

**CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY**

(based on mass media reports)

**15-21.10.2018**

**№ 43**

**CARICC MEMBER STATES**

**THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

**15.10.2018** An unidentified intruder was discovered by the State Border Service in the border outpost of the city of Horadiz in an attempt to cross the border between Iran and Azerbaijan in the service area of a post in the village of Shakheven, Beylagan district. The offender fled from the border guards in Iran, dropping cargo. **10 kg 530 g of narcotic drugs and 5010 psychotropic drugs** were found on the scene in a yellow bag. The necessary operative and investigative activities are underway. <http://www.dsx.gov.az/xeber/717>

**16.10.2018** The military personnel of the State Border Service (SBS) recorded a violation of the state border by two unknown persons from Iran in the village of Arvan, Yardimli district. Thanks to the operational measures, the violators were detained - they were Iranian citizens born in 1990 and 1993. During the inspection, in detainees were found to have **5 kg of opium**, packaged in six plastic bags. Investigations on this fact are ongoing. <https://ru.sputnik.az/incidents/20181016/417458036/azerbaijan-iran-granica-narushenie-opium.html>

**20.10.2018** Staff of the State Customs Committee have prevented large-scale smuggling of narcotic substances from Iran to Azerbaijan. Based on the information received, an operation was conducted in the village of Bahramtepe in the Imishli region to apprehend persons involved in drug trafficking. A citizen of Azerbaijan, who arrived in his car VAZ 21074 to a bus stop on the territory of the village, handed over 15 packages of **hashish, weighing 7 kg 375 g** to an Iranian citizen. Suspects were detained and brought to criminal responsibility. <https://www.azerbaycan24.com/ru/zaderzhani-narkodileri-dostavivshie-iz-irana-v-azerbaydzhan-narkotiki-v-bolyshom-kolichestve/>

**THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN**

**17.10.2018** During the implementation of operational and preventive measures, a 52-year-old citizen of the Russian Federation was detained at the International Airport of Astana by the staff of the Department of Internal Affairs on Transport at the departure of the flight "Astana-Moscow", who attempted to smuggle **17 kg 308 g of marijuana** through the state border. Investigation in progress. <https://24.kz/ru/news/social/item/271923-v-mezhdunarodnom-aerportu-astany-zaderzhali-grazhdanina-rf-za-kontrabandu-narkotikov>

**THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC**

**06.10.2018** During the search operations at the Manas International Airport, the State Committee for National Security identified a large batch of smuggled pregabalin (Lyrika) medicinal pills. The seized batch of pills belonged to the head of an LLC. The tablets found in two bags were imported from Turkey in the quantity of more than **170 thousand**

**pieces, with a total weight of 115 kg.** The value of smuggled goods is about 25 million soms. In customs declarations, seized medicinal tablets are decorated as a knitwear product. Currently, relevant investigative, operational and search activities are being carried out to identify all participants in the supply of smuggled goods. <http://gknb.gov.kg/press/post/363>

**16.10.2018** The Service for Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking (SBNON) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic successfully conducted a special operation aimed at curbing and blocking an international drug trafficking channel. A channel for smuggling of particularly large quantities of heroin of Afghan origin has been identified. The SBNON operatives obtained operational information that a group of persons intends to transport and market a particularly large quantity of drugs. On the eve, a 45-year-old resident of the Chui region was detained during operational search activities on the territory of Bishkek. During a personal search, 24 briquettes with **heroin, weighing 25 kg and 160 g** were found and seized from the detainee's bag. Investigative and operational measures are currently underway to identify other persons involved in the crime.

[https://www.vb.kg/doc/374296\\_25\\_kg\\_geroina\\_iziatu\\_y\\_zaderjannogo\\_v\\_bishkeke\\_jitelia\\_chyyskoy\\_oblasti.html](https://www.vb.kg/doc/374296_25_kg_geroina_iziatu_y_zaderjannogo_v_bishkeke_jitelia_chyyskoy_oblasti.html)

