CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY
(based on mass media reports)

18.02-24.02.2019 № 8

THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

20.02.2019 From a signal device in the service area of an outpost near the village of Zakhmetabad, Jalilabad district, in the area of responsibility of the border guard detachment "Gektepe" of the border guards of the SBS, a signal was received about violation of the state border. On “hot pursuit” border post found traces of a person moving from Iran to Azerbaijan. As a result of complex operational and investigative measures taken by the Interior Ministry officers together with the Jalilabad regional department of the State Security Service, a resident of the village of Uzuntepe of the Jalilabad region, who was trying to import narcotic substances from Iran to Azerbaijan, was detained. 4.44 kg of heroin, 1.925 kg of hashish, as well as a night vision device were found on a garden plot in the village of Kovuzbulag, Jalilabad district. As a result of further activities, a drug seller, resident of the Jalilabad region, was detained. 

http://vzglyad.az/news/130705/%D0%9F%D1%80%D0%B5%D1%81%D0%B5%D1%87%D0%B5%D0%BD%D0%B0-%D0%BF%D0%BE%D0%BF%D1%8B%D1%82%D0%BA%D0%B0-%D0%B2%D0%BE%D0%B7%D0%B0-%D0%BD%D0%BA%D0%BE%D1%82%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%BF%D0%BE%D0%BF.html

20.02.2019 Officers of SBS in the Yardimli district detained a 25-year-old resident of Masalli district in an attempt to smuggle drugs across the state border. During a personal search, 1.72 kg of heroin was seized from him. The detainee's accomplice managed to escape in the forest. Also on the territory of the village of Vel of Lankaran district, Coast Guard officers found 1,085 kg of heroin hidden in bushes. 

https://haqqin.az/news/145334

21.02.2019 Officers of the State Customs Committee of Azerbaijan at the customs station "Astara" in the Astara region at the entrance of the Renault truck into the territory of Azerbaijan detained a citizen of Ukraine who was transporting a consignment of raisin from the Iranian city of Malayer to Odessa. As a result of inspection activities with participation of canine service 54 packs of heroin were found in the vehicle, with a total weight of more than 28 kg. Investigation is underway. 


THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

18.02.2019 Officers of UKON UMVD of Russia in the Penza region detained 17 members of a criminal group aged from 18 to 34 years engaged in distribution of amphetamine-type stimulants (ATS) in a contactless way. The police seized about 5 kg of ATS. Part of the drug was found at the place of residence of the suspects. Several criminal cases have been initiated into the illegal sale of drugs. 

https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15880122

18.02.2019 Officers of the OMVD of Russia in the city of Michurinsk of the Tambov region detained a 27-year-old local resident who, in the interests of an online store, through social
networks in a non-contact way marketed drugs. During a personal search, synthetic cannabinoids “spice” weighing about 30 g were found and seized from the suspect. It was established that the suspect rented an apartment where he kept and packed up bags of prohibited substances for subsequent sale. When inspecting the place of residence of the person involved, a narcotic drug N-methylephedron weighing 331.66 g and 245.67 g of synthetic hashish were found. A criminal case was instituted on this fact. https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15879275

19.02.2019 Officers of the UKON GU of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the Novosibirsk region stopped activities of a group of people suspected of selling drugs. The group consisted of two local residents - a 22-year-old young man and his 45-year-old mother. The woman corresponded with potential customers, as well as stored and packed drugs. Her son, who was a courier, equipped caches with wholesale quantities of drugs on the streets of Novosibirsk. In total, 938 g of mephedrone were confiscated. https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15890404

20.02.2019 Officers of UKON GU of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia for the Voronezh region detained a 32-year-old resident of the Moscow region, in whose car as well as in a cache equipped by him, more than 4 kg of drugs of synthetic origin were found and collected. The sale of narcotic drugs was carried out through equipment of caches using electronic payment systems and the Internet. On this fact, a criminal case was initiated. https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15905989

21.02.2019 Officers of UKON UMVD of Russia for the Kaluga region in Kaluga detained a 41-year-old local resident who prepared for the sale in a contactless way through stashes a large shipment of narcotic drugs. During searches, the criminal was found to have more than 1.5 kg of N-methylephedron, hashish, marijuana and other drugs of synthetic origin and packaging materials. Investigation is underway. https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15923603

21.02.2019 Officers of UMVD of Russia for the city of Rostov-on-Don, Rostov region, detained a 25-year-old local resident on suspicion of drug trafficking. The suspect worked as a drug courier, posted information on sale of drugs on one of the Internet websites. During a personal search and during a search at the suspect’s place of residence, more than 500 g of marijuana and “mushrooms” (psilocin) as well as 160 doses of LSD were seized. Investigation is underway. https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15931017

