

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



DRUGS ADVERTISED ON FENCES AND WEBSITES

District police monitored online space and found that on 215 sites there are advertising of drugs and psychotropic substances.

Information about them was sent to the Ministry of Information Communications, the sites will be blocked.

There are also cases of graffiti-inscriptions placed on the facades of houses, shops, fences, garages in Aktobe that advertise sale of drugs.

"Graffiti inscriptions entail administrative responsibility and a fine of 10 to 20 monthly calculation indices or an administrative arrest of 10 to 20 days," explain the police department.

In total, in 2018, officers of the Department for Combating Drug Trafficking seized almost 324 kg of drugs, dismantled 2 criminal groups. Operatives seized 54 kg of marijuana from one of them. This group on the income derived from drug trafficking in 28 million tenge bought goods and real estate.

<http://www.diapazon.kz/aktobe/aktobe-crime/106326-narkotiki-reklimiruyut-na-zaborah-i-saytah.html>



ADDICTS IN KAZAKHSTAN ARE BECOMING YOUNGER

Teachers in one a capital's school were told about methods of drugs distribution, signs and consequences of their use. This meeting with policemen and public figures was the first stage of a long-term preventive program, which should cover all educational institutions in Astana. According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, only last year about 5 thousand Internet resources were blocked, where any student could easily buy synthetic drugs.

Artificially produced synthetic drugs are slowly destroyed and removed from the human body. First of all, the human psyche suffers from the use of such mixtures. The impact on it is the same as with the use of potent drugs.

Olga Agapova, Head of the Public Foundation "Free People":

- Drug addiction inexorably becomes younger. Now the lowest limit is the earliest teenage group - 14-15 years old. Children begin to use, as a rule, drugs of pharmacy group, that is, these are medicines, medicines containing drugs. And already further, when the tolerance of the organism grows, the child moves to more serious synthetic drugs.

<https://24.kz/ru/news/social/item/293613-narkomaniya-v-kazakhstane-molodeet>

THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC



LAWYERS WERE TRAINED INNOVATIONS IN CRIMINAL LAWS CONCERNING ILLEGAL TRAFFIC OF NARCOTIC DRUGS

Training was conducted for lawyers who provide state-guaranteed legal assistance to the public on the topic: "Practical aspects of protection in cases of illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, their analogues and precursors. Novels of criminal law".

During the training on innovations in criminal law, issues related to qualifications of acts, the subject of which are narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, their analogues and precursors were covered. They also discussed procedural peculiarities and examination of physical evidence in cases of crimes related to drug trafficking.

This event was held by the Center for Coordination of State-Guaranteed Legal Aid under the Ministry of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic in conjunction with the PF "Lawyers for Human Rights" with the support of the Public Health Program of the Soros Foundation-Kyrgyzstan.

<http://minjust.gov.kg/ru/news/view/id/2445/>

THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION



ACTIVISTS AGAIN CALL FOR FIGHTING AGAINST STREET DRUG TRAFFICKING

On February 5, the public organization "Rostov without drugs" will hold the first mass raid this year on eradication of street advertising "salt" and "mixes".

The traditional campaign "Clean Our Streets!" will be held in all districts of the city and several rural areas. The action is officially supported by the Rostov Region Youth Policy Committee.

"Rostov without drugs" raises the question of the wide availability of synthetic drugs not for the first year. According to the head of the organization, Stanislav Goryainov, the main problem remains the lack of information:

— More recently, smoking salts, mixes, spices were sold in regular stores in the CIS countries and throughout Eastern Europe. Neither doctors, nor psychologists, nor law enforcement agencies saw the threat. And to "consumers" these mixtures were presented as completely legal and safe. Traffickers use the same argument now: that everything is legal, it is not even drugs, but just stimulants.

According to results of our actions, there is always a big feedback. People start to pay attention to inscriptions themselves, someone paints them, someone demands to deal with management company. And they often ask us to come to addresses, even from other regions. Unfortunately, our volunteers can not travel to other cities to hold actions, so we agree with local social activists.

Stanislav Goryainov complains that the emergence of this type of hazardous substances has literally turned all anti-drug work upside down:

— It is more difficult to say goodbye to these "harmless" drugs than to cannabinoids and opiates! When parents of very young children, who became dependent on "chemistry," began to turn to rehabilitation centers, we were shocked. Boys and girls literally from school. But the fact is that easily accessible potions fall into the youth environment, where curiosity, the desire to be "like everyone" are driving teenagers into a trap, and dependence develops rapidly. How to help in this situation? All our arguments, long-term practice of working with traditional dependencies did not give a complete understanding. It took a lot of time to develop literally new methods of working with dependence on "salts", "spices" and similar preparations. They differ in many ways from working with other groups, because you need to take into account both age and short life experience, and traditional teenage psychological aspects, and the problem of anonymity ... At the same time, the state also begins working with this category, because most substances do not fall into the field of view of narcologists, that is until a tragedy takes place.

http://gorodn.ru/razdel/obshchestvo_free/v_gorode/23216/

OTHER COUNTRIES

EGYPT



EGYPT TO INTRODUCE DEATH PENALTY FOR DRUGS

The government has tightened penalties for distribution of banned substances. The Egyptian government approved a draft amendment to the law on combating drugs, according to which "anyone who imports or exports synthetic substances with a narcotic effect on the mind, body, physical or neurological condition of the body should be sentenced to death".