**18.10.2018** For a long time, a transnational drug trafficking group comprised of citizens of Russia, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, specializing in the manufacture of psychotropic substance "spice" and its further marketing in Bishkek through Internet resources, has been on the operational development of SBNON of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic. Payment was made using electronic means of payment, which were transferred from LLC "Mobile" in Bishkek to the account of an intermediary company Natipey in Kazakhstan, afterwards the funds were transferred to the Qiwi representation office in Armenia, and then to the electronic account of Qiwi-Bank in Moscow. Subsequently, the funds were transferred from these electronic accounts to Visa cards, after which they were turned into cash at ATMs in Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Russia. Thus, the drug group was engaged in the marketing of new psychotropic substances and the legalization of criminal proceeds. SBNON of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic initiated joint activities with GUNK of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in order to establish and eliminate the entire criminal network. As a result of joint activities, the organizers of this drug business were established and detained - citizens of Russia are a 27-year-old, born in Novokuznetsk and his 25-year-old common-law wife, a native of Chui oblast. During a search, "spice" weighing 1.5 g, funds of 208 thousand soms and 393 thousand rubles, computer equipment, bank cards and cell phones used in criminal activities were seized. A quadcopter (drone) was discovered and seized, with the help of which the organizers of the criminal business monitored the situation around the house. In addition, active members of the group, a 42-year-old citizen of Kyrgyzstan living in Bishkek and a 28-year-old citizen of Uzbekistan, also living in Bishkek, were detained, they were placing drugs into caches. The total quantity of seized **spice bags was 110 pieces with a total weight of 178.5 g.** The weight of the seized **psychotropic substance concentrate was 90 g.** Using seized psychotropic substance concentrate, the detainees could have produced 2 kg 700 g of ready-to-use spice smoking mixture with a total value of 2,700,000 soms.

[https://total.kz/ru/news/proisshestviya/v\\_bishkeke\\_zaderzhani\\_transnatsionalnie\\_torgovtsi\\_spaisom\\_date\\_2018\\_10\\_18\\_14\\_36\\_27](https://total.kz/ru/news/proisshestviya/v_bishkeke_zaderzhani_transnatsionalnie_torgovtsi_spaisom_date_2018_10_18_14_36_27)

## THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

**15.10.2018** Staff of the Division for Drugs Control (OKON) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the Far Eastern Federal District, together with employees of the Department of the Russian Guard in the Khabarovsk Territory, detained 25 and 29-year-old residents of the Khabarovsk Territory suspected of selling drugs. During a personal search, transport police officers found one of the detainees to have 40 convolutions of the **synthetic drug "speed" (amphetamine)**. The weight of the seized consignment was **15 g**. At the place of residence of the detainees, **650 g of similar narcotic substance** were seized, and 20 caches with synthetic drugs were found in the territory of the city of Khabarovsk. It was established that one of the defendants in the criminal case, using the Internet, received coordinates of the locations of the caches with drugs and, together with a relative, packaged them into smaller doses and hid them in caches located in the Khabarovsk and Primorye Territories. As a result of further measures, five more suspects who sold drugs in the territory of the cities of Komsomolsk-on-Amur, Vladivostok, Nakhodka and Khabarovsk were apprehended. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/14687635>

**16.10.2018** A 24-year-old resident of Ivanovo was detained by personnel of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the Frunzensky district of the city of Ivanovo, who received a large amount of drugs in a contact-free way through a cache, then packaged in single-use doses in a garage and sold them to drug addicts in a similar way. The suspect was detained red-handed in the town of Bukharovo. A personal search revealed **150 grams of hashish**. As a result of a search in the garage of the suspect, police officers seized **150 g of hashish, 109 g of amphetamine, 17 g of mephedrone, more than 10 g of MDMA**. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/14703905>

**16.10.2018** Officers of the Department for Drugs Control (UNK) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the Irkutsk region jointly with investigators of the Main Investigative Directorate of the Main Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia for the Irkutsk Region stopped criminal activities of a 26-year-old Irkutsk resident related to the illegal distribution of drugs of synthetic origin. The suspect was detained red-handed at the Rubezh police checkpoint in the Slyudyansky district. Prohibited substances were found during the inspection of his car, which he transported to Ulan-Ude for subsequent sale in a contactless way through a system of caches. In addition, during a search of the home of the drug dealer, synthetic drugs were also found. In total, about **3 kg of synthetics** were collected. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/14701063>

**16.10.2018** Employees of the Drug Control Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the city of Tolyatti received information that a local resident may be engaged in the production and sale of narcotic drugs. A 34-year-old resident of Togliatti, who was suspected of committing this crime, was detained by the police at his place of residence. During inspection of his apartment, a drug lab was operating, in which **0.285 g of amphetamine, 264.3 g of mephedrone and more than 1 kg of marijuana** were found and seized. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/14700653>

