

CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY

(based on mass media reports)

24-31.12.2018

№ 53

CARICC MEMBER STATES

THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

28.12.2018 As a result of joint events of the Main Directorate for Drugs Control (GUNK) of MIA of Russia and the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Chuvashia, 19.7 kg of drugs were seized from illicit trafficking. At a section of the federal highway M-7 in the Cheboksary district, police stopped a car driven by a 39-year-old resident of Bashkortostan. During an inspection of the vehicle they found **18 kg of hashish**. The suspect took large amounts of drugs and sold in small batches through hiding places in the Republics of Chuvashia, Mari El, and in the Tyumen region. In the course of further activities in the territory of the Chuvash Republic and in the city of Tyumen, more than **1.7 kg of drugs** were also seized from 8 caches. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15387794>

31.12.2018 Officers of the Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the Kaluga region detained a 25-year-old citizen of a foreign republic. During a personal search, as well as at his place of residence, about **150 grams of heroin** prepared for drug addicts in Kaluga through caches were seized. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15409358>

OTHER COUNTRIES

BAHAMA

28.12.2018 Drug Enforcement officers at Lynden Pindling International Airport thwarted an attempt to smuggle **4.31 kg of heroin**. Inspections in the baggage of a citizen of Canada resulted in uncovering six packs of heroin. Drug courier was taken into police custody. Street value of the consignment of heroin is about 90 thousand US dollars. <http://www.tribune242.com/news/2018/dec/28/man-found-90000-heroin-airport/>

BRAZIL

30.12.2018 Agents of the Federal Revenue Department in the port of Paranagua in a container with cellulose found and seized **347 kg of cocaine**. The drug was hidden in eight packets. The cargo was bound to the port of Antwerp in Belgium. Arrested cocaine shipment was sent to the Federal Police Headquarters in Curitiba, where an investigation is being conducted. <https://g1.globo.com/pr/parana/noticia/2018/12/30/receita-federal-apreende-347-quilos-de-cocaina-em-conteiner-de-celulose-no-porto-de-paranagua.ghtml>

GERMANY

28.12.2018 Investigators of the State Criminal Investigation Department (LKA) of Baden-Württemberg and the Stuttgart customs in the port of Hamburg seized about **100 kg of**

cocaine. The drug was hidden in boxes with bananas on a cargo ship arriving from Ecuador. The market value of the consignment of cocaine is about 6 million Euros.

https://www.zoll.de/SharedDocs/Pressemitteilungen/DE/Rauschgift/2018/x90_schlag_gegen_internationalen_drogenschmuggel.html

GEORGIA

26.12.2018 Officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia in the Kvemo Kartli region found and seized about **500 grams of heroin** from a 30-year-old taxi passenger. The man was detained.

<http://vestnikkavkaza.net/news/Half-a-kilogram-of-heroin-seized-in-Georgia.html>

COLOMBIA

24.12.2018 Customs officers in the port of Buenaventura found **74 kg of cocaine** intended for shipment to the Netherlands and Ecuador.

<https://twitter.com/PoliciaAntiNar/status/1077188151100276736?s=19>

28.12.2018 126 kg of cocaine were seized by the Anti-Drug Police in the port of Santa Marta. Cocaine was hidden in 110 packs and was disguised in a cache equipped in the cooling system of a container. The cargo was intended for shipment to the port of Antwerp in Belgium. <https://www.elheraldo.co/magdalena/policia-antinarcoticos-incauta-126-kilos-de-cocaina-en-el-puerto-de-santa-marta-582465>

INDIA

24.12.2018 Special Task Force (STF) of Police of Haryana detained a citizen of Nigeria and found and seized **3.2 kg of heroin**. The Nigerian lived in Delhi and smuggled drugs into the city of Gurgaon in India. <https://www.ndtv.com/gurgaon-news/gurgaon-heroin-worth-rs-12-crore-seized-from-nigerian-national-1967555>

25.12.2018 Delhi police officers detained three residents of Bhilwara, aged 21 to 26, on suspicion of possession with intention to sell **30 kg of heroin**. The drug was found in a specially designed box equipped under the vehicle of drug couriers. Men brought drugs from Imphal, Manipur and tried to smuggle it into Rajasthan for subsequent sale in Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Heroin was smuggled from Myanmar. Detainees belonged to international drug cartel and served as drug couriers.

