Interior Ministry's Organized Crime Service at the Batrovci border crossing on the Serbian-Croatian border arrested a 54-year-old citizen of the Russian Federation on suspicion of drug trafficking. A search of a Mercedes vehicle driven by the man found two packages of **cocaine weighing 2,208 kg** and 14,800 euros in cash. The suspect is detained for 48 hours and, together with criminal complaint will be transferred to the Supreme State Prosecutor's Office of Sremsk-Mitrovica.

 $\underline{https://www.telegraf.rs/english/3115506\text{-}russian\text{-}arrested\text{-}at\text{-}batrovci\text{-}with\text{-}2\text{-}kilos\text{-}of\text{-}cocaine\text{-}and\text{-}sacks\text{-}of\text{-}money\text{-}hidden\text{-}in\text{-}his\text{-}mercedes}}$ 

#### USA

**21.10.2019** Officers from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the Office of Field Operations (OFO) at the port of entry to Laredo, Texas, in four separate law enforcement efforts, stopped attempts to smuggle large amounts of drugs from Mexico into the United States.

On October 18, CBP officers inspecting bus passengers on the Juarez Lincoln Bridge found and seized **2.1 kg of heroin and 1.04 kg of cocaine** hidden under the clothes of a 51-year-old Mexican citizen. Value of drugs is 123 thousand dollars.

On October 18, CBP officers intercepted **8.6 kg of cocaine and 2.26 kg of heroin** hidden in a Spark car driven by a 30-year-old U.S. citizen. The total value of the consignment is estimated at more than \$277,000.

On October 19, CBP officers at the Juarez-Lincoln Bridge seized **5.73 kg of cocaine** concealed in a Ford Explorer vehicle carrying a 43-year-old Mexican woman as a passenger. Cocaine was valued at about \$97.5 thousand.

In addition, October 21, CBP arrested a 40-year-old Mexican citizen in an attempt to smuggle **58.51 kg of methamphetamine in liquid form** in gas tank of Volkwagen Toureg, worth \$1.8 million. <a href="https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-goes-4-4-seizing-23m-hard-narcotics-weekend-laredo-port-entry">https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-goes-4-4-seizing-23m-hard-narcotics-weekend-laredo-port-entry</a>

**24.10.2019** Police in Phoenix, Arizona, have arrested two people for drug trafficking. During a search of vehicle, police found and seized more than **9.07 kg of cocaine**, **7.26 kg of heroin**, **9.07 kg of methamphetamine and about 15,000 tablets of fentanyl**. <a href="https://www.fox10phoenix.com/news/mesa-pd-nearly-600k-worth-of-drugs-seized-2-suspects-arrested">https://www.fox10phoenix.com/news/mesa-pd-nearly-600k-worth-of-drugs-seized-2-suspects-arrested</a>

**24.10.2019** Border patrol agents near the I-8 gate at Pine Valley, California, as a result of a search of Acura MDX, a 35-year-old U.S. citizen's SUV, discovered and seized **19.2 kg of methamphetamine**. Thirty-eight packs of drug were hidden inside natural cavities in the back of the car. Value of the consignment is 80.4 thousand dollars. Drugs were transferred to the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA), and the vehicle was confiscated by the U.S. Border Patrol. <a href="https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/border-patrol-stops-drug-smuggler-i-8">https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/border-patrol-stops-drug-smuggler-i-8</a>

**25.10.2019** Border patrol agents from El Centro Sector, California, at the 111 highway checkpoint arrested an 18-year-old man driving a Dodge Durango suspected of smuggling methamphetamine. As a result of search, 87 packages of **methamphetamine totalling 26.6 kg,** were found hidden inside rear side panel on the passenger and driver's sides. Estimated value of the consignment is over 111 thousand dollars. https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/meth-smuggling-attempt-stopped-border-patrol

### **TAIWAN**

**14.10.2019** On 28 January, in Kaohsiung Harbour, police officers found **500 kg of amphetamine and 1 ton of ketamine** arriving from Vietnam in a raid on a container depot. Authorities traced the shipment to a 48-year-old customs broker, who reported that a corrupt police officer was helping to cover up illegal shipments. After his arrest, the policeman confessed to having smuggled **1.5 tonnes of drugs** and received a bribe of NZD 10 million (US \$326,000). The policeman at the Third Special Police Headquarters imported containers under the name of a large company, the East X Company, in order not to raise suspicions among customs officials. He was found to have helped smuggle drugs twice. The smugglers asked the policeman to help import 1 ton of ingredients for drug manufacture into Taiwan. To that end, he made false entries in customs documents to avoid detection. However, as a result of a mistake, the container ship was returned to Vietnam. In January, smugglers used the same method to import two containers from the New X Company with plywood. Organizers of this smuggling of drugs were arrested in March 2019. https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/3795512