**16.10.2018** Officers of the OKON of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia at the Ussuriisk station detained three suspects of illegal storage and cultivation of cannabis. In the Primorsky Krai, within the Mak-2018 operational preventive measure, officers of the OKON

of Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia at Ussuriysk station in cooperation with officers of the UFSB of Russia in the Eastern Military District, officers of SOBR and the Directorate of the Russian Guard in the Primorsky Krai and soldiers of the Ussurian garrison in the village of Danilovka found **126 thousand cannabis bushes**. Next to the site of the discovery of the plantation there was a tent camp, in which there were three local residents. Men were detained at the time of collection of narcotic plants. **43 kg of marijuana**, and also canvas bed curtains on which the plants had been dried were seized. Approximately **1 ha of cannabis plantation** has been destroyed. Currently, an investigation is underway, all persons involved in the cultivation of cannabis are being identified. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/14709455>

**17.10.2018** The traffic police of the OIGBDD of Russia in the Surgut district on the 23 km of the Northern Bypass of Surgut highway during the patrol drew their attention to a parked car. For a long time there was a woman in the forest near the vehicle who equipped the so-called cache in the forest. During a personal search, seven polymer bags with a **synthetic drug with a total weight of more than 1.6 kg** was found in the backpack of the suspect. A detained 27-year-old female resident of the Tambov region came into contact with unknown persons in the Internet who offered her to earn money by distributing drugs through caches. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/14714135>

**17.10.2018** Transport police officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the Central Federal District detained a 41-year-old Moscow resident on suspicion of selling narcotic drugs at the Rastorguevo railway station, Moscow Region. Apart from the man, a woman was detained, who handed over to the suspect a bundle extracted from a cache. During a personal search of the detainee, a convolution with **heroin weighing more than 1.29 kg** was found. The man asked a 71-year-old female neighbor, unaware of his criminal intentions, to pick up a package from a specified location. During a search at the place of residence of the suspect, 10 mobile phones, bank cards, about 100 magnets used in criminal activity to set up caches were seized. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/14719668>

**18.10.2018** A 28-year-old unemployed local resident was detained by police in Pskov. A personal search revealed 12 convulsions prepared for sale containing **38.82 g of mephedrone**. As a result of searches at the suspect's place of residence, **350 g of narcotic drugs were seized, including mephedrone, hashish, marijuana, and "salts"**. In the city of Pskov, 24 caches with synthetic drugs prepared by him were also discovered. The person involved, using the Internet, received coordinates of locations of caches with drugs in St. Petersburg for further distribution in the Pskov region. For his illegal activities, the offender received money through electronic transfers to Internet wallets. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/14723663>

**18.10.2018** The Main Investigative Directorate of the Main Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia for the Perm Territory has completed an investigation of a criminal case against members of a criminal community consisting of residents of Perm and Yekaterinburg involved in distribution of prohibited substances. A 26-year-old resident of Yekaterinburg organized sale of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in the territory of Perm, Yekaterinburg, Izhevsk and Chelyabinsk through an online store. The man involved to the unlawful activities eight citizens who performed the role of wholesale couriers and storekeepers. Drug traffickers brought large quantities of prohibited goods from

Yekaterinburg to Perm, where drugs were packaged in small batches, and later delivered to neighboring regions. Payment in the online store was made using cryptocurrency. Criminals cashed out at least 9 million rubles. About 20 episodes of illegal activities were documented, after which all malefactors were detained. During searches in Yekaterinburg and Perm, about **15 kg of drugs of synthetic origin** were found and seized. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/14725539>

**19.10.2018** Staff of the UNK GU MVD of Russia in the Krasnoyarsk Territory detained a 27-year-old resident of the city of Sharypovo. On examination of his vehicle, a travel bag was discovered with **hashish weighing 300 g**, disguised as chocolates. The man bought drugs from a resident of the Republic of Tyva. During the arrest and search of a 49-year-old culprit, a bank card was found in the house, with the help of which she received money for the sale of prohibited substances. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/14734794>

## THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

**16.10.2018** Employees of the Department for Combating Drug Trafficking of the Main Directorate of Criminal Investigation of the Ministry of Internal Affairs apprehended a large drug dealer in Tashkent. As a result of a search of a utility room in the Zangiatinsky district belonging to the detainee, **5 kg 820 g of marijuana and 735 g of opium poppy** were found, all grown greenhouse by the owner of this house. During a search at the basement, **11 kg 75.5 g of marijuana** were found, in six bags - **13 kg 948 g of poppy straw** and **5 kg of seeds of opium poppy**. Later, **1 kg of 346 g of marijuana and 1 kg of 231 g of opium** were found and seized in the house. In total, more than **34 kg of various narcotic substances** were seized from the drug dealer. <https://podrobno.uz/cat/proisshestiya/v-tashkentskoy/>

