

CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY

(based on mass media reports)

26.11-02.12.2018

№ 49

CARICC MEMBER STATES

THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

29.11.2018 Officers of the State Customs Committee (SCC) at the Bilasuvar customs post detained an Iranian citizen in an attempt to illegally smuggle 24 **MDMA tablets with a total weight of 0.72 g** across the state border.

<https://media.az/read/1067719713>

THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

28.11.2018 Officers of the Directorate for Drugs Control (UKON) of the Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs (UMVD) of Russia in the Tambov region detained two girls and three young people suspected of drug trafficking, who set up an online store selling illegal substances, which they distributed through stashes in the region and in neighboring areas. More than **4 kg of drugs of synthetic origin (N-methylephedron and "spices")**, as well as packaging materials for drugs and electronic scales were seized from illicit trafficking. In addition, in a garage in Tambov, the police dismantled an underground drug lab equipped by suspects. Gas masks, flasks, syringes, packaging materials, electronic scales, chemical substances used in manufacture of narcotic drugs, as well as two bags of ready-made "product" were confiscated. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15102366>

28.11.2018 Officers of the UKON of the Main Department (GU) of MIA of Russia in the Stavropol region established that a resident of Stavropol acquired a large consignment of narcotic substances and employing a transport company sent them to Stavropol. Drug police detained a young man upon receipt of the parcel which contained a filter housing, inside which **430 g of a narcotic substance of synthetic origin** were found. The young man planned to sell drugs in Stavropol utilizing "contactless way". <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15098024>

29.11.2018 Officers of the Division for Drugs Control (OKON) Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in Khabarovsk detained a 29-year-old local resident who was suspected of distributing drugs of cannabis group. He received hashish oil from a neighboring region in large quantities and stored in his apartment. The drug was packed in single doses and distributed through caches. The perpetrator contacted consumers via an instant messenger. The man received cash from the sale of drugs via e-wallets and bank cards that are registered to third parties. Drugs were delivered by a 33-year-old rural resident of the neighboring Jewish Autonomous Region. About **4 liters of hashish oil** were seized by law enforcers. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15107067>

THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

16.11.2018 Officers of internal affairs bodies in Akhangaran, Tashkent region, in the course of operative-search activities found and confiscated from a local's apartment **1 kg 680 g of narcotic substance marijuana** that was stored illegally.

<http://www.mvd.uz/ru/lists/view/5056>

30.11.2018 Officers of the State Security Service of Uzbekistan in the city of Jizzak, Jizzakh region, detained two Afghan drug couriers - a 40-year-old woman and her 22-year-old brother with a large heroin shipment. During inspection of a hotel room, where brother and sister stayed, about 1.5 kg of heroin were found concealed in travel bags. Part of the heroin was swallowed by the woman. She was taken to the Jizzakh branch of the Republican Scientific and Practical Center for Emergency Medical Aid, where 111.42 g of heroin in 27 capsules were extracted from her abdominal cavity. Total seized drugs amounted to over **1.6 kg of heroin**.

https://total.kz/ru/news/proisshestiya/narkokureri_iz_afganistana_zaderzhani_v_uzbekistane_date_2018_11_30_17_31_56

OTHER COUNTRIES

BRAZIL

27.11.2018 Santos Federal Customs Service teams along with federal police confiscated **347 kg of cocaine** in the port of Santos. A cocaine loaded container was found after a risk analysis by two teams. Cocaine was contained in packages and was concealed in bags of raffia (natural fiber, which is produced from palm leaves) inside a container with a legal load of wood-fiber panels. The destination of the container was the port of Algeciras in Spain. The consignment of drugs was seized and sent to the Federal Police Station.

<http://www.atribuna.com.br/noticias/portoemar/carregamento-de-347-kg-de-coca%C3%ADna-%C3%A9-apreendido-dentro-de-cont%C3%AAiner-no-porto-de-santos-1.4754>

VIETNAM

28.11.2018 Customs officers at Tan Son Nhat Airport detained a 28-year-old Malaysian citizen in an attempt to smuggle more than **4 kg of cocaine** to Vietnam. The woman arrived at the airport by flight from Brazil and proceeded to Dubai, UAE. Inside the cache in a suitcase under the lining were hidden two packages containing **4.1 kg of cocaine**.

