

*Unofficial translation*

**NEWS BULLETIN ON PAST EVENTS  
 IN THE COUNTER-NARCOTICS SPHERE**

(based on mass media reports)

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**CARICC MEMBER STATES**

**THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN**

**КАРАВАН KALMUKHANBET KASSYMOV SUGGESTED TO UPDATE THE LIST OF NARCOTIC SUBSTANCES IN KAZAKHSTAN**

According to Kalmukhanbet Kassymov, the problem is that today not every drug dealer can be detained. This is because not all drugs are prohibited by law. These are just smoking mixtures.

According to Kassymov, spice manufacturers are constantly changing the chemical formulas of drugs. All this prevents to bring them to justice according to the law. In order to resolve this issue, the Ministry of Internal Affairs suggested to add all possible formulas of synthetic substances to the category of drugs - there may be thousands of them.

In addition, the law enforcement authority opposes anonymous online payments.

Kalmukhanbet Kassymov, Minister of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan: - There is an instruction for us and the People’s Bank to stop work of these kiwi-wallets.

The problem is that in accordance with the law on payments, up to 10 Monthly Calculation Indices (MCIs) can be paid anonymously.

We think this is wrong. All accounts must come exclusively with names. Therefore, we will stop anonymous trading on the Internet - this is the second direction. Third, we will work with young people, all people. <https://www.caravan.kz/news/kalmukhanbet-kasymov-predlozhit-dopolnit-spisok-narkoticheskikh-veshhestv-v-kazakhstane-483741/>

**24.kz MONITORING CENTER ON DRUGS CAN APPEAR IN KAZAKHSTAN**

The II Regional Conference on Drug Policy in Central Asia was held in Almaty on October 3.

“Our specialists visited the Trimbos Institute in Amsterdam, the national monitoring center of the Netherlands. At the moment the issue of creating such a monitoring center in our country is being considered,” said the representative of the Department for Combating Drug Trafficking of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan Ivan Dobryshin. He noted that the advanced experience of European countries in the field of drug addiction prevention and monitoring of the drug situation, the formation of systems to counter drug business are being successfully implemented in Kazakhstan.

The conference was organized by the Central Asia Drug Action Programme. It was attended by national partners and drug policy experts from five Central Asian countries, representatives of the Ministries of Internal Affairs and NGOs. <http://24.kz/ru/news/social/item/268961-monitoringovyj-tsentr-po-narkotikam-mozhet-poyavitsya-v-kazakhstane>

 **THE NUMBER OF DRUG ADDICTS IN KAZAKHSTAN DECREASED BY 35% IN FIVE YEARS**

Ivan Dobryshin, representative of the Department for Combating Drug Trafficking of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, at the II Regional Conference on Drug Policy in Central Asia spoke about the unprecedented measures taken to strengthen the southern borders. This, he said, helped reduce the number of drug addicts.

"23,5 thousand drug users are registered now, 124 of them are minors, 1,735 are women. Over 5 years, over 19,000 drug related crimes have been revealed, of which 13,000 are associated with sales, over 1,300 are smuggled. More than 185 tons of various drugs were seized", - said Dobryshin. <https://informburo.kz/novosti/kolichestvo-narkozavisimyh-v-kazahstane-za-pyat-let-snizilos-na-35.html>

 **KARAGANDA REGION DESTROYED ABOUT 500 KG DRUGS**

Special units for combating drug trafficking of the Department of Internal Affairs of the Karaganda region are constantly working to identify and suppress criminal activities in the field of illicit drug trafficking.

In particular, an action was held to destroy stalks of cannabis (marijuana) plants previously discovered by the Interregional Division for Combating Drug Trafficking (MOBN) of the Department of Internal Affairs of the Karaganda region during search operations on October 3 under the framework of the republican preventive event "Poppy-2018" («Көкнәр-2018») in the city of Abay. Cannabis grew in the steppe, not far from the residential area 2 microdistrict of the city.

449 kg of narcotic plants were destroyed in the presence of a special commission of police officers, prosecutors and others. Officers countering illicit drug trafficking conduct special search activities to detect plantations of narcotic plants on regular basis.

Specifically, earlier in September, in the Ulytau district, illegal cultivations of cannabis plants were discovered, more than 500 kg of the plant were seized at the scene.