## OTHER COUNTRIES

### VIETNAM

**18.10.2018** Police in the northern mountainous province of Bac Kan arrested four people for transporting and attempting to sell **70 kg of heroin**. Three suspects were detained on the national highway 3 in Bach Thong district at the time of trafficking drugs in a truck. Soon after, the police arrested the fourth suspect. One of the detainees admitted that he was hired to transport heroin from Laos to the province of Cao Bin, and then to China. The perpetrators, transporting the drug, stopped in the province of Thai Nguyen, to change their vehicle for conspiracy reasons. <https://vietnamnews.vn/society/468130/police-arrest-4-for-trafficking-heroin-in-bac-kan.html#Omq2lqbDEXoIXVYm.97>

### GREECE

**16.10.2018** A joint operation between the financial crime and the drug enforcement authorities in Greece and Belgium resulted in the arrest of a 34-year-old man who is accused of smuggling more than **3 kg of cocaine** into Greece by mail. The man was detained after receiving a parcel at a post office in Athens using fake ID. <http://www.ekathimerini.com/233695/article/ekathimerini/news/joint-operation-intercepts-3-kg-of-cocaine-at-post-office>

## IRAN

**20.10.2018** A trailer carrying **189 kg of heroin** was stopped on the Zahedan-Kerman road by police in the city of Narmamash in the province of Kerman. As a result of the inspection of the car, a stash was found on the trailer floor, in which the smugglers placed packages of drugs. Heroin was loaded in the province of Sistan and Baluchestan and was destined to Tehran. The driver of the trailer from Tabriz was arrested. Due to its geographical location and adjacent provinces along the borders with Afghanistan and Pakistan, Kerman province is often used to transit drugs to other provinces.  
<http://www.irna.ir/en/News/83072481>

## KENYA

**17.10.2018** According to the information of the Spanish police in the port of Mombasa, **100 kg of cocaine** were seized in a cargo container that arrived by ship from the port of Santos in Brazil, stopping at the port of Valencia in Spain. As part of the operation coordinated by the Drug Enforcement Prosecutor's Office and the Central Supervision Court No. 5, the police of Spain and Kenya, the National Police of Kenya inspected a container that was transporting sugar as declared goods. As a result of the inspection of the container, four packs of cocaine weighing about 100 kg were found in four bags. The value of the consignment is 3.5 million euros. Established were the identities of five members of the criminal organization engaged in drug trafficking, involved in the organization of this supply, who have been arrested. The investigation found that members of the transnational criminal community used different methods of drug delivery. As examples, they attempted to import drugs into Spain from Latin America using courier services, as well as by air, placing the drugs in sewer piping system of KLM (Netherlands) aircraft flying between Colombia and Amsterdam.

[https://www.elespanol.com/espana/tribunales/20181017/chapuzas-narcos-permitieron-captar-contenedor-cocaina-kenia/345966689\\_0.html](https://www.elespanol.com/espana/tribunales/20181017/chapuzas-narcos-permitieron-captar-contenedor-cocaina-kenia/345966689_0.html)

## MALTA

**19.10.2018** At the airport of Floriana, drug couriers, a man and a woman, citizens of France, who arrived in Malta from Paris, were detained. It has been established that before that the suspects had arrived in Paris from a country of the Caribbean. Drug traffickers were detained, they were found to carry about **2 kg of cocaine**. The suspects were taken to Floriana police headquarters. Police investigations continue.

<https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20181019/local/tourists-found-in-possession-of-2-kilos-of-cocaine-arrested.692012>

## USA

**16.10.2018** In Santa Ana, Calif., Eight people from Orange County, belonging to a criminal gang, were arrested for smuggling a large batch of methamphetamine into Hawaii, disguised as items that mimic calendars and Aztec statues. **About 11.8 kg of methamphetamine** was shipped as part of smuggling. The method of concealing drugs was a "ceramic" colorful, decorative objects from Mexico, including replicas of the 500-year Aztec calendar. Along with the eight criminals taken into custody, an accomplice of this group has been established, whos is already in custody in the federal district on unrelated

criminal charges. <https://www.oregister.com/2018/10/16/meth-trafficking-ring-tried-to-ship-drugs-to-hawaii-disguised-as-aztec-calendars-and-statutes-prosecutors-say/>

**19.10.2018** US customs and border guards in the port of San Luis, Tucson, Arizona, detained a 17-year-old US citizen in an attempt to smuggle methamphetamine and cocaine. The CBP officers referred the young man to further check his truck Ford, on which he tried to enter the United States. During inspections involving a service dog, several packages of **methamphetamine and cocaine with a total weight of 27.2 kg** were found in the spare tire of the car. Drugs and vehicle were seized. The man was arrested and transferred to US Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Homeland Security Investigations. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-officers-port-san-luis-arrest-teen-suspected-drug-smuggling>