<https://vietnamnews.vn/society/481028/malaysian-national-caught-smuggling-4kg-of-cocaine.html#kZI2uKLWgFUSLOzg.97>

GERMANY

30.11.2018 Officers of the Customs Investigation Office in the port of Hamburg-Hafen discovered **100 kg of high-purity cocaine**. The street value of the consignment is estimated at 21 million euros. Criminals hid drugs in an old VW Bulli T1 (1974) in an almost perfect compartment. One of the two vintage cars was equipped with an additional welded double bottom behind the rear seat. The consignment of cocaine and two VW Bullis T1 cars arrived in a container from Brazil. The container was selected for inspection using an x-ray system after risk analysis. In one of the two collection cars, experts of the Container Test

Center found 100 packages of 1 kg each. Seized cocaine was of very high quality and purity. Hamburg Customs Investigation Office leads the case.

https://www.zoll.de/SharedDocs/Pressemitteilungen/DE/Rauschgift/2018/x99_kokain_im_vw_bus.html;jsessionid=ED294198BBB07091D3F715E80E0E6928.live4651

INDIA

30.11.2018 In the city of Khanna, officers of a police group led by SHO (City-2) and a local official representative of the Anti-Drug Police Service arrested a citizen of Nigeria who lives in Delhi, and seized **1.7 kg of heroin**. The suspect was going to organize smuggling to university students in Jalandhar, Punjab, but was arrested by Khanna police.

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/ludhiana/nigerian-held-with-1-7-kg-heroin/691157.html>

ITALY

29.11.2018 The Guardia di Finanza of Ragusa and Palermo with the Scico in the Sicilian Channel 70 miles south-west of the coast of Sicily conducted a special operation to detain the 19-meter "Leucothea" sailboat under the Dutch flag, which transported **11 tons of hashish**. Market value of the consignment is estimated at 10 million euros. Two members of the crew of the boat, Bulgarians aged 42 and 40 were arrested and put in custody in the city of Ragusa. The operation, coordinated by the Prosecutor's Office of Ragusa, is executed on the basis of intelligence provided by the Spanish police department, which is engaged in the countering organized crime in the field of drug trafficking. During the arrest, the Bulgarians on board attempted to sink the boat. "Leucothea" was towed by a naval unit of the Guardia di Finanza to the port of Pozzallo. As a result of a search on board, 407 jute sacks were found, which contained packages with Google logos, as well as green cross symbols. At present, onboard gauging studies are being carried out in order to establish the exact route of the vessel. Presumably hashish was loaded in Morocco or in Algeria. Possible destination is Libya. <https://www.lastampa.it/2018/11/29/italia/maxi-sequestro-di-hashish-nel-canale-sicilia-a-bordo-di-una-barca-a-vela-da-metri-1CxkbXo9T47AKPBYJj18yN/pagina.html>

COLOMBIA

26.11.2018 Anti-narcotics police, in the course of coordinated work with international agencies in the port of Barranquilla, thwarted an attempt to smuggle **550 kg of cocaine** into Europe. Drugs were concealed in 550 packs distributed evenly inside metal structures. The worth of the consignment is estimated at 25 million US dollars. The cargo was bound to the port of Rotterdam in the Netherlands. After analyzing similar cases of concealment of drugs in cavities of iron and steel products, experts decided to check the container where the consignment of drugs was subsequently found. <https://www.elheraldo.co/judicial/decomisan-en-puerto-de-barranquilla-mas-de-25-millones-de-dolares-en-cocaina-570536>

28.11.2018 Counternarcotics Directorate of the National Police in the port of Buenaventura seized **515 kg of cocaine hydrochloride**. Thanks to work of registration and control in the port of Buenaventura, **380 kg of cocaine hydrochloride** were found and the driver of a vehicle was detained. The drug was disguised in the back of a cargo trailer between textiles. It was to be shipped to Holland. The driver was detained at the moment he entered the container in warehouses in the port terminal. As a result of container inspection, two

suitcases containing packages with **134 kg of cocaine hydrochloride** were discovered.
<https://www.policia.gov.co/noticia/incautamos-515-kilos-cocaina-iba-ser-enviada-holanda>

01.12.2018 Under the "Safe Bay" Plan, Pacific Naval Forces in the port of Buenaventura, with the help of divers, inspected about half of all international ships, creating significant obstacles for transnational organized crime to use sea routes as main means of trafficking. In order to ensure comprehensive maritime security in the port facilities of the Colombian Pacific Ocean and to ensure legal commercial development through interdepartmental interaction between the public and private sectors, the National Navy promotes the "Safe Bay" Plan, which resulted discovery of four bags in attributed to the port of Manzanillo in Mexico that were immersed in water and tied to stabilizing buoys. Divers collected the bags from the water, inside was packed **cocaine hydrochloride weighing 120 kg**.
<http://www.cgfm.mil.co/2018/12/01/45677/>