"In total, for the period of the "Poppy-2018" («Көкнәр-2018») preventive measures in the territory of the Karaganda region, 1655 tons of various narcotic drugs, including 4 kg 500g of heroin, were seized from the criminal circulation," added the Department of Internal Affairs of the Karaganda region. <https://patrul.kz/novost/v-karagandinskoj-oblasti-unichtozhili-okolo-500-kg-narkotikov>

 **POLICE LECTURED STUDENTS ABOUT THE HARM OF SYNTHETIC DRUGS**

Gumilyov Eurasian National University held a meeting with first-year students.

The event was organized by the staff of the Department for Combating Drug Trafficking of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in conjunction with representatives of the Moscow Center for Narcology and Psychotherapy.

Students were presented in an accessible form about the serious consequences of the use of new psychoactive substances, which entail an irreplaceable disorder of functions of the body and lead to severe mental disorders and brain damage.

Moreover, police explained to students the legal consequences of engaging in drug trafficking.

More than 200 students took part in the action.

During the meeting, Z. Yakupova, Head of the prevention division of the Department for Combating Drug Trafficking of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, noted that prevention of

the use of synthetic drugs is carried out in close cooperation with the police, health and education authorities with the participation of parents. In the nearest future, meetings with parents of high school and college students are planned, and meetings with higher education institutions' students will be continued.

T. Koyshybekov, Assistant of the Department of Psychotherapy and Narcology of Astana Medical University JSC, spoke about the harmful effects of synthetic drugs on human body.

B. Nurgaliyev, Head of the Department for Combating Drug Trafficking of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, also delivered a speech. He informed the students of the measures taken to combat the drug business. <https://patrul.kz/novost/policejskie-rasskazali-studentam-o-vrede-sinteticheskikh-narkotikov>

## THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC



### HEADS OF FOUR COUNTRIES AGREED TO COUNTER DRUG BUSINESS AND CYBER-THREATS

On October 6, the first joint meeting of the heads of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Central Asian countries was held in Cholpon-Ata. Ministers of Internal Affairs - Kalmukhanbet Kasymov (Kazakhstan), Kashkar Dzhunushaliev (Kyrgyzstan), Ramazon Rakhimzoda (Tajikistan) and Pulat Bobojonov (Uzbekistan) - discussed the tasks assigned to them following the results of consultative meeting of heads of Central Asian states in Astana.

Kyrgyz Interior Minister K. Dzhunushaliev noted that meetings in this format provide an opportunity to identify threats of crime world, which cause equal concern to all states in the region.

"I believe that the results of the first in the modern era and subsequent multilateral meetings of the Ministries of Internal Affairs of Central Asia will certainly create conditions for an effective and adequate fight against international terrorism and extremism, drug related crime, organized crime, including crimes in the field of digital technologies", said Dzhunushaliev.

The heads of ministries discussed measures to combat organized crime and threats of the modern world. The parties exchanged experience in combating the distribution of synthetic drugs and psychoactive substances through Internet resources and the use of electronic money transfer systems. Also on the agenda was cooperation in countering cyber-extremism and cyber-terrorism.

"Only a coordinated approach and close cooperation between law enforcement agencies of Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan will ensure success in countering organized, cross-border crime in the region, including hijacking of vehicles, theft of weapons and livestock," said Kashkar Dzhunushaliev.

Following the meeting, a joint protocol of the meeting of Ministers of Interior Affairs of the Central Asian States was signed. <https://informburo.kz/novosti/borotsya-s-sinteticheskimi-narkotikami-i-kiberugrozami-dogovorilis-glavy-mvd-ca.html>

## THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION



### ROSFINMONITORING: BITCOIN IS USED IN DRUG TRADE IN 23 REGIONS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

The Federal Financial Monitoring Service of the Russian Federation has discovered cases

of Bitcoin use in the drug trade in the territory of 23 regions of the country. The agency reported this in the report "National risk assessment of the legalization of criminal proceeds for 2017-2018".

According to the document, the popularity of cryptocurrency in drug business is due to its anonymous nature, which complicates the investigation process.

The report indicates that Rosfinmonitoring did not find signs of cryptocurrency usage in committing economic crimes.

Representatives of the agency also reported that, together with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, they are trying to identify cross-border operations with cryptocurrency payments aimed at money laundering. <https://forklog.com/rosfinmonitoring-bitkoin-ispolzuetsya-v-narkotorgovle-v-23-regionah-rf/>



### **NEW TECHNOLOGIES: DRUGS ARE SOLD USING QR CODE IN KRIVOY ROG**

In Krivoy Rog, stickers with QR code appeared in public places. One can go to the site selling drugs.

