

Unofficial translation

CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY

(based on mass media reports)

07-13.01.2019

№ 2

CARICC MEMBER STATES

THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

08.01.2019 Officers of the Main Directorate for Combating Organized Crime and the General Directorate of Traffic Police as a result of joint activities seized **6 kg of heroin** and **8.26 kg of opium** from two residents of Baku in the Garadagh district. More than **3 kg of heroin** were seized from a resident of the village of Mashtaga by officers of the Department for Combating Drugs. Two local residents were detained in Sabirabad and Khachmaz districts, from whom law enforcers seized **5.5 kg of marijuana**. Criminal cases were instituted on all facts. <https://minval.az/news/123854496>

11.01.2019 As a result of measures taken by the Narimanovsky RUP police officers, **16.1 kg of marijuana** were seized from a Baku resident. Officers of the Absheron RUP in the house of a resident of the Sarai village seized more than **7 kg of opium**, and from a resident of Baku - **1.015 kg of hashish**. Officers of the Beylagan ROP seized **1.025 kg of marijuana** from the two residents of the Valeh district. Staff members of the Hajigabul ROP seized from a resident of the village of Gubalybaloglan - **1.427 g of heroin and 480 g of marijuana**. The above mentioned cases are being prosecuted.

<https://salamnews.org/ru/news/read/334450>

THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

09.01.2019 Police officers of the Intermunicipal Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia "Lyuberetskoe" of the Moscow region detained an 18-year-old resident of Moscow and seized 20 convolutions with the drug **mephedrone weighing more than 200 g**. Young man intended to sell drugs via caches in the urban district Kotelniki.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15444543>

09.01.2019 Officers of the Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the city of Kemerovo detained an 18-year-old local resident suspected of spreading prohibited substances in the city. In the course of operational search activities and investigative actions, about **390 g of cocaine, hashish and ecstasy**, intended for distribution in a non-contact manner, as well as scales, packing tools, packaging materials and a laptop containing information about the places of "caches" were seized.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15438401>

10.01.2019 Officers of the Drug Control Division of the OMVD of Russia in the Kirzhachsky district of the Vladimir region detained a 33-year-old local resident suspected of involvement in drug trafficking. In the car driven by the person involved, briquettes with pressed **hashish weighing 687.9 g and other narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in small quantities** were found. The consignment of drugs confiscated from illegal trafficking was intended for distribution on the territory of the Kirzhachsky district of the

Vladimir region. A criminal case was initiated against the suspect. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15454002>

10.01.2019 Officers of the OKON of Komsomolsky LO Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in transport in Komsomolsk-on-Amur detained two residents of the Amur region at the age of 45 and 38 years on suspicion of drug trafficking. When inspecting their car, about **8 kg of hashish oil and 3 kg of hashish** were discovered. In Komsomolsk-on-Amur, detainees intended to exchange drugs for expensive cars. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15451687>

10.01.2019 The FSB of Russia officers conducted a multi-stage operation to identify and counter illegal activities of a cross-border ethnic criminal group and dismantle a smuggling channel used for supply of especially large quantities of heroin from the countries of Central Asia. Established were active members of the organized group - citizens of several states. Active members of the criminal group were caught red-handed; at least **43 kg of heroin** were seized from trafficking. A criminal case initiated against detainees. <http://www.fsb.ru/fsb/press/message/single.htm%21id%3D10438334%40fsbMessage.html>

11.01.2019 Officers of the OKON Regional Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in Kaluga detained a 37-year-old local resident who stored 20 bags of **N-methylephedron with a total weight of about 20 g** with intention to supply. At the place of residence of the suspect, more than **1 kg of 200 g of N-methylephedron** and about **600 g of indole** were also found, intended for sale in the territory of the Kaluga region through stashes. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15466843>

11.01.2019 Officers of the Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the city of Voronezh identified and detained a 32-year-old man suspected of drug trafficking, who arrived in his car from the city of Elektrostal in the Moscow region. During the inspection, police officers discovered and seized more than **700 g of methylephedron**, which the man brought for the purpose of selling through caches. Subsequently, police discovered a cache equipped by a suspect in the forest near the village of Podgornoye, from where about **1 kg of pyrrolidinovalerophenone (α-PVP)** was extracted. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15470024>