<https://www.pinkcitypost.com/bcom-student-among-3-bhilwara-youths-arrested-with-rs-120-crore-heroin-in-delhi/>

26.12.2018 In Patiala on the Sallar road police stopped a car with three men between the ages of 38 and 46 transporting **6 kg of opium**. Drug couriers were detained, drug seized. The car was confiscated by the police. Suspects purchased opium in Uttar Pradesh.

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/chandigarh/three-held-with-6-kg-of-opium/704718.html>

27.12.2018 Border security forces in the area of responsibility of the frontier post in a village on the border of India with Pakistan in Bharopal foiled an attempt to smuggle **5.61 kg of heroin**.

<http://punjabnewsexpress.com/punjab/news/13-packets-of-drug-smuggled-from-pakistan-seized-at-international-indo-pak-border-83613.aspx>

SPAIN

23.12.2018 241 kg of cocaine were discovered and seized by the national police in the port of Valencia after checking a container. The drug was concealed inside barrels of tropical fruit. Smugglers used a well-known method of hiding drugs inside a container when loading is carried out in the country of origin of goods without knowledge of the exporter or importer of legal goods, and then transported and collected at the port of destination.

<https://www.lasprovincias.es/sucesos/confiscan-kilos-cocaina-20181223001809-ntvo.html>

24.12.2018 Agents of the Civil Guard and the Office of Analysis and Fiscal Investigations (ODAIFI) of the Port of Barcelona, in cooperation with the Customs of Barcelona prevented smuggling of large quantities of cocaine. As a result of inspection in the terminal that is fully automated and with limited access of staff working in the port, four backpacks of **cocaine weighing 196 kg 738 g** were found between containers with goods.

<https://www.vilaweb.cat/noticies/la-guardia-civil-intercepta-200-quilos-de-cocaina-en-motxilles-al-port-de-barcelona/>

COSTA RICA

28.12.2018 Authorities of Costa Rica on the south coast of the Pacific Ocean 81 km from Golfito seized a boat which transported a large amount of **cocaine weighing 500 kg**. After receiving information from the US authorities who conducted a joint patrol with the state of Central America, five suspected smugglers were detained as a result of an operation to combat drugs. Detained are two Colombians, an Ecuadorian, a Nicaraguan, and a Costa Rican. Drugs were found in packs of 1 kg each.

<https://www.oneindia.com/international/500-kgs-cocaine-seized-costa-rica-five-arrested-2828553.html>

MALTA

26.12.2018 Customs officers at the Freeport of Malta found **90 kg of cocaine** in two containers. Street value of the consignment is about 9.72 million Euros. In both cases, the drugs were hidden in packages in containers behind refrigerated panels. Containers loaded with bananas arrived from Ecuador and were sent to Thessaloniki in Greece. They were selected for scanning after a risk analysis conducted by the Container Monitoring unit. 35 packages of cocaine with a total weight of 42 kg were seized from the first container. Later, the scanning team identified another refrigerated container containing 40 packs of cocaine, with a total weight of 48 kg. Both cases are referred to the Drug Enforcement Police for investigation.

<https://www.timesofmalta.com/articles/view/20181226/local/97-million-worth-of-cocaine-seized-at-freeport.697723>

THE NETHERLANDS

24.12.2018 Customs officers in the Netherlands found **70 kg of cocaine** hidden in the hold of a ship in the harbor of Amsterdam. According to the Financial Crimes Investigation Service (FIOD), the worth of cocaine seized is 1.7 million Euros. The cargo ship arrived in the Netherlands from Brazil with a cargo of grain. Cocaine packs were seized and destroyed.

<https://nltimes.nl/2018/12/24/cocaine-worth-17-million-seized-amsterdam-harbor>

PAKISTAN

29.12.2018 Police of Jammu and Kashmir near the Shan Palace on the Ramban national highway found a spare wheel inside a truck with 44 packages containing **22 kg of poppy straw**. Truck driver was arrested. The national highway Ramban-Banihal is the main route for drug smuggling and in the past few months many truck drivers on this route have been arrested for transporting drugs across the state border.

<https://www.timesnownews.com/india/article/jammu-and-kashmir-opium-poppy-straw-ramban-banihal-national-highway-ramban-police-ndps-act/338810>

PANAMA

29.12.2018 In the port of Colon, police officers seized **253 kg of cocaine** found in eight suitcases inside a container with heavy equipment. The cargo was intended for shipment to Europe. Two suspected cocaine smugglers were arrested.

https://www.prensa.com/provincias/Colon-incautan-paquetes-droga_0_5202229733.html

PERU

24.12.2018 Police agents in the northern terminal in the coastal city of Payta in a container with a cargo of quinoa (cereal grain) found and seized **40 liters of liquid cocaine**. The container was carrying a load of 800 kg of quinoa. It belonged to the company Impulsa Tecsa and was located in the Euroandino port terminal. Quinoa was bound for Spain.