Red stickers with a website for the sale of prohibited substances are posted right in the center of the city: near online cafes, shops, on poles and transformer booths. It is easy to pay attention to them because they are posted everywhere and also of a bright red color. If you scan this QR code, you will get to the site selling drugs. Citizens report that these stickers appeared even near schools and educational institutions.

Also, these stickers appear on ATMs and because of this, banks suffer. Privat Bank has a systematic policy in countering drug crime, one of the programs is Stop Drugs («Стоп наркотики»). The bank blocks suspicious accounts where drug traffic is noticed. Furthermore, workers remove stickers from ATMs that had appeared recently. <http://1tv.kr.ua/news/17795>



### **ISSUES OF DRUG ADDICTION AMONG YOUNG PEOPLE WERE DISCUSSED IN DEPARTMENT OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS**

On October 4, a round table on the prevention of non-medical use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances among young people was held at the Directorate for Drugs Control of the Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the Yaroslavl Region. Representatives of the regional branch of the Interregional Cossack Center for Combating Drug Addiction and Drug Business and the Khutor Cossack Society "Alexander Nevsky" took part in the discussion of topical issues.

As part of the agreement on cooperation and collaboration, police officers together with representatives of the Cossacks of the region have carried out 7 anti-drug preventive measures since the beginning of the year.

Starting the beginning of the school year, staff of the Directorate on Drugs Control (UNK) of the Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (UMVD) of Russia in the Yaroslavl region, together with representatives of the Cossack communities, have carried out preventive anti-drug activities in secondary schools, vocational schools and colleges. The round table addressed issues of improving the effectiveness of these activities, the use of various forms of prevention. <https://vk-smi.ru/regions/76/63598>

**THE REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN**



**TAJIKISTAN DCA: MORE THAN 110 TONS OF HEROINE, OPIUM AND MARIJUANA SEIZED OVER 19 YEARS**

Currently, ministries and departments of Tajikistan are discussing a new edition of the national schedule of narcotic drugs with more than 200 names of new psychoactive substances, including spices. Director of the Drug Control Agency under the President of Tajikistan Murtazo Haidarzoda spoke about how the republic is fighting drug trafficking, the "ageing" of drug addiction in the country, and how criminals use the Internet to sell drugs.

— **Is there any data on how much drug smugglings have been seized in the first 9 months of this year? Do you cooperate with Russia and Afghanistan on drug trafficking?**

— Law enforcement agencies of the Republic of Tajikistan for 8 months of 2018 seized about 3,108.8 kg of drugs (in 2017 – 3,085.3 kg). In particular, 647.2 kg (in 2017 - 461.3 kg) of drugs were seized by operational units of the DCA during this period.

Also during this time, the agency’s operational units conducted 5 joint international search operations with law enforcement agencies of Afghanistan and the Russian Federation, including in relation to organized criminal groups with interstate ties involved in drug trafficking and smuggling of narcotic drugs. 3 operations were carried out with Russia and 2 with Afghanistan. 122.8 kg of drugs were seized. There is also an exchange of intelligence with the Russian and Afghan law enforcement agencies.

The Agency conducted 3 joint operations with the Chief Directorate for Drugs Control (GUNK) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation, which resulted in more than 2 kg of heroin seized in Russia. Also, employees of the DCA prevented criminal activities of 2 transnational organized criminal groups (OCG) and 1 organized criminal community (OCC) in Tajikistan, which included citizens of Russia and Tajikistan. Also, the Agency and the Ministry of Interior Affairs of Afghanistan for 8 months of this year conducted 2 joint operations to curtail smuggling of narcotic drugs from Afghanistan to Tajikistan, as a result of which 2 Afghans were detained and more than 120 kg of drugs were seized.

— **What drugs were seized most frequently?**

— Since the agency was established from 1999 to September 2018, law enforcement officers of Tajikistan have seized almost 111 tons of drugs, including 33.82 tons of opium heroin, 31.65 tons of opium, cannabis drugs - more than 44.86 tons; other types of drugs - 617.32 kg. From this it follows that during the given period of time in the Republic of Tajikistan drugs of the opium group (heroin and opium) were most seized.