THE REPUBLIC TAJIKISTAN

05.01.2019 Officers of the Anti-Drug Trafficking Department in Penjikent, Sughd region, detained a 28-year-old expert in the Bureau of Forensic Medical Examinations on suspicion of drug trafficking. Law enforcement officers seized **400 g of opium** from the expert. A criminal case was instituted on this fact. <http://www.fergana.agency/news/104102/>

OTHER COUNTRIES

AUSTRALIA

10.01.2019 An investigation by detectives from the state of New South Wales and Australian Border Force (ABF) officers led to one of the largest seizures of gamma-butyrolactone (GBL) in Australia. In 2018, detectives from the New South Wales State Police Command launched an investigation into drug production throughout New South Wales. During the investigation, two large underground laboratories of 3,4-

methylenedioxymethamphetamine (MDMA) in Menangle and Mount Hunter were discovered. The laboratories were dismantled with assistance from the Chemical Operations Unit of the Drugs and Firearms Squad, which confiscated 650 items, including equipment used to produce drugs, chemicals and precursors as well as illegal drugs with a potential value of more than \$ 5.2 million. Two people were arrested. Subsequently, detectives from the Drugs and Firearms Squad created Arndill Strike Force to investigate importation of chemicals, precursors and equipment used to manufacture drugs. With the help of investigators from ABF, detectives analyzed the scheme of importation of gamma-butyrolactone from China to a number of companies in the south-west of Sydney. On December 18, 2018, ABF officers found and confiscated a consignment of 20 barrels containing **4000 liters of gamma-butyrolactone**. The cargo arrived from China under the guise of liquid fertilizers. Stret value of the chemical is more than 12 million US dollars. Case is currently under investigation. Gamma-butyrolactone is a precursor and is used in the manufacture of MDMA. <https://newsroom.abf.gov.au/releases/more-than-12-million-of-gbl-seized-as-police-continue-to-target-drug-manufacturers>

INDIA

07.01.2019 In the city of Firozpur in the state of Punjab, law enforcement agencies discovered and seized **5 kg of heroin** during a joint search operation in the Counter-Intelligence Team on the border with Pakistan. Currently, exploratory work is underway near the border. <https://www.gnsnews.co.in/25-crore-heroin-recovered-from-ind-pak-border/>

13.01.2019 Two Nigerian citizens aged 35 and 38, part of an international drug cartel, were arrested by agents of the Anti-Narcotics Cell of the Mumbai Police Criminal Branch. During a personal search, **1.005 kg of high quality cocaine** were collected from the suspects. <https://www.india.com/news/agencies/2-nigerian-nationals-arrested-with-cocaine-worth-rs-6-3-cr-3524261/>

SPAIN

11.01.2019 Officers of the Civil Guard in Barcelona arrested 25 people during a special operation, which ended with the largest seizure of **2 tons 700 kg of marijuana** in Spanish history. Marijuana was grown and processed in the northeastern region of Spain, and then transported out of the country by a truck. Police believe that the gang was headed by British and Dutch smugglers. The drug group used front companies to manage cross-border freight shipments, hiding drugs under goods such as sports equipment, interior items, animal feed and vegetables. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-6581493/Spanish-police-seize-marijuana-heading-UK-Netherlands.html>

CANADA

10.01.2019 Officers of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) in Grand Prairie, Alberta, during a search of an apartment in the western part of the city, found and seized **4 kg of crystalline methamphetamine, 2.2 kg of cocaine, 200 g of heroin, about 5,500 oxycodone tablets and about 950 fentanyl tablets**. The officers also seized about 94 thousand dollars in cash and two pistols. An investigation is underway. <https://globalnews.ca/news/4835821/grande-prairie-drug-bust-opioid-january/>

11.01.2019 Police officers of the unit Dryden in the province of Ontario on highway 17 east of Dryden stopped a vehicle under the control of a 29-year-old Winnipeg resident on violations of the traffic law. **8 kg of cocaine** were found and seized as a result of the vehicle inspection. Male driver was taken into custody and charged with possession of drugs with intent of selling. <https://www.tbnewswatch.com/local-news/traffic-stop-in-dryden-uncovers-800000-in-cocaine-1193740>

LIBYA

07.01.2019 Customs officers found about **8 tons of cannabis** at the Misurata port in two containers. The drug was confiscated in the presence of the Inspection Team of the customs authority and the Anti-Drug Smuggling Group in Misrata, in addition to the prosecutor and representatives of security and judicial authorities. Three weeks ago, the Misurata Customs Authority seized over **52 tons of cannabis and 100 million tablets of tramadol**.
<https://www.libyaobserver.ly/inbrief/custom-authorities-seize-8-tons-cannabis-port-misurata>
<http://www.bernama.com/en/news.php?id=1681983>