22.02.2019 Officers of UMVD of Russia for the city of Rostov-on-Don of the Rostov region received lead on a supply of a large consignment of drugs into the regional center. A 27-year-old resident of Veliky Novgorod, who was subsequently detained and taken to police department, came under suspicion. During a personal search in a backpack, about 4 kg of mephedrone and MDMA (Ecstasy) were found and seized from the suspect. The detainee explained that he had brought drugs for the purpose of further marketing through the system of caches. A criminal case was initiated against the suspect. https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15941890

22.02.2019 The FSB of Russia investigated and dismantled activities of an international criminal gang including citizens of Russia and Ukraine engaged in production of drugs. Six members of the organized group involved in production and marketing of large quantities of
narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances were detained red-handed in the Tver region. Also, activities of three drug laboratories with equipment worth more than 3 million rubles (over 45 thousand US dollars) were stopped, more than 5 kg of narcotic and psychotropic substances, about 600 kg of ingredients and chemical reagents used in production of drugs worth 20 million rubles were seized. Deliveries of components for production of prohibited substances were carried out from the territory of Ukraine.

https://www.vesti.ru/doc.html?id=3119246

**THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN**

**25.02.2019** The State Security Service of Uzbekistan in the south of the country detained 7 people suspected of organizing supply and sale of psychotropic drugs. Operatives in the Kashkadarya region stopped criminal activities of people of Uzbekistan engaged in storage and sale of prohibited drugs. 60 thousand tablets of tramadol were seized, with a total worth of 91.5 million soums (about 11 thousand US dollars).


**OTHER COUNTRIES**

**AUSTRALIA**

**22.02.2019** Agents of the Australian Federal Police (AFP) with assistance of the Police of Western Australia in the course of investigating activities of an Australian arm of an international drug trafficking syndicate executed a search warrant in Silver Sands and Meadow Springs, resulting in confiscation of 650 thousand dollars in cash and 1 kg of cocaine. Three suspects were arrested in Mandurah - men aged 23, 26 and 46.


**BELGIUM**

**19.02.2019** During a special operation against transnational drug trafficking organizations in the Colombian Caribbean, in the port of Antwerp with the assistance of the Costa Rican Drug Control Police and coordination of Colombian Navy 92.4 kg of cocaine hydrochloride were confiscated. Authorities of Belgium, when viewed in the terminal of a merchant ship "Dole Asia" under the flag of the Bahamas, found a consignment of cocaine hidden in the hold of the ship. It departed from Uraba Bay to Europe, cocaine was intended for sale on the European market. Worth of the consignment on the international black market is about 6 million Euros.

http://hsbnoticias.com/noticias/judicial/fue-incautado-en-belgica-cargamento-de-cocaina-que-salio-pro-501809

**BRAZIL**

**19.02.2019** Customs agents of the Federal Revenue Service in the port of Santos stopped an attempt to smuggle 684 kg of cocaine abroad. A drug consignment was contained in 23 packages and was placed in large bags with a substance (alumina-based mineral). Destination of the cargo was the port of Antwerp (Belgium). Customs officers have chosen to inspect the goods as a result of risk analysis based on specific criteria, including use of a
container scanning method. An audit was conducted with involvement of dog service. Criminals used the method when drug is placed in a commercial cargo without knowledge of exporters and importers. Cocaine shipment was delivered to Santos Federal Police Station, which is investigating the case.


**THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC**

**24.02.2019** The National Drug Control Directorate (DNCD) with the support of the military security division of the multi-functional Kausedo port and other special services coordinated by the government ministry, seized **91.81 kg of cocaine**. DNCD officials, accompanied by staff from other agencies located in the port as well as canine units as a result of searching several containers found 89 packs of cocaine in one of them. It was assumed that the shipment would be transported to Puerto Rico in a container loaded with empty plastic bottles. [http://www.dncd.gob.do/index.php/noticias/item/dncd-decomisa-91-kilos-de-cocaina-en-puerto-murtimodal-caucedo](http://www.dncd.gob.do/index.php/noticias/item/dncd-decomisa-91-kilos-de-cocaina-en-puerto-murtimodal-caucedo)

**COSTA RICA**

**18.02.2019** Drug control police (PCD) in Puerto Caldera, Puntarenas province, during an inspection conducted by authorities of the Ministry of Public Security (Ministerio de Seguridad Pública (MSP)) found **202 kg of cocaine** in a banana container. A shipment of bananas was delivered from Ecuador, the final destination was Guatemala. Cocaine packs contained a bitcoin virtual currency symbol used for electronic transactions around the world. [https://www.crhoy.com/nacionales/incautan-202-kilos-de-cocaina-en-contenedor-de-banano/](https://www.crhoy.com/nacionales/incautan-202-kilos-de-cocaina-en-contenedor-de-banano/)