— **The work of law enforcement agencies to combat drug trafficking is complicated by the use of new technologies in schemes for illicit production and distribution of narcotic drugs, in particular, criminals use popular messengers, creating secret forums and drug markets on the Internet, and making business in cryptocurrency through various electronic means of payment. How does the DCA plan to counter this threat?**

— To counter it, the Agency has established and operates an office to combat legalization (laundering) of proceeds from crime, which closely interacts and exchanges information with the Department of Financial Monitoring under the National Bank of Tajikistan.

To date, the Agency, in close cooperation with the department, has instituted 2 criminal cases and 8 people - citizens of Tajikistan - have been prosecuted. During the last 2 years, the group that is being held in the first criminal case, using QIWI-Wallet electronic payment system, sent 30 million rubles to Tajikistan, another group, which is being investigated in the second criminal case, sent 503 million rubles and 1 million US dollars from Russia to Tajikistan.

For 8 months of this year, DCA together with employees of the Department of Financial Monitoring of the National Bank of Tajikistan and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation, suppressed activities of 4 organized criminal groups engaged in drug retail using QIWI Wallet.

After the detection and dismantling these criminal groups, a number of Tajik citizens detained for drug trafficking in the Russian Federation sharply decreased.

In the near future, the DCA plans to intensify cooperation with law enforcement agencies of other countries, primarily with Russia, in the field of combating the use of electronic payment systems for drug trafficking.

— **What successful special operations have been carried out recently and how alarming is the situation with distribution of synthetic drugs (spice)?**

— Law enforcement agencies and security forces of Tajikistan pay special attention to the countering illegal distribution of synthetic drugs, the identification and seizure of these drugs. Thus, as a result of successful special operations to prevent the spread of synthetic drugs in 2017, 10,234 tablets of synthetic psychotropic substances were seized from illicit trafficking.

Also for 8 months of this year as a result of successful operations, 14,393 tablets of synthetic psychotropic substances were seized from illicit trafficking. In all revealed cases, criminal cases were initiated, guilty persons were punished.

Currently, a new edition of the National Schedule of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors has been submitted for discussion to the competent ministries and departments, which includes more than 200 names of new psychoactive substances, including spices.

— **What is the current situation with drug use in the country and how is the anti-drug service going to build preventive work?**

— In the first half of 2018, according to official data of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population, the total number of drug-dependent patients was 6,888 individuals. Thus, per 100 thousand of the population there are 76.5 drug addicts, which compared with the same period in 2017 decreased by 3.1% (7,102 drug addicts) or 214 people.

In recent years, there has been a decrease in drug addiction among the population of the republic - over the past 5 years, the number of drug addicts has decreased by 391 people or 5.4%.

Of the total number of registered drug addicts, 1,108 people (16.1%) accounted for Sogd oblast, 1,269 people (18.4%) accounted for Khatlon region, 714 people (10.4%) for Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous region, under state subordination – 1,194 people (17.3%) and in Dushanbe - 2603 people (37.8%). The level of drug addiction in GBAO, Dushanbe and regional centers is alarming.

At the same time, despite the world trend of drug rejuvenation, in Tajikistan the age structure of drug addiction has its own characteristics. The share of drug addicts at the age of 18-34 is 1,484 people or 21.5%, at the age of 35-59 years old – 5,325 people or

77.3%. In this process, along with the ageing of drug addiction, primary morbidity rates have decreased, which indicates a steady decrease in the spread of drug addiction.

Drug addiction prevention is an integral part of a wide range of measures undertaken by the DCA in countering drug trafficking. The main task of the state policy in the field of reducing the demand for drugs is prevention of drug use among various segments of the population. The most important factors in achieving effective results in this matter are the planned, systematic organization and cooperation in conducting anti-drug preventive measures. Every year, on the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (June 26), the agency conducts mass anti-drug activities. In collaboration with local executive authorities in cities and regions of the country, in honor of this International Day, competitions on asphalt drawing, best essay, quizzes and sports competitions are held. When carrying out such actions, the agency involves various government agencies, international organizations and public structures.

— **a protocol between the President of Tajikistan and the UN Deputy Secretary General on the establishment of the Drug Control Agency was signed 19 years ago, which is directly subordinate to the Head of State, please tell us about your achievements over the years.**

— During the years of operation, the agency has done specific work – 2,802 crimes related to drug trafficking have been registered, 1,680 of them - sales offenses, and 303 - drug smuggling. Employees of the agency seized more than 17.8 tons of narcotic drugs, including 5.62 tons of heroin.