01.12.2018 At the airport in El Dorado in Bogota, the anti-narcotics police detained a batch of 150 boxes of export roses. Flowers were intended to be sent to Moscow and were delivered to the airport for shipment. Roses were packed in standard cardboard boxes with the inscription "Adriana Roses S.A.S.", inside which between the layers of cardboard were found flat packs of **cocaine with a total weight of 50 kg**. The anti-narcotics police followed the cargo, which attracted attention because the roses at this time of the year are not seasonal export goods. Source of shipment of the cocaine consignment has not yet been established. Market value of the consignment in Russia could be about \$ 8 million.
<https://www.semana.com/nacion/articulo/caen-rosas-cargadas-de-cocaina-con-destino-rusia/593200>

LUXEMBOURG

30.11.2018 The Luxembourg customs at the Findel airport, during control of loading of a cargo plane arriving from South America, detected a consignment of **cocaine weighing about 300 kg**. It is worth around 45 million Euros. The cargo was to be delivered to the Netherlands. The Prosecutor's Office ordered the arrest of the consignment. Investigation into this fact is carried out by the judicial police.
<http://www.leguotidien.lu/a-la-une/les-douanes-interceptent-300-kilos-de-cocaine-au-findel/>

MEXICO

30.11.2018 Mexican Navy officers attached to the Sixth Naval Region, in coordination with the Manzanillo Maritime Customs, found **100 kg of cocaine** in a container aboard the ship "WANHAI 613" under the flag of Singapore. The drug was in 105 packs inside three suitcases. Cargo arrived from the port of Guayaquil in Ecuador.
<https://www.entornoinformativo.com.mx/2018/11/30/asegura-100-kilos-de-cocaina-en-colima-en-tres-maletas/>

POLAND

26.11.2018 Officers of the "Stokrotka" supermarket chain in Poland discovered cocaine packages hidden inside boxes of bananas produced in Ecuador. The total weight of **cocaine** found was **160 kg**. Detected drugs were seized by the Polish National Police. The street value of cocaine can exceed 80 million zlotys (18.6 million Euros). "Stokrotka" supermarkets are a subsidiary of the Lithuanian trading network Maxima Group which employs about 500 groceries and has other stores in the three Baltic states, as well as in Bulgaria and Poland.

<https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/news/world/676177/supermarket-finds-cocaine-in-bananas-shipped-to-poland/story/>

PAKISTAN

28.11.2018 The Anti Narcotics Force (ANF) at Islamabad International Airport arrested the head of a criminal group of drug traffickers with **4.25 kg of heroin**. Drug was detected during inspection of passenger baggage. Cocaine was seized by ANF officers. <https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2018/11/28/drug-pusher-held-with-4-25kg-ice-heroin-at-islamabad-airport/>

USA

26.11.2018 Customs and Border Protection in the port of Miami arrested seven crew members of the cruise ship MSC on charges of cocaine smuggling. As a result of inspection activities with the help of a K-9 dog, about **7.7 kg of cocaine** were found in personal belongings of six crew members aged 27 to 36. Another staff member was arrested for hiring five crew members to smuggle. <https://www.miamiherald.com/news/business/tourism-cruises/article222205370.html>

27.11.2018 US Customs and Border Protection at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York during a baggage check loaded on a flight from Quito to Ecuador, found 38 packages containing more than **45.36 kg of cocaine**. The market value of the consignment is estimated at 1.3 million US dollars. Owner or recipient were not established. <https://www.nydailynews.com/new-york/nyc-crime/ny-metro-ifk-cocaine-seized-13-million-20181127-story.html>

27.11.2018 US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers in the port of Calexico, California, foiled an attempt to smuggle **29.5 kg of methamphetamine**. A 47-year-old Mexican citizen living in the United States who drove a Honda Ridgeline was detained. As a result of inspection activities inside the vehicle body, 33 packages were found, containing **29.5 kg of methamphetamine**. Street value of methamphetamine was over 225 thousand US dollars. Driver was arrested for attempting to smuggle drugs. Drug and vehicle were confiscated. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/calexico-cbp-officers-discover-225k-worth-meth-hidden-truck>