**MEXICO**

**19.02.2019** Soldiers of the Mexican Army seized more than 2 tons of methamphetamine, cocaine, heroin, fentanyl and marijuana during individual security operations in the border states of Sonoran and Lower California. Seizures led to one arrest. The first incident occurred in the Second Military District near Ensenada. The military found a truck on a dirt road in the area of La Calendura, inside of which 1366 plastic containers were found containing **902.38 kg of methamphetamine**, **2 kg of heroin**, **17 052 tablets of fentanyl** and **481.13 kg of marijuana**. The total weight of drugs was 1 ton 384.82 kg. Also they found four portable radios and ammunition. During the second operation, the military at a military checkpoint in Querobaby, Sonora, stumbled upon a Freightliner truck owned by Transportes Vega. The checkpoint is located 100 miles south of Nogales, Arizona (USA). During inspection of the vehicle officers found **631 packages of methamphetamine, weighing 508.93 kg, 6.49 kg of cocaine and 7.98 kg of heroin**. [https://www.breitbart.com/border/2019/02/19/mexican-army-seizes-2-tons-of-meth-fentanyl-near-u-s/](https://www.breitbart.com/border/2019/02/19/mexican-army-seizes-2-tons-of-meth-fentanyl-near-u-s/)

**20.02.2019** Mexican Navy off the Pacific coast of the country seized more than **630 kg of cocaine**. As a result of pursuit using a Black Hawk naval helicopter, a naval boat with four powerful outboard engines was blocked by the Navy off the coast of Sinaloa. On board were 15 crew members, of whom eight were citizens of Ecuador, four from Colombia and three from Mexico. Following discovery of cocaine consignment, the boat’s crew was detained.
MYANMAR

21.02.2019 Officers of joint anti-drug group of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in the village of Momouk, Kachin State, stopped a passenger car en route from Leuvier to Momouk. During inspection of the vehicle, more than 900 g of heroin were found and seized. The drug was inside a specially equipped cache in the back of the car. In addition, members of the anti-drug group in Teinni, Shan State, stopped a car en route from the border town of Muza to the city of Mandalay. During inspection of baggage of three passengers, 3.3 kg of heroin were discovered. Along with heroin, 42,000 stimulant pills were found and confiscated. Police in both districts sued perpetrators in accordance with the National Law on Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. Case is currently under investigation. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-02/21/c_137839978.htm

KENYA

22.02.2019 Police in the Westlands arrested a well-known drug dealer and seized 5 kg of heroin. The man is suspected of importing from Kampala (Uganda) to Nairobi, a large quantity of heroin on a bus. Drug trafficker is part of a larger heroin distribution network in Nairobi, he regularly bought drugs from a Nigerian national based in Kampala. https://citizentv.co.ke/news/anti-drug-abuse-campaigner-arrested-with-5-kilos-of-heroin-in-nairobi-232833/

NEPAL

21.02.2019 A Macawanpur Provincial Police Department (DSP) group raided a house belonging to a 43-year-old resident of the Kailash municipality of the Macawanpur district, which resulted in 273 kg of hashish and 190 kg of marijuana seizure. In connection with the involvement in this crime, a resident of the municipality of Gadjuri, Dadin was apprehended. https://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/2-arrested-in-possession-of-hashish-marijuana/

THE NETHERLANDS

22.02.2019 2.4 tons of cocaine were confiscated by agents of the Federal Police in the port of Rotterdam. This is the fourth time a large shipment of cocaine has been confiscated since October 2018, when drugs were found hidden in containers loaded with fruit shipped from the port of Natal. A week earlier, 3.3 tons of cocaine were seized at the Potiguar (Brazil) sea terminal. The international maritime route of drugs from the port of Natal (Brazil) to Rotterdam (the Netherlands) was discovered by the Federal Police last week after the discovery of drugs in the Brazilian port of Natal. Due to confiscation in Natal, the export of goods and products to Europe has been suspended. https://g1.globo.com/rn/rio-grande-do-norte/noticia/2019/02/22/rota-da-cocaina-natal-holanda-tem-nova-apreensao-e-volume-passa-de-10-toneladas-em-4-meses-diz-receita-federal.ghtml

USA

19.02.2019 US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in Lukville, Arizona, arrested a 23-year-old Mexican citizen in an attempt to smuggle large amounts of drugs into the United States. Officers sent a Mercedes SUV driven by a woman to re-check. As a result of
inspection activities, **5.44 kg of methamphetamine and 453 g of heroin** were found in the intake manifold of the vehicle. Worth of seized drugs exceeds 70 thousand US dollars. The female drug trafficker has been transferred to the US Homeland Security Investigations. Drugs and vehicle were confiscated.