MOROCCO

07.01.2019 Moroccan security services in the port of Tangier-Med seized more than **13.7 tons of cannabis**. Drugs were hidden in a semi-trailer registered in Morocco. Police launched an investigation into the participants in this major drug trafficking operation.
<http://northafricapost.com/26974-morocco-foils-smuggling-over-13-tons-of-cannabis.html>

10.01.2019 The Royal Armed Forces (FAR) in the region located 250 km south-east of the city of Laayoune in the Sahara conducted a major operation to thwart drug trafficking. During the operation, two suspicious vehicles were blocked, as a result of a search in which 148 boxes of **cannabis with a total weight of 3.7 tons** were discovered and seized.
<http://northafricapost.com/27008-morocco-army-foils-smuggling-of-3-7-tons-of-cannabis-in-sahara.html>

11.01.2019 Security officers at Mohammed V International Airport in Casablanca detained a Nigerian citizen who smuggled **1,325 kg of cocaine** intracavitarily in stomach. The passenger arrived by flight from Sao Paulo in Brazil. At the Ibn Rochd University Hospital Center in Casablanca, 72 cocaine capsules were removed from the stomach of the Nigerian. He is currently in custody for further investigation under the supervision of the Prosecutor's Office. <https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2019/01/263032/morocco-nigerian-cocaine-capsules-airport/>

MEXICO

07.01.2019 A Mexican citizen arriving from Peru was detained by customs officers at Cancun International Airport in the province of Quintana Roo in an attempt to smuggle about **12 kg of cocaine**. As a result of inspection activities, hidden compartments were found in each of the two suitcases belonging to a woman. Inside a double bottom, 6.2 kg of cocaine were found in the first suitcase, and 5.8 kg in the second. The female drug trafficker was arrested and transferred to the General Prosecutor's Office for further legal procedures.
<https://www.riviera-maya-news.com/woman-arriving-from-peru-with-12-kilos-of-cocaine-arrested-at-cancun-airport/2019.html>

THE NETHERLANDS

11.01.2019 On the territory of a terminal of the Belgian New Fruit Wahrf (BNFW), more than **700 kg of cocaine** were discovered by customs officers in the walls and refrigeration units of containers in the port of Antwerp. After the discovery of smuggling, the information was transmitted to investigators of the Antwerp Judicial Police Division of Drugs. In the course of further observation of the containers, three Dutch citizens aged about 40 were detained while trying to extract this consignment of cocaine from containers. Men were imprisoned. An investigation is being carried out on this fact.

https://www.gva.be/cnt/dmf20190111_04095048/cocaine-onderschept-in-haven-drie-nederlanders-opgepakt

PAKISTAN

08.01.2019 Anti-Narcotics Forces (ANF), during an inspection at Faisalabad airport in the province of Punjab seized more than **900 grams of ice heroin** from a passenger. The drug was hidden in the baggage of the passenger who was traveling on a private airline flight to Dubai (UAE). A case has been filed against the arrested person; further investigation is ongoing.

<https://dunyanews.tv/en/Pakistan/473325-ANF-recovers-ice-heroin-from-passenger-at-Faisalabad-airport>

USA

07.01.2019 Police during a traffic halt in on I-10 Fayette county, Georgia, stopped a vehicle for violating traffic rules and discovered and seized **15 kg of cocaine**. Worth of the consignment is estimated at approximately 1.5 million US dollars. A 25-year-old driver and a 39-year-old female passenger were detained.

<https://www.kvue.com/article/news/local/15m-worth-of-cocaine-seized-in-fayette-county-during-traffic-stop/269-626791179>

08.01.2019. The US Coast Guard off the coast of Denmark Beach in Florida interdicted a fishing boat carrying **7 kg of cocaine**. Customs and Border Protection and Homeland Security Investigations detained a smuggler and two migrants aboard.

<https://wsvn.com/news/local/coast-guard-seizes-7-kilos-of-cocaine-off-coast-of-dania-beach/>

08.01.2019 As a result of an investigation by the State Police Narcotics Section, with the assistance of the DEA Worcester HIDTA and the US Postal Inspection Service, an Acura car was detained in Worcester, Massachusetts, in which there was a 26-year-old female driver and two passengers. As a result of vehicle screening, **1 kg of cocaine** was found. All three drug traffickers were arrested on charges of trafficking of cocaine, conspiring to violate the law on drugs.

