

FOR CENTRAL ASIAN AN REGIONAL OF NARCO INFORMATION AND COORDINATION CENTRE COMBATING THE ILLICIT NARCOTIC TRAFFICKING DRUGS, PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND THEIR PRECURSORS ЦЕНТРАЛЬНОАЗИАТСКИЙ РЕГИОНАЛЬНЫЙ ИНФОРМАЦИОННЫЙ координационный ЦЕНТР по БОРЬБЕ НЕЗАКОННЫМ ОБОРОТОМ НАРКОТИЧЕСКИХ СРЕДСТВ, ПСИХОТРОПНЫХ ВЕЩЕСТВ И их ПРЕКУРСОРОВ

Unofficial translation

# CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY

(based on mass media reports)

<u>18-24.03.2019</u>

<u>Nº 12</u>

# CARICC MEMBER STATES

## **REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

**20.03.2019** At the customs and border checkpoint "Astara" in the Astara region, a 31-yearold resident of the village of Sutamurdov of the Lankaran region died in an attempt to smuggle drugs from Iran to Azerbaijan intracavitarily. The body of the drug trafficker was transferred for examination to the Lankaran department of the Union of Forensic Medical Examination and Pathological Anatomy. An investigation into the death is underway. https://media.az/society/1067728594/azerbaydzhanec-perevozil-narkotiki-v-zheludke-no-eto-stoilo-emu-zhizni/

**23.03.2019** Officers of Agjabedi district police station on the basis of information on illicit drug trafficking carried out by three residents of the village of Avshar of the Agjabedi district and a resident of the village of Hajilar carried out an inspection of a car, as a result of which **2 kg of marijuana** were discovered and seized. During inspection of the apartment in which the two suspects lived, about **200 g of marijuana** were found and seized as well as automatic weapons and ammunition. On this fact, a criminal case was instituted, investigation is underway. <a href="https://www.trend.az/azerbaijan/incident/3036407.html">https://www.trend.az/azerbaijan/incident/3036407.html</a>

## **RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**18.03.2019** Officers of ONK of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia for the city of Tyumen detained a 23-year-old resident of Tyumen. During a search of the car on which the suspect was moving as well as at his place of residence, a psychotropic substance **amphetamine with a total weight of about 600 g** was discovered. The fact is under investigation. <u>https://xn-blaew.xn-plai/news/item/16212185</u>

**18.03.2019** The Traffic Police at the stationary traffic police station in the Bogucharsky district of the Voronezh region on 741 km of the federal highway M-4 "DON" stopped a Mercedes-Benz car driven by a 35-year-old resident of the Volgograd region. As a result of inspection of the passenger's bag, **200.74 g of amphetamine** was found and seized. https://xn--blaew.xn--plai/news/item/16214158

**19.03.2019** Officers of ONK of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia "Balashikhinskoe" of the Moscow region detained a 45-year-old resident of a foreign country on suspicion of possession of narcotic drugs and seized **more than 1 kg of methyl ephedron** during a personal search. On this fact, a criminal case was initiated. <u>https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/16232061</u>

**19.03.2019** Officers of the Department for Drug Control of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the city of Izhevsk of the Udmurt Republic on suspicion of illegal acquisition and possession of narcotic substances detained two residents of Izhevsk aged 28 and 29 who equipped an underground laboratory for production of narcotic drugs of herbal origin.



CENTRAL ASIAN REGIONAL INFORMATION AND TRAFFICKING OF NARCOTIC DRUGS, PSY FOR COORDINATION CENTRE COMBATING THE ILLICIT PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND PRECURSORS THEIR ЦЕНТРАЛЬНОАЗИАТСКИЙ РЕГИОНАЛЬНЫЙ ИНФОРМАЦИОННЫЙ координационный ПО БОРЬБЕ ЦЕНТР НЕЗАКОННЫМ ОБОРОТОМ НАРКОТИЧЕСКИХ СРЕДСТВ, ПСИХОТРОПНЫХ ВЕЩЕСТВ И их ПРЕКУРСОРОВ

During searches, more than **2.1 kg of marijuana** were found and seized as well as equipment for cultivating narcotic plants. <u>https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/16228505</u>

**19.03.2019** Officers of UNK of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the Ryazan region in the course of monitoring regional segment of the Internet revealed a proposal for sale of narcotic drugs of herbal origin. As a result of further measures, two residents of Ryazan, aged 33 and 38, were suspected of illegal cultivation, manufacture and sale of narcotic drugs. In the course of survey, **6.8 kg of marijuana, 70 g of hashish and 1.427 kg of narcotic cannabis** as well as equipment for growing selected cannabis varieties in the soil were seized from the apartments and garages occupied by the persons involved. Plants were grown in boxes equipped with a special reflective coating and heating lights. Investigation is underway. <u>https://xn-blaew.xn-plai/news/item/16236671</u>