**20.02.2019** The US Customs and Border protection (CBP) arrested a 19-year-old Mexican citizen in the port of Nogales, Arizona for attempting to smuggle a large shipment of drugs. CBP agents sent a Dodge truck driven by a young man for further inspection. As a result of inspections using a service dog, customs officers focused on the engine compartment. Inside the intake manifold, 12 packages containing more than **680 g of methamphetamine**, worth over 5 thousand US dollars and about **2.5 kg of heroin** in the amount of 150 thousand US dollars, were found. Drugs and truck were confiscated. Drug trafficker was arrested and transferred to the US Homeland Security Investigations. [https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/nogales-cbp-officers-arrest-hard-drug-smuggler#](https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/nogales-cbp-officers-arrest-hard-drug-smuggler#)

**20.02.2019** US border patrol agents in the Rio Grande Valley sector near Fronton, Texas, seized a large shipment of marijuana worth more than 870 thousand US dollars during a day. Border agents watched as several smugglers moved north from the Rio Grande. Faced with patrol, members of the smuggling group abandoned their criminal intent, dropped drugs and escaped into neighboring Mexico. At the scene, agents found 13 bags of **marijuana weighing about 406 kg**. In addition, agents stopped three more attempts to smuggle drugs and seized more than **86.2 kg of marijuana**. [https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/rio-grande-valley-border-patrol-seizes-over-1000-pounds-marijuana](https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/rio-grande-valley-border-patrol-seizes-over-1000-pounds-marijuana)

**21.02.2019** Border patrol agents in the El Centro sector near the checkpoint on Highway 86, arrested a 30-year-old US citizen suspected of smuggling methamphetamine. As a result of vehicle inspection activities, packages containing **methamphetamine with a total weight of 21.95 kg** were found in the gas tank. Street value of the confiscated consignment is about 126 thousand US dollars. Car and drugs were confiscated and transferred to the Imperial County Narcotics Task Force (ICNTF). [https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/border-patrol-foils-attempt-smuggle-methamphetamine-within-gas-tank](https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/border-patrol-foils-attempt-smuggle-methamphetamine-within-gas-tank)

**21.02.2019** US customs and border control officers (CBP) at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL) seized **1.29 kg of cocaine** as disguised as decorative figurines found in a travel bag of a 24-year-old passenger arriving from Toncontín (Honduras). As a result of examination of the woman’s baggage with the use of equipment for non-intrusive control, specialist was able to identify anomalies on the X-ray image. At the opening of the figures, its contents were a white powdery substance that turned out to be cocaine. Worth

23.02.2019 US customs and border guard agents in South Texas confiscated large quantities of cocaine at two separate checkpoints. Kingsville agents at the Sarit checkpoint found 33 packs of cocaine hidden in a tractor trailer. The total cargo weight was more than 36.3 kg. Driver, a US citizen, was taken into custody. In the second case, customs agents at a Falfurrias checkpoint conducted a vehicle search, which resulted in discovery of more than 2.27 kg of cocaine. https://www.caller.com/story/news/crime/2019/02/19/south-texas-border-patrol-agents-seize-over-80-pounds-cocaine/2920866002/

23.02.2019 As a result of stopping a truck with semi-trailer on Interstate Highway 55 in McLean County and its further inspection, 49.9 kg of cocaine were found. Two US citizens from California aged 35 and 36 were detained. https://www.pantagraph.com/news/local/crime-and-courts/troopers-seize-m-in-cocaine-in-i--bust-rd/article_abf0b962-7af7-5000-aa9f-9df50a6bae28.html

SINGAPORE

21.02.2019 During an operation carried out by the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) in the vicinity of Jalan Bukit Kho Soo, five people suspected of crimes related to drugs were arrested. Among the detained members of a criminal group were four Singaporeans aged between 47 and 61, as well as a 28-year-old Malaysian citizen. 1.43 kg of heroin were seized in total. https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/five-suspected-drug-arrested-heroin-seized-11275380

TUNISIA

22.02.2019 Customs officers at Carthage International Airport seized 25.8 kg of marijuana hidden in food inside baggage of three passengers who arrived from Conakry International Airport (Guinea). Drug traffickers turned out to be citizens of Tunisia. Investigation is underway. http://www.china.org.cn/world/Off_the_Wire/2019-02/23/content_74495060.htm