<https://whdh.com/news/police-3-arrested-after-worcester-traffic-stop-uncovers-kilo-of-cocaine-pills/>

10.01.2019 In Tucson, Arizona, Cochise and Pima District Sheriffs, with the assistance of the CCSO, DEA and HIDTA agencies, including the Douglas Police Department, the Sierra Vista Police Department and the DPS during an investigation into a criminal organization suspected of transporting drugs through staff arrested 16 of its members. **4.53 kg of methamphetamine, 250 vials of tetra cannabinoid vape oil, 680 g of heroin and at least 500 tablets of oxycodone** were confiscated. In addition, during execution of search warrants in houses in Sierra Vista, Naco, St. David, Sahuarite and Tucson, significant

amounts of cash, about 50 units of firearms and stolen cars were found and seized. Investigation by the task force continues.

<http://www.tucsonnewsnow.com/2019/01/10/cochise-pima-county-sheriffs-announce-bust-major-drug-organization/>

11.01.2019 Police agents in San Ysidro in the state of San Diego detained two drug dealers for traffic offenses. In the cab of a truck, officers found a package intended for shipment to Alaska, inside of which were **1 kg of cocaine, 1 kg of heroin and 12,000 tablets of fentanyl**. Subsequently, during a search of a motel room in San Isidro, agents discovered plastic bags used for packing drugs, rubber gloves, and coffee grinders.

<https://www.nbcsandiego.com/news/local/Convicted-Drug-Traffickers-Caught-During-Traffic-Stop-With-Fentanyl-Heroin-and-Cocaine-504226631.html>

11.01.2019 Investigators from the San Bernardino Sheriff's Gangs Department in California, along with the Anti-Drug Department — the Marijuana Enforcement Team (MET), in collaboration with detectives from Apple Valley Station, executed five search warrants at Apple Residence's residences, which resulted in discovery of four cannabis growing laboratories in rooms that use advanced lighting systems, air conditioning, fans, exhaust fans, and air filtration systems to control the climate inside the house. **4000 cannabis plants** were found and seized. Three suspects were arrested.

<https://www.vvng.com/3-arrested-and-over-4000-marijuana-plants-seized-friday-in-apple-valley/>

11.01.2019 Detectives and the DEA London office developed information on large quantities of methamphetamine heading to Laurel County, Kentucky. Based on the information received, agents stopped traffic on Highway 770 in Laurel District. As a result of stopping a Cadillac Escalade car, more than **910 g of crystalline methamphetamine** were found and seized. Three people were arrested and placed in Laurel County Detention Center.

<https://lex18.com/news/covering-kentucky/2019/01/11/laurel-co-sheriff-3-arrested-for-trafficking-over-2-lbs-of-meth/>

12.01.2019 Hickory City police agents in Cataba, North Carolina, arrested a 47-year-old woman from Pasadena, Texas, from whom **1,130 kg of heroin** was found and seized.

https://www.hickoryrecord.com/news/texas-woman-arrested-after-pounds-of-heroin-seized/article_ca5be88a-150c-11e9-bdb7-0f52e2afe445.html

SURINAME

08.01.2019 Police agents in the port of Jules Sedney in the southern region of Paramaribo confiscated **2 tons 500 kg of cocaine**. The drugs were hidden in eight containers loaded with rice waiting to be loaded in the port. The containers were intended for shipment to France via Guadeloupe. The port Security Department stumbled upon the cargo during regular monitoring, after which they warned the Narcotics Brigade of the Suriname Police Corps. It was established that a consignment of rice was processed and packaged at the Omravingh plant. Police arrested a private customs consultant, rice exporter and one entrepreneur, owner of the cargo. <https://www.thedailyherald.sx/regional/84359-huge-coke-bust-at-suriname-harbour>

THAILAND

14.01.2019 In Chiang Rai province, three members of a large drug syndicate were arrested by police agents while smuggling **300 kg of crystalline methamphetamine** from Myanmar to Thailand. Two men in a pick-up car refused to stop at a checkpoint on the border road in the Mae Sai area. The driver lost control of the vehicle and turned it over. Officers from the task force found another unconscious passenger and a consignment of methamphetamine in 12 bags in the truck. <https://www.chiangraitimes.com/pha-muang-taskforce-seizes-300-kilos-of-crystal-methamphetamine-from-drug-runners.html>

TURKEY

10.01.2019 Customs officers at Istanbul Ataturk Airport detained a Ukrainian citizen who smuggled **5.5 kg of cocaine** from Colombia in a suitcase. The man was heading to Ukraine and he was accompanied by another person involved in smuggling. Lawsuit against drug traffickers was initiated.