**19.03.2019** Officers of UNK of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the Rostov region detained four residents of Rostov-on-Don and one resident of a foreign country who were engaged in illegal sale of marijuana in the territory of the Rostov region. **Over 2.5 kg of marijuana** were confiscated. <u>https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/16236939</u>

**19.03.2019** Officers of ONK of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the city of Taganrog, Rostov region, detained a 21-year-old suspect in illegal sale of drugs in a contactless way by equipping caches. In the suspect's personal car investigators found and seized "salt", "spice", hashish, marijuana, cannabis resin and amphetamine with a total weight of about 1 kg. The detainee was a courier of an online store selling prohibited substances, especially for these purposes he moved to Taganrog from another region. Investigation is underway. <a href="https://xn-blaew.xn-plai/news/item/16235523">https://xn-blaew.xn-plai/news/item/16235523</a>

**20.03.2019** Officers of UNK of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the Tomsk region in the Oktyabrsky district of the city of Tomsk detained a suspect with a **synthetic drug with a total weight of 1.247 kg** seized during a personal search and search at the place of residence. She prepared this substance for marketing through caches via the Internet information and telecommunications network. Investigation is underway. <u>https://xn--blaew.xn--plai/news/item/16246975</u>

**20.03.2019** Officers of the Main Directorate for Drug Control of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia together with their colleagues from Moscow and the FSB of Russia in Moscow and the Moscow Region suppressed illegal activities of a 29-year-old resident of the capital suspected of smuggling narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. He had been on the federal wanted list since July 2018 for committing a crime related to drug trafficking, was detained in a garage located in New Moscow while selling narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. In inspecting the garage and personal car with equipped caches, **MDMA and amphetamine with a total weight of more than 6 kg** were found. The detainee acquired drugs in the Kingdom of the Netherlands and transported through the EU countries to Moscow. He then sold large quantities to unidentified individuals. <a href="https://xn--blaew.xn--plai/news/item/16248886">https://xn--blaew.xn--plai/news/item/16248886</a>

**21.03.2019** Officers of Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia "Oktyabrsky" on a highway in the Romny district of the Amur region stopped a car run by a 32-year-old local resident who was transporting more than **6.5 kg of marijuana** in the cabin of the vehicle prepared for marketing. <u>https://xn-b1aew.xn-p1ai/news/item/16259551</u>



**21.03.2019** A 24-year-old local resident was detained by officers of the Line Police Station on Water and Air Transport in the city of Cheboksary of the Chuvash Republic, who illegally kept at the place of residence about **4 kg of drugs of synthetic origin, 200 g of hashish and more than 10 g of amphetamine** for further sale in a contactless way. On this fact, a criminal case was instituted. <u>https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/16257686</u>

**21.03.2019** Officers of UNK of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the Ulyanovsk region in Ulyanovsk detained four local residents, who were detained with several units of traumatic weapons, a hunting rifle and ammunition, as well as four packets of marijuana. In a non-residential premises on the territory of a gardening society, the suspects equipped a greenhouse in which cannabis was grown. The police found location of another drug lab located in the village of Wet Bush, where suspects were growing cannabis. In total, **50 bushes of special varieties of cannabis** were seized, the seeds for cultivation of which were purchased outside the Russian Federation. A criminal case initiated was instituted. https://xn--blaew.xn--plai/news/item/16257908

**22.03.2019** Officers of UNK of the Interior Ministry in the Chuvash Republic at the post of traffic police "Hyrkassky" in the Cheboksary district detained a 37-year-old resident of St. Petersburg suspected of drug trafficking. During inspection of his vehicle were discovered about **500 g of methadone**. The detainee served as a courier: he took large quantities of drugs in St. Petersburg and distributed by setting up caches in a number of regions of the country. During a search at the place of residence of the suspect, about **2 kg of cocaine**, **amphetamine**, **methadone and hashish** were seized. A criminal case was initiated. https://xn-blaew.xn-plai/news/item/16264945

**22.03.2019** Officers of the UNK of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in Moscow detained two natives of a state of the Transcaucasus at the age of 31 and 51, who illegally stored about **4 kg of marijuana and more than 40 kg of hashish** with intention to sell. Criminal cases were initiated against the suspects. <u>https://xn-b1aew.xn-p1ai/news/item/16262446</u>

## **REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN**

**25.03.2019** Officers of the State Customs Committee and the State Security Service stopped smuggling of drugs into Uzbekistan through Tashkent International Airport. When crossing customs border, a man who flew from abroad to Tashkent was stopped and inspected. As a result of the check, a box of chocolates was found among his personal belongings, inside which **201 g of opium** were found. A criminal case was initiated against the smuggler. <a href="https://podrobno.uz/cat/proisshestviya/no-pasaran-sotrudniki-tamozhni-i-sgb-presekli-/">https://podrobno.uz/cat/proisshestviya/no-pasaran-sotrudniki-tamozhni-i-sgb-presekli-/</a>