28.11.2018 Officers of the Office of Field Operations in Laredo, Texas on the World Trade Bridge stopped an international cargo truck with a trailer carrying cargo of safety valves under the control of a 36-year-old Mexican citizen. According to results of inspections in the vehicle were found 10 packages containing **8.1 kg of methamphetamine**. Market value of the consignment is more than 362 thousand US dollars. Drugs and vehicle were seized. The driver and a 26-year-old Mexican passenger were detained and transferred to US Immigration and Customs Enforcement-Homeland Security Investigations (ICE-HSI) for further investigation. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-officers-seize-methamphetamine-worth-over-362k-world-trade-bridge>

29.11.2018 US Customs and Border Protection officers in San Diego at ports of entry on the border with California and Mexico seized 283.5 kg of drugs worth more than \$ 2.7 million during five days and arrested 39 people for various types of crimes . CBP officers in six ports of entry into the country thwarted numerous attempts to smuggle heroin, cocaine,

fentanyl and methamphetamine. The drugs were tied to the bodies of smugglers and concealed in various areas of vehicles, such as gas tank, trunk, seats and panels. About **77 kg of methamphetamine, 263.1 kg of methamphetamine, 2.27 kg of cocaine, 11.8 kg of heroin and 7.71 kg of fentanyl** were seized. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-s-san-diego-field-office-seizes-more-27m-narcotics>

30.11.2018 US border guards near Rio Grande City, Texas, for three days stopped five drug smuggling attempts from Mexico. The agents came across a group of smugglers who tried to transport cannabis drugs into US using vehicles. About **803 kg of marijuana (consignments of 136 kg, 104.3 kg, 211 kg, 106.6 kg and 245 kg)** were seized. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/border-patrol-seizes-nearly-15m-worth-marijuana-rio-grande-valley>

01.12.2018 Agents of the El Centro Border Patrol at the Highway 86 checkpoint detained two young men of 17 and 18 years. They were in a Volkswagen Jetta car. A Border Patrol canine detection team identified the presence of drugs. As a result of inspection activities, Border Patrol agents found several bags containing **1.07 g of fentanyl, 5.34 g of methamphetamine, 729.6 g of marijuana, 76 alprazolam tablets, 4 oxycodone and 2 tablets of clonazepam**. Agents also found an unregistered AR-15 rifle. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/fentanyl-other-narcotics-and-firearm-seized-checkpoint>

02.12.2018 Customs and Border Protection officers in the port of Delaware in boxes with pineapples from Costa Rica, which were to be shipped to New Jersey, found about **45.36 kg of cocaine**. The worth of the batch is about 7.6 million US dollars. <https://osburnoracle.com/nearly-100-pounds-of-cocaine-seized-at-delaware-port/17529/>

THAILAND

29.11.2018 In the Sungai Kolok district near the border, seven people posing as family members who were traveling in a Bangkok-registered van were detained by police while trying to smuggle **710,000 methamphetamine tablets**. Street value of drugs is more than 35 million baht. Drug traffickers were charged with conspiracy to store drugs with intention of selling. <https://www.bangkokpost.com/news/general/1584526/>

THE CZECH REPUBLIC

27.11.2018 Customs officers at the Václav Havel Airport in Prague during routine check-ups of passengers found **6.4 kg of cocaine** in the baggage of a 25-year-old foreign citizen who arrived in Prague from Rio de Janeiro via Lisbon. Drug was found in the double bottom of the passenger's leather travel bag. Drug trafficker was transferred to the National Drug Administration of the Czech Police for prosecution. <https://www.celnisprava.cz/cz/celni-urad-praha-ruzyne/tiskove-zpravy/2018/Stranky/opet-odhaleny-paserak-s-kokainem-na-letisti.aspx>

CHILE

28.11.2018 In Quito, prosecutors and police in the western province of Manabi seized **2.5 tons of cocaine** during a joint operation. Drugs were hidden in jute bags on a farm located in the Sucre area of Manabi. Drugs were intended for "international trade". http://www.china.org.cn/world/Off_the_Wire/2018-11/29/content_74219762.htm



29.11.2018 An operation was conducted by the Chilean police in the northern part of the country, which resulted in nine people being arrested and **993 kg of cocaine seized**. The value of the drugs is estimated at 22 million US dollars. As a result of a lengthy investigation of organized criminal activity by prosecutors and members of the police organized crime, two citizens of Bolivia - a mother and son living in Iquique were charged with drug offences. Heads of drug traffickers often traveled to Bolivia, where they purchased drug that was smuggled into Chile through the Atacama region for marketing. Police seized 23 luxury SUVs that were used to transport drugs, as well as \$ 25,000 in cash. <http://www.canindia.com/chilean-police-seize-a-tonne-of-cocaine/>