**19.10.2018** In Laredo, Texas, border patrol agents at a Border Patrol checkpoint on US Highway 59 near Freer stopped smuggling of more than **11.6 kg of methamphetamine**. Border guards stopped a "Chevrolet Aveo" car under the control of a citizen of Mexico. While officers were checking the driver's immigration status, a service dog alerted to smell of drugs. As a result of inspections in the car, a false compartment of the front bumper was found, in which 45 packages of **methamphetamine weighing 11.6 kg** were hidden. Car was seized by US border patrol. Drugs and driver were handed over to Drug Enforcement Administration. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/border-patrol-agents-interrupt-methamphetamine-smuggling-attempt>

**20.10.2018** Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers in Brownville, Texas at the International Brownsville and Matamoros Bridge, detained a US citizen who filed an application to enter the US while driving. As a result of the inspection activities of the vehicle, two packages containing **2.3 kg of cocaine** were found. Drugs and vehicle were confiscated, woman arrested and transferred to special units of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) for further investigation. <https://www.kveo.com/news/local-news/alleged-cocaine-seized-at-brownsville-and-matamoros-international-bridge/1538295550>

## TURKEY

**18.10.2018** Police in the province of Van in the district of Kurubas stopped a truck that was transporting **47 kg of heroin**. Truck driver was arrested on drug trafficking charges. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/police-seizes-over-45-kg-of-heroin-across-turkey/1285808>

**19.10.2018** As a result of two counter-narcotics operations in the southern and eastern provinces of Turkey, more than **272 kg of heroin** were seized. In the southern province of Mersin, anti-drug units of the provincial security department seized more than **150 kg of heroin** hidden in a truck trailer. Officers stopped the truck on suspicion of drug trafficking, and during its search with the help of a canine dog found a large quantity of heroin. Truck driver was arrested. In addition, **122 kg** of heroin were confiscated by provincial gendarmerie in the Baskale district in the eastern part of Van. The operation was carried out in the Esmepinar region near the Iranian border with involvement of two dogs trained to search for drugs. An investigation is ongoing. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/over-270-kilograms-of-heroin-seized-in-turkey/1286983>

**PANAMA**

**13.10.2018** The Prosecutor’s Office Colon and Guna Yala, with the support of the Naval Air Service and the National Police, carried out two anti-drug operations. During the first operation, about **60 kg of cocaine** were found in the seaport in the province of Colon. At the moment of loading, a shipment of cocaine was inside a container, in two black bags. The state ministry has initiated an investigation aimed at identifying the organizers of the supply. As part of a second joint operation between the Prosecutor’s office specializing in drug-related crimes of Kolon and Guna Yala and the National Border Guard Service (Senafront), a specially trained dog discovered a backpack in which two bags of cocaine were found inside a boat from Colombia.

<https://www.panamaamerica.com.pa/provincias/incaucion-de-droga-y-un-detenido-en-dos-operativos-antidrogas-en-colon-1118523>

**16.10.2018** As a result of a special operation by the Special Prosecutor’s Office on drug-related crimes in Colon and Guna Yala, as well as units by the National Aeronaval Service (Senan), 1,215 packages were seized with about **1.2 tons of cocaine** in Bahia Limon (a harbor in the northern part of the Panama Canal), province of Colon. The seizure took place after the exchange of information with Colombia about a suspected container that leaves the port in Buenaventura in the Republic of Colombia. As a result of an inspection of cargo containers, cocaine packagings were found in 15 black bags. This is a method constantly used by criminal organizations that puts large quantities of drugs inside containers of ships that must be sent to their destination in Europe. The minimum value of the seized load is about \$ 70 million.

<http://ministeriopublico.gob.pa/se-incautan-1215-paquetes-de-presunta-sustancia-illicita-en-colon/>

**ECUADOR**

**15.10.2018** Officers of the Anti-narcotics Investigation Unit in Guayaquil in the Lomas de la Prosperina area together with agents of the Mobile Anti-Narcotics Special Group (GEMA) and UIAN agents carried out Operation Impact 390, which resulted in **741.4 kg** of cocaine seized and four arrested suspects. The cocaine consignment was of Colombian origin, and the cocaine packages contained the logos “8” and “812”. Arrested members of the drug cartel were responsible for transportation of drugs to the United States from Central America and Mexico through the seaports of the city of Guayaquil.

<http://www.policiaecuador.gob.ec/en-guayaquil-agentes-de-la-uian-incautan-741-400-gramos-de-cocaina-y-detienen-a-cuatro-sospechosos/>