10.01.2019 In another anti-drug operation in the eastern province of Van, police seized **72 kg of heroin** in a house.

10.01.2019 Police in the western province of Tekirdag as a result of stopping the movement of trucks, inside caches equipped with them, **600,000 Ecstasy tablets weighing 134 kg** were discovered. Trucks smuggled drugs from abroad. Three people were arrested in connection with the incident.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/more-than-5-kg-of-cocaine-seized-in-ataturk-airport/1361449>

ECUADOR

05.01.2019 In the port of Guayaquil, customs officers together with the police of the Drug Enforcement Division found **176 kg of cocaine** in a container loaded with frozen fish to be sent to the port of Piraeus in Greece. Packages of drugs containing an anchor logo on a green background were carefully hidden in a cache on the floor of the container. In the Greek region of Attica, a 74-year-old Greek citizen, a 48-year-old Turkish citizen and a 40-year-old Chinese citizen were arrested on charges of involvement in illegal drug smuggling. When the cocaine consignment was ready to be shipped from Ecuador, authorities were informed about this through the Office of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) at the US Embassy in Athens. Market value of the consignment is estimated at 5 million Euros. This was followed by arrests of members of a criminal organization in Athens and the coastal suburbs of Voula and Varkiz. It has been established that this criminal organization also organized smuggling of a large quantity of heroin from Iran under the guise of cargo with marble to Germany. The alleged leader of the criminal organization 34-year-old Turkish citizen nicknamed "Dutchman" («голландец») is still at large.

<http://www.ekathimerini.com/236283/article/ekathimerini/news/cod-and-cocaine>

07.01.2019 Through the National Drug Enforcement Administration and its Ports and Airports Information unit (UIPA), the Ecuadorian National Police conducted Operation "Three Kings Day" at the Simon Bolivar seaport in Guayaquil, which resulted in discovery of 38 packages with "NMT" labels inside container refrigerators containing **37 kg 962 g cocaine**.

The consignment was intended for international markets. The operation was carried out after analyzing risk profile of several containers in the port. Ecuadorian citizen, legal representative of the goods, was arrested.

<http://www.policiaecuador.gob.ec/operacion-dia-de-reyes-impide-que-37-kilos-de-cocaina-lleguen-a-europa/>

09.01.2019 Ecuadorian National Police agents, through the National Drug Enforcement Administration and the Drug Enforcement Unit (UIAN), in cooperation with the DEA and the US Coast Guard, conducted an operation called Fortaleza in the territorial sea of Ecuador. As a result, **802 kg of cocaine hydrochloride** intended for shipment to Mexico and Central America were seized. On suspicion of involvement in smuggling was arrested a citizen of Ecuador. As part of the same work, on January 8, 2019, officers of the Drug Enforcement Unit (UIAN) in cooperation with the DEA in an international operation coordinated with the Latvian police, prevented smuggling **2 tons 199 kg of cocaine** into Europe. During a raid on a farm-type building which functioned as a drug collection center, several boxes with the names "SENUKAI" and boxes with bananas "BLUE HOUSE" were found, which contained 2199 packages of cocaine with the logos "DELFIN", "BAD BOYS", "GOLD", "TNT".

<https://www.ecuavisa.com/articulo/noticias/actualidad/447306-decomisan-letonia-droga-procedente-ecuador>

THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

08.01.2019 As a result of a joint investigation of an organized crime case in Hawks, Port Elizabeth, conducted by the Directorate of Priority Crime Investigation (HAWKS) of the South African Police Service with the assistance of Interpol, the Criminal Intelligence Service, the Border Guard Service, the South African Revenue Service, the Center for Criminal Records, Customs, TRT, the Port Security Service, in the Kuga Bay on board a ship arriving from Brazil, found and seized **706 kg of cocaine**. Ship with illegal cargo was going to the final destination in India, stopping at the port of Singapore.

<https://www.saps.gov.za/newsroom/msspeechdetail.php?nid=18755>