The DCA, together with law enforcement agencies of the CIS, Afghanistan and China, conducted 350 operations and seized 25.44 tons of narcotic drugs. Of the total number of operations, 40 were carried out with Russia (627.5 kg of drugs seized), 28 - with Kyrgyzstan (393.82 kg of drugs seized), 7 - with Kazakhstan (426.25 kg seized), 3 - with China (about 6 kg of drugs were seized).

During the period from 2004 to 2018, as a result of the Agency's cooperation with law enforcement agencies of Afghanistan, 273 joint operations were conducted, during which 24 tons of drugs were seized, of which heroin — 2.225 tons, opium — 19.84 tons. Precursors, weapons and ammunition were also seized.

In the northeastern provinces of Afghanistan, 53 heroin laboratories have been identified and destroyed. 351 Afghan citizens were detained for involvement in drug trafficking.

299 joint operations with law enforcement agencies and security forces of the republic were carried out, 4.64 tons of drugs were seized, of which 1.538 tons are heroin.

4524 inspections of compliance with the rules of legal circulation of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors were conducted in health care facilities, industrial enterprises, and commercial firms, which resulted in 33 criminal cases and 244 submissions on the elimination of the identified deficiencies.

DCA signed 21 interagency agreements on cooperation in countering drug trafficking, including with relevant law enforcement agencies and special services of Afghanistan, Iran, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Uzbekistan and Ukraine.

The Agency has elaborated and prepared a national strategy to combat drug trafficking in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2013-2020, approved by President Emomali Rahmon.

Since the establishment of the agency, cynological and educational centers have been opened and are still functioning. Also, taking into account the drug situation in certain regions of the republic, at the suggestion of the agency and support of the government of the country and donor states, new interdistrict and district agencies of the agency

were created in cities and districts of the republic, including in Murghab, Ishkashim, Darvaz, Lyakhsh, Isfara, Tursunzade, Istravshan and Farkhor, where administrative buildings were built. <https://ria.ru/interview/20181001/1529590851.html>

## OTHER COUNTRIES

### CANADA

 **CANADIAN AUTHORITIES ALLOWED PASSENGERS TO CARRY MARIJUANA IN PLANE**

According to the new rules, any passenger can carry up to 30 g of cannabis in their luggage. However, such innovations apply only for domestic flights.

Canadian Transportation Service officials warned travelers that they should not take cannabis with them on international flights, even if the plane was traveling to a country where the drug was also legalized.

In addition, it is noted that smoking cannabis on board the aircraft is still prohibited, despite the fact that it can be carried to the cabin .

Trying to transport light drugs on international flights, one can run into a "serious criminal punishment." Therefore, the country's Ministry of Transport is now placing explanatory announcements for travelers at airports, train stations, terminals for ferries and cruise ships, as well as on highways in the US. <https://bykvy.com/bukvy/100718-vlasti-kanady-razreshili-passazhiram-pronosit-marikhuanu-v-samolet>

### PRC

 **ABOUT ABOUT 1.5 TONS OF DRUGS CONFISCATED IN SOUTHERN CHINA**

For the first 8 months of 2018, the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region (GZhar) police in southern China confiscated 1.46 tons of drugs.

Between January and August, local police uncovered 4,585 drug cases and seized 33 tons of raw materials used to produce drugs.

Profoundly countering the drug business at this point in time, the local police identified 34,000 drug addicts and sent 14,000 drug addicts to rehabilitation centers for drug addicts.

Law enforcement agencies of the GZhar have demanded that the local police step up the work against the production and trafficking of narcotics and make efforts to help more drug addicts overcome drug addiction and stop using drugs. <http://russian.people.com.cn/n3/2018/1006/c31516-9505973.html>

### USA

 **IN CALIFORNIA, AIR PASSENGERS ARE PERMITTED TO BRING MARIJUANA ON BOARD**

The management of the Los Angeles International Airport allowed passengers to take marijuana on board. Only people over the age of 21 are allowed to bring the drug on board, and in a small amount - 28.5 g of normal and 8 g of concentrated marijuana.

This amount of narcotic substance is aligned with the law adopted in California at the beginning of this year. The document legalized the sale of marijuana in the state for





recreational purposes, that is, to relieve fatigue and improve well-being. Airport administration also warned passengers to clarify before the trip whether marijuana is legal at their destination, as laws in the States and countries differ. <https://mir24.tv/news/16328772/v-kalifornii-aviapassazhiram-razreshili-brat-na-bort-marihuanu>

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