<https://peru21.pe/peru/incautan-40-litros-cocaina-liquida-contenedor-quinua-paita-449086?foto=3>

USA

31.12.2018 Nebraska state patrols found **5.9 kg of cocaine** and **1.36 kg of heroin** and detained two suspects after stopping traffic on Highway 76 north of the border with Colorado. As a result of an inspection of the car "Nissan Sentra" in a cache equipped in the floor under the front seats of the car, officers found packages with drugs. The driver from Chicago is 30 years old, and a 47-year-old passenger is a Philadelphia resident were arrested on suspicion of drug possession and smuggling.

https://journalstar.com/news/local/911/state-troopers-seize-pounds-of-cocaine-heroin-in-western-nebraska/article_5ce8b5e6-7d46-5863-a7cb-63a3eeca3918.html

TURKEY

24.12.2018 Istanbul's anti-narcotics units in cooperation with security units of Serbia and Bulgaria conducted an international operation on the Serbian-Bulgarian border, which resulted in the seizure of about **500,000 Ecstasy tablets**. A truck with drugs and some household goods was taken under surveillance after receiving operational information that a large supply of drugs from the Netherlands and delivery to other trucks on the border with Serbia and Bulgaria was expected.

<https://www.yenisafak.com/en/news/turkish-police-make-huge-drug-bust-in-first-ever-overseas-operation-3469971>

26.12.2018 A 39-year-old Venezuelan citizen was detained at Istanbul's Ataturk Airport by security forces and the anti-drug police in an attempt to smuggle **2.45 kg of cocaine** in baggage. Drug trafficker arrived in Turkey on a charter plane from the Brazilian city of Sao

Paulo. He was arrested on drug trafficking charges. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/turkish-police-seize-cocaine-from-venezuelan-passenger/1349078>

28.12.2018 Turkish customs officers at the border with Bulgaria at the customs border point "Ipsala" stopped a truck in an effort to smuggle over 1.5 tons of cannabis disguised as soybeans. A consignment of drugs arrived from Albania. The supplier company sent two trucks across the border - first with soybeans, and the second with a consignment of drugs disguised as soybeans. The drug was discovered as a result of inspection activities using radiographic equipment. After opening the bags cannabis was found instead of soy contained in 152 bags, each weighing 10 kg. A total of **1 ton 524 kg of cannabis** was found and seized. This fact is under investigation. The truck driver and two more people were detained. <https://sivpost.com/turkey-seized-a-record-shipment-of-marijuana/4618/>

30.12.2018 Police officers in eastern Turkey in the province of Dogubayazit Agri found **102.8 kg of heroin** in a van. The driver of the van transporting drugs was arrested. <https://menafn.com/1097901591/Turkish-police-find-1028kg-heroin-in-van>

CROATIA

20.12.2018 At the Bayakovo border checkpoint, local Osijek regional customs officers thwarted an attempt to smuggle **43.5 kg of marijuana** hidden in a passenger vehicle. Based on risk analysis, a Mercedes Vaneo car registered in Serbia was subjected to thorough verification. As a result of vehicle inspection activities, a cache was found in the floor, in which there were 40 packages of marijuana, with a total weight of 43.5 kg. Two Serbian citizens detained - 72-year-old driver and 44-year-old passenger. <https://carina.gov.hr/vijesti/sprijecen-pokusaj-krijumcarenja-marihuane-6293/6293>

SRI LANKA

24.12.2018 Marawila city police detained a 28-year-old resident of Marawila and seized **1 kg of heroin**, worth more than 12 million rupees. Further investigations are being conducted by the police of Marawila. <http://www.dailynews.lk/2018/12/24/local/172315/youth-arrested-12-million-worth-heroin>

31.12.2018 In the course of a joint operation conducted by the Police Narcotics Bureau and the Colombo Special Task Force (STF), two citizens of Bangladesh were arrested in Dehiwala, a suburb of Colombo. As a result of searches in the houses of suspects, **272 kg of heroin and 5 kg of cocaine** were discovered. http://www.colombopage.com/archive_18B/Dec31_1546272694CH.php