**ЦЕНТРАЛЬНОАЗИАТСКИЙ** 

РЕГИОНАЛЬНЫЙ ИНФОРМАЦИОННЫЙ

НЕЗАКОННЫМ ОБОРОТОМ НАРКОТИЧЕСКИХ СРЕДСТВ, ПСИХОТРОПНЫХ ВЕЩЕСТВ

КООРДИНАЦИОННЫЙ

ЦЕНТР

ПРЕКУРСОРОВ

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14.10.2019 The most wanted man in Asia, Tse Chi Lop, 55, a Canadian citizen born in China, is suspected of leading an international multinational drug syndicate formed by an alliance of five Asian triad groups. Members of the drug syndicate simply call him "The Company". In police investigations, the drug syndicate is called "Sam Gor", nicknamed after its leader Tse (translation from Cantonese "Brother Number Three"). The drug syndicate sends tons of methamphetamine, heroin and ketamine to at least 12 countries, from Japan in North Asia to New Zealand in the South Pacific. According to UNODC, revenue of Sam Gor is estimated at \$8 billion per year, and can reach \$17.7 billion. The cartel, which often hides its drugs in tea bags, occupies 40-70% of the wholesale regional methamphetamine market, which has increased at least fourfold over the past five years. Tse is the main target of the international anti-drug investigation "Kungur". Operation Kungur, led by the Australian Federal Police (AFP), includes some 20 agencies from Asia, North America and Europe. It is the largest international investigation into drug trafficking in Asia. It covers law enforcement and police agencies in Myanmar, China, Japan, Thailand, the United States and Canada. Taiwan assists in the investigation. The drug syndicate has been linked to or involved in at least 13 drug trafficking cases since January 2015. According to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the scale of the syndicate's criminal activity places its leader, Tse, on par with the most legendary drug traffickers in Latin America, El Chapo or Pablo Escobar. AFP, DEA and the Bureau of Investigation of the Taiwan Department of Justice do not comment on investigations. "Sam Gor" is a transnational organization, with four of its nineteen leaders being Canadian citizens, including Tse. Others come from Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, Malaysia, Myanmar, Vietnam and mainland China. The syndicate is extremely rich, disciplined and sophisticated, provides a huge drug market and cooperates with local criminal groups, including Japanese Yakuza, Australian biker gangs and ethnic Chinese criminal groups across Southeast Asia. https://www.reuters.com/article/us-asia-crime-methspecialreport/special-report-the-hunt-for-asias-el-chapo-idUSKBN1WT1J1

## **TURKEY**

**24.10.2019** An anti-terrorist and anti-drug operation conducted by provincial gendarmerie command of the Liche district, Diyarbakir province, seized **4,562 kg of marijuana and some 184,900 cannabis plants**. Two suspects have been arrested. Two hideouts used by Kurdistan Workers' Party (a banned terrorist organization in Turkey) militants were also destroyed, as well as an improvised explosive device. <a href="https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/turkey-over-4-500-kg-marijuana-seized-from-pkk/1624640">https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/turkey-over-4-500-kg-marijuana-seized-from-pkk/1624640</a>

# **UKRAINE**

**25.10.2019** In the course of searches, police officers seized a large amount of psychotropic substances for the total amount of 300 thousand hryvnias. Two residents of Kherson at the age of 23 and 25 years organized sale of amphetamine and salts in the Kherson region. Orders were placed on the Internet during correspondence in a messenger, after payment to electronic wallet, the consumer was sent addresses of caches. As part of two open criminal proceedings in homes of the suspects, police officers conducted authorized searches. In one of them, **300 g of amphetamine and alpha-PVP** were seized. Mobile

phones, packing materials, electronic scales and a car were also seized. The main defendant was detained.

https://mvs.gov.ua/ua/news/25493\_U\_Hersoni\_policeyski\_vstanovili\_rozpovsyudzhuvachiv\_osoblivo\_nebezpec hnih\_psihotropnih\_rechovin.htm

**29.10.2019** Employees of the Department of Drug Crime Prevention of the National Police of Ukraine in Dnipropetrovsk region during searches in the apartment and car of a 33-year-old resident of Nikopol and his girlfriend - members of an organized criminal group - found and seized 200 grams of plastide, grenade RGD-5 and a starting pistol with ammunition, as well as more than **1.7 kg of methamphetamine, 1.5 kg of cones of marijuana, methadone**, 60 thousand hryvnias and other physical evidence. Value of seized drugs is estimated at more than UAH 2.22 million. The man is an active member of a criminal group and is suspected of committing a contract murder. As part of the group, he was responsible for sale of drugs in the cities of Nikopol, Manganets and Pokrov. Police seized a Mercedes-Benz C-Klasse. <a href="https://lenta.ua/na-dnepropetrovshchine-izyali-bolshuyu-partiyu-narkotikov-26289/">https://lenta.ua/na-dnepropetrovshchine-izyali-bolshuyu-partiyu-narkotikov-26289/</a>