

Unofficial translation

**NEWS BULLETIN ON PAST EVENTS
IN THE COUNTER-NARCOTICS SPHERE**
(based on mass media reports)

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HOSTAGES OF OPINION

Experts will be punished for false statements made even before a criminal case is initiated

Amendments introduce a provision into the Criminal Code according to which an expert will be responsible for a misleading conclusion made before criminal proceedings. The government has already supported the initiative.

In practice, it is often necessary to conduct forensic examination even before a criminal case is initiated in order to assess whether there are grounds for launching a preliminary investigation," explained Vladimir Gruzdev, Chairman of the Board of the Russian Lawyers Association. - Experts' mistakes at this stage pose a serious public danger, as they create conditions for initiation of criminal proceedings against an innocent person. If a mistake is made intentionally to deliberately distort results, it should be regarded as a criminal offence, even if the opinion is given before the initiation of a criminal case. In his opinion, the initiative increases safeguards of legal protection of citizens from unjustified criminal prosecution.

As the authors say, "findings of forensic examination are often crucial for correct resolution of reports of illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances, explosives, firearms and ammunition".

Simply put, it is up to expert to determine whether it is drugs that had been found in detainee's pocket or some innocuous powder. The expert's word is also key in determining whether a death was a result of violent actions or not.

Often, a decision on whether or not to initiate criminal proceedings is based on expert's findings, for example, that the powder found is a drug.

In economic crime cases, it is also not uncommon for everything to begin with an expert examination, after which a criminal probe is initiated. According to the law, investigators have the right, upon receiving a report of a crime, to appoint an expert examination during pre-investigation background check, and based on opinion of experts decide whether to initiate a case or not.

Today, the Criminal Code provides for criminal liability for knowingly false conclusions or expert opinion, expert testimony as well as knowingly incorrect translations made in court or during preliminary investigation. And if in a case, in which an expertise was

being prepared, we are talking about an accusation of a serious or especially serious crime, for intentional lying an expert faces up to five years in prison.

<https://rg.ru/2019/08/19/ekspertam-grozit-ugolovnaia-otvetstvennost-za-lozh-v-vydannyh-zakliucheniiyah.html>

OTHER COUNTRIES

MEXICO

LENTA.RU COCAINE ALLOWED IN MEXICO

For the first time in the history of the country, a Mexican judge decided not to punish two defendants caught with cocaine for its use and possession. This is reported by BBC News with reference to local justice authorities.

The court stated that two people, whose names are not reported, stored, transported and used drug, but did not sell it and therefore may leave without punishment. Before the judge's decision takes effect, it must be upheld by a panel of judges at a higher court.

Even so, it will only affect these two people, but the trial has been under way since May this year. The decision is opposed, in particular, by the country's health authorities.

"Mexico United Against Crime" (MUCD), which aims to end the bloody "war on drugs", said it was a "historic step" towards building alternative drug policies in the country and redirecting forces in the fight against organized crime.

According to Wikipedia, currently the use and possession of small amounts of cocaine is not punishable by law in Brazil, Portugal, Bolivia, the Czech Republic, Peru, the Netherlands and Colombia. Mexican laws penalize possession of more than 0.5 grams of drugs.

https://lenta.ru/news/2019/08/21/recreational_coke/

USA



THE WHITE HOUSE: CRYPTOCURRENCY CAUSED CHINESE DRUGS FLOOD THE US

Bitcoin and a number of other cryptocurrencies have been used in drug distribution in the United States. This was the conclusion reached by representatives of the White House.

In order to define the role of cryptocurrencies in trafficking of drugs, representatives of regulatory authorities initiated an investigation. Particular attention of the US authorities attracted ways to purchase fentanyl, an opioid analgesic that is 80-100 times stronger than morphine.

"Analysis of confidential financial data shows that domestic producers, dealers and consumers of illicit drugs use online payment platforms or convertible cryptocurrencies to



purchase precursor chemicals or fully synthesized drugs, mainly from China,” the researchers concluded.

<https://letknow.news/news/belyy-dom-iz-za-kriptoalyut-ssha-navodnili-kitayskie-narkotiki-28558.html>

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