The draft amendment is intended to fundamentally solve the problem of spread of drugs in all forms, especially those that are not included in international lists of prohibited substances.

According to the new amendments, storing drugs with intent of sale is punishable by life imprisonment and a fine of between 100 and 500 thousand Egyptian pounds (from 5.5 to 28 thousand dollars).

The punishment for those who use drugs for personal purposes is also toughened - they face a prison term and a large fine.

It is reported that the problem of drug trafficking has recently become very relevant for Egyptian society, especially among young people.

<https://comments.ua/world/649582-v-egipte-vvedut-smertnuyu-kazn.html>

LATVIA



"LEGAL DRUGS" AGAIN CAN BE SEEN ON SALE

In early March, amendments to the law came into force, designed to regulate the sale of "legal drugs". The number of prohibited were introduced many chemical compounds. Withdrawal from the market of these components was supposed to

reduce the spread of legal drugs. And for a couple of months it was. Several blends are completely out of stock, but otherwise the legal drug trade is booming again.

Dealers of hallucinogenic smoking mixtures and incense mastered requirements of legislation and changed the chemical formulas of compositions. Basically it touched incense and "hookah cleaning".

Neither the police nor the Sejm care to update the list of prohibited substances. The Sejm says that this is a police matter, the police believe that this should be handled by the Ministry of the Interior, and they are transferring arrows to the Ministry of Health.

The newspaper "Diena" conducted its own investigation to find out whether one can get legal drugs in Riga. In the first place - in a shop on Ernest Birzniek-Upish Street - the seller said that he was selling only one mixture with weed. It is called Damiana and, judging by the list on the package, it contains the medicinal plant Altea, which in America is often used to make marshmallow. The contents of a transparent bag look like tea, but the sticker on it is decorated with the following text: "A unique blend of natural aroma substances harmonizes soul, mind and body, reveals the meaning of meditation and rituals." It also stated that the product was produced in Poland. When asked how to use it, the seller replies that everyone uses it as he or she wants.

At a kiosk in the junction near the Central Station, where the mixtures are sold, there is always a crowd of young people. They come, call the amount they need in milligrams, get a bag and then hide it in a pocket. As it turned out, they also sell only one mixture there.

The shop on Augusta Deglava street was closed, but there was a man at the door who promised to provide desired goods.

"I have earned for many years. And I'm not complaining - income from this is decent. It was hard to start, I had to tinker with paperwork, but when I started, permanent clientele appeared quickly. I myself have not tried what I sell, because I see what is happening with customers - some are willing to give their last money, just to get the goods. Like real drug addicts! "

The seller said that everything he sells is a legal product, as the police often check contents of his shoulder bag and selling something forbidden has heavy consequences. Also, the seller said that he is trying not to sell goods to children.

<https://rus.jauns.lv/raksts/aktualno/118600-legalnye-narkotiki-opyat-mozhno-vstretit-v-prodazhe>

MEXICO



PRESIDENT OF MEXICO STOPS WAR ON DRUGS

Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador announced the official end of the "drug war " on January 31, 2019 in the capital of Mexico.

Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said at a press conference that day: "The war has officially ended. We need peace, we will get it." According to him, now the government will pay attention to the root causes of violence and drug trafficking as well as develop an appropriate social development plan.

According to him, the Mexican government did not arrest leaders of criminal group and drug syndicate, since it is not the main function of the government. The main functions of the government are to protect public safety and reduce the number of murders, robberies and kidnappings, so as to ensure peace in the country.

Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador during the election campaign stated that he did not exclude possibility of pardoning ringleaders of drug syndicate. This statement triggered a heated public debate in Mexico.

<http://russian.people.com.cn/n3/2019/0201/c31520-9543291.html>

SYRIA



SYRIA. PRINCIPAL DRUG OF PSEUDO CALIPHATE | MILITARY SITUATION IN SYRIA

2 February 2019.

In the province of Homs, pro-government forces seized more than one million Captagon tablets from a truck traveling along the Damascus-Homs international highway. Note that this drug has become a cult in the ranks of the ISIL group banned in the Russian Federation. The Captagon tablet used by militants dulls fear and develops the effect of fearlessness and endurance. In addition, the drug allows militants in Syria not to sleep for many days, and they don't even have to eat.

In addition to its "stimulating" effects on fighters, the drug is also a valuable source of funding for ISIL. Illegal trade generates hundreds of millions of dollars a year, which theoretically serve to buy weapons. A bag of 1 million tablets brings up to 3 million dollars, and production requires only to have several thousand dollars.

<http://anna-news.info/siriya-glavnyj-narkotik-psevdo-halifata-voennaya-obstanovka-v-sirii-novosti-2-fevralya-2019/>

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