

*Unofficial translation*

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

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**RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**Газета.ru NO PROHIBITIONS: HOW RUSSIA WILL COMBAT DRUGS ON DARKNET**

Deputies were concerned about the problem of distribution of illegal substances in the Darknet after a series of publications by Lenta.ru in the project "Russia under Drugs".

How to deal with the problems described in investigations of journalists, experts do not yet understand - they admitted that there are no technological ways to counter Darknet or individual platforms engaged in illegal activities online. Chairman of the hearings, deputy Boris Chernyshov recalled that two years ago, a law came into force in Russia to ban anonymizers - the means that help hide user IP-address, but in practice such browsers "do not comply with the laws".

"Belarus tried to block the browser itself, but the attempt was unsuccessful. Too powerful criminal players are interested in good access to the Darknet," said Chernyshov. He reminded that the Russian language is the most commonly used language on the shadow Internet. According to Trend Micro, in 2015, 41% of the Darknet pages were in Russian. English was the second most widely used language. On July 11 this year Russia has shown a historical maximum in the number of users of the Tor browser - more than 600 thousand people per day. Thus, Russia "has surpassed" the USA and Iran on this indicator.

Lenta.ru editor-in-chief Vladimir Todorov pointed out that "drugs make up about 90% of the Darknet in Russia". The largest online drug store Hydra currently has an audience of 800,000 active users.

According to the Lenta.ru investigation, 13.6 thousand stashes with banned substances worth 227 million rubles are hidden daily through Hydra.

Despite a huge number of users of online drugstore, the Russian authorities are not ready to combat trafficking in illegal substances, said Alexander Malkevich, head of the Commission of the Public Chamber of Russia for the development of the information community, media and mass communications.

Artem Kipryanov, a representative of the Public Chamber of the Russian Federation, says that it is impossible to fight drug trafficking among young people only by means of bans and operational and investigative measures. He reminded that any ban always has the other side.

"If we forbid teenagers or young people to buy cigarettes, for example, and thus fight

against smoking, we encourage them to go to the Darknet and quickly buy marijuana," he explained.

According to Kipriyanov, it is very important to talk to young people about dangers of drugs.

"But it's not enough to just spread methodology around schools and ask teachers to talk. Leaders of opinions that young people listen to should talk to the youth," the speaker thinks.

Dmitry Shatunov, a representative of the Youth Parliament to the State Duma, supported the idea, but added that some youth idols set teenagers to think that "drugs are cool". In particular, he recalled that rapper Guf admitted that he still "smokes" once every few months.

"Such people should be brought to administrative responsibility for drug propaganda," Shatunov said.

Other participants in the hearing did not agree with his opinion. According to Dmitry Buyanov, a representative of a company engaged in the fight against cybercrime, prohibitive measures, including fines, will only make the topic of drugs attractive to young people.

"By fining Guf, you will increase the number of subscribers and create an image of a regime fighter," Buyanov said.

His words indirectly confirm the fact that in October 2015, when Roskomnadzor blocked the popular forum RuTracker for copyright infringement, the number of Russian users of the Tor browser increased dramatically - to almost 400 thousand per day. As the speakers explain, browsers giving access to the Darknet, as well as other anonymizers are becoming popular among young people, because they are regarded as a means of access to illegal information and free Internet, where there are no restrictions.

[https://www.gazeta.ru/social/2019/10/14/12755492.shtml?utm\\_source=yxnews&utm\\_medium=desktop&utm\\_referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fyandex.ru%2Fnews](https://www.gazeta.ru/social/2019/10/14/12755492.shtml?utm_source=yxnews&utm_medium=desktop&utm_referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fyandex.ru%2Fnews)

## REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN



## TAJIKISTAN AND THE UNITED NATIONS DISCUSS COUNTER-NARCOTICS COOPERATION

Avesta.Tj | 12.10.2019 | Issues related to the development of cooperation between Tajikistan and the United Nations in the fight against drugs were discussed recently in Dushanbe.

Director of the Drug Control Agency of the Republic of Tajikistan Mr. Sherkhon Salimzoda met with regional representative of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime in Central Asia Mrs. Ashita Mittal.

According to the press center of the anti-drug agency of Tajikistan, issues related to drug situation in Tajikistan were discussed during the meeting.

Also discussed were the issues of technical assistance in the field of combating drug trafficking, establishment of interagency mobile teams in Tajikistan, and assistance in publication of annual edition of the Review of Drug Situation in the Republic of Tajikistan.



Director of the Agency extended his gratitude to the UN Office on Drugs and Crime for practical assistance and programmes in drug control.

For her part, Mrs. Ashita Mittal mentioned that the Agency makes a significant contribution to efforts to counter drug trafficking and expressed hope for further strengthening of cooperation in drug control.

The sides highly appreciated the cooperation between the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and the Agency and expressed confidence that additional measures will be taken to further bolster cooperation.

<http://avesta.tj/2019/10/12/tadzhikistan-i-oon-obsudili-voprosy-antinarkoticheskogo-sotrudnichestva/>

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