TURKEY

22.02.2019 Turkish security forces in the eastern province of Van in the region of Baskale, during a vehicle inspection, found and seized 71.15 kg of heroin. Driver was arrested during operation. https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/more-than-70-kg-of-heroin-seized-in-eastern-turkey/1399972

PHILIPPINES

22.02.2019 Operatives of the Provincial Mobile Force Company (PMFC) from the Cebu Provincial Police Department, Balambana Police Station and the Philippines Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) Central Visayas discovered a plantation in Sitio Koo in Barangay Haas. More than 20 thousand bushes of marijuana were destroyed. Drug was owned by a local farmer who was arrested. https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1793921
**FRANCE**

**20.02.2019** Bordeaux police agents at the Central Office for Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking (OCRTIS) conducted a special operation, which resulted in the discovery of **51 kg of heroin** in the region of Saint-Charente-Maritime. Acting on behalf of Rennes Magistrate of the Interregional Specialized Jurisdiction (JIRS), the Bordeaux Criminal Police Department Criminal Case officers arrested 10 people in Charente-Maritime, Charente and Gironde. Seven of the defendants were imprisoned. Three members of a criminal group were arrested in the Netherlands and are awaiting extradition to France.  

**21.02.2019** Officers of the Central Directorate for Combating Organized Crime (OCLCO), together with regional services of the DCPJ in Tremblay-en-France (Saint-Saint-Denis), arrested 5 members of an organized group of drug traffickers who organized a supply chain for large quantities of hashish from Spain. Three criminals aged from 26 to 37 years old were detained while transporting **413 kg of hashish** on three vehicles. In addition, in the cars, investigators found a wave silencer, a police sun visor, two phones and a lot of bank plastic cards. Later, police visited a company in Aulnay-sous-Bois, where about **900 kg of hashish** were found in the trunk of two vans. Also found about 30 garbage bags containing old packaging of drugs. After examining primary packaging, investigators concluded that each package contained 200 kg of drugs, that is, in total about **6 tons** could be stored in this place. During a search in Charenton-le-Pont (Val-de-Marne) owned by a 33-year-old criminal group leader, **200 kg of hashish**, 60 thousand euros in cash, two Glock and Tokarev 7.62 mm pistols and several fake license plates were found. In total more than **1.5 tons of hashish** were seized. The fifth member of the criminal group was also arrested and an automatic pistol, 1,500 euros and 100 g of cannabis were collected from him.  
http://www.leparisien.fr/faits-divers/1-5-tonne-de-cannabis-saisie-lors-de-l-arrestation-d-un-gang-de-trafiquant-de-drogue-21-02-2019-8017698.php

**ECUADOR**

**20.02.2019** On 19 and 20 February, the National Police of Ecuador, through the National Anti-Drug Administration, in cooperation with the Regional Dog Training Center (CRAC), conducted 2 operations to combat drug trafficking. During the operation “Mixtura”, the Port and Airport Information Department (UIPA) as a result of analysis and profiling established risk profile of a container with export products (cocoa), the final destination of which was Rotterdam. As a result of inspection of the cargo container, **916.5 kg of cocaine-cocoa mixture** were found in the cargo. Arrested was a representative of the consignor company. In another operation called Exodus, agents set risk profile of a container with a cargo of frozen fish, the final destination of which was the port of Antwerp (Belgium). Inspection of the freight container revealed 491 packages containing **cocaine with a total weight of 490.02 kg** in between boxes of fish. An Ecuadorian citizen, representative of company, was detained.  
**SRI LANKA**

**24.02.2019** Anti-drug agents and police special forces in the capital of Sri Lanka, Colombo, confiscated **294.4 kg of heroin** and arrested two people. Heroin was packaged in 272 plastic bags and was found in two vans. Street value of the consignment is estimated at 22.6 million US dollars. [https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/south-asia/sri-lanka-seizes-300kg-of-heroin-worth-226-million](https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/south-asia/sri-lanka-seizes-300kg-of-heroin-worth-226-million)

**THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

**22.02.2019** The Revenue Service of South Africa at the OR Tambo Airport in Johannesburg detained a drug smuggler arriving on a flight from São Paulo (Brazil), while trying to smuggle **10.645 kg of cocaine** inside two backpacks. On this fact, a criminal case on drug smuggling and attempts to defeat the ends of justice was registered at the local police station. [https://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/gauteng/suspected-drug-mule-nabbed-with-cocaine-worth-r3m-at-or-tambo-19444731](https://www.iol.co.za/news/south-africa/gauteng/suspected-drug-mule-nabbed-with-cocaine-worth-r3m-at-or-tambo-19444731)