## **OTHER COUNTRIES**

## BRAZIL

**18.03.2019** As a result of an operation of the Federal Revenue Administration at Guarulhos Airport, four passengers were arrested for drug smuggling. During inspection, a citizen of Thailand carried 160 bracelets, which contained **5.92 kg of cocaine**. The passenger planned to go to Conakry (Guinea). In a suitcase of a citizen of Nigeria following a flight to Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), 159 packages of candy and three pairs of shoes were found, in



CENTRAL ASIAN REGIONAL INFORMATION AND TRAFFICKING OF NARCOTIC DRUGS, PS FOR COORDINATION CENTRE COMBATING THE ILLICIT PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND PRECURSORS THEIR РЕГИОНАЛЬНЫЙ ИНФОРМАЦИОННЫЙ координационный ЦЕНТР по БОРЬБЕ OFOPOTOM НАРКОТИЧЕСКИХ СРЕДСТВ, ПСИХОТРОПНЫХ их ВЕЩЕСТВ И ПРЕКУРСОРОВ

which 4.745 kg of cocaine were concealed. In two other cases, passengers from different destinations hid drugd in a similar way - in linings of nylon jackets. In the first case, bags of **1.94 kg of cocaine** were sewn into lining of garments. The baggage belonged to a Kenyan citizen who followed to Bujumbura (Burundi). In the second case, lining of two jackets was impregnated with cocaine weighing 3,792 kg. Jackets were found in a suitcase of a Nigerian citizen departing a flight to Cotonou (Benin). Four drug couriers were delivered to the Federal Police Station at the Airport. http://receita.economia.gov.br/sobre/acoes-eprogramas/acoes-da-receita-federal/noticias/2019/marco/8a-regiao-fiscal/operacao-da-receita-federal-resultana-prisao-de-quatro-passageiros-por-trafico-internacional-de-entorpecentes-no-aeroporto-de-guarulhos

**23.03.2019** Customs officers of the Federal Revenue Service in the port of Santos on the coast of São Paulo found **436 kg of high-purity cocaine**. The drug was inside guava barrels for export, which were stored in two containers in a terminal on the left bank of the dock in Guaruje, awaiting loading onto the ship Cap San Maleas heading to the Netherlands. As a result of inspection of containers using scanning method and service dogs, cocaine caches were found in five barrels. After opening the containers, 392 packages were found wrapped in strong plastic. Guava pulp, transported in containers, serves as a raw material for production of juices. Drug dealers had hidden a shipment of cocaine without the knowledge of the owner of otherwise legal consignment. <a href="https://gl.globo.com/sp/santos-regiao/porto-mar/noticia/2019/03/23/traficantes-mergulham-quase-meia-tonelada-de-cocaina-em-tambores-com-polpa-de-goiaba.ghtml">https://gl.globo.com/sp/santos-com-polpa-de-goiaba.ghtml</a>

## VENEZUELA

**21.03.2019** Bolivarian National Guard (GNB) Drug Group agents found **7,050 kg of cocaine** hidden in a wooden box with musical equipment belonging to a parcel delivery company in Maracaibo. The drug was hidden in a double bottom box and was awaiting shipment to Pennsylvania (USA). Case was transferred to State Ministry. https://theworldnews.net/ve-news/gnb-localiza-7-050-kilogramos-de-cocaina-dentro-de-una-caja-en-empresa-de-encomiendas-en-maracaibo

## VIETNAM

**20.03.2019** More than **300 kg of methamphetamine** were seized and confiscated by officers from the Drug Crime Investigation Department of the Ministry of Public Security during a joint operation with a special unit of the Southern Border Guard Service, Ho Chi Minh City Police and police from the Central Highlands Dak Nong in a mansion in the Binh Tan residential area. The mansion was used as a shelter and warehouse for a drug gang. 11 drug dealers, citizens of Laos, China and Vietnam, were detained, a pickup vehicle used to transport a consignment of methamphetamine was seized.

https://e.vnexpress.net/news/news/vietnam-s-one-ton-meth-bust-was-a-five-month-operation-3899537.html

## **KENYA**

**21.03.2019** Police officers in Mombasa detained a businessman in whose car a plastic bag with **1 kg of heroin** was found. Investigation into this fact is carried out by the Office of Criminal Investigations Mombasa. <u>https://www.nation.co.ke/counties/mombasa/Mombasa-trader-arrested-with-15kg-of-heroin/1954178-5037708-dr3nko/</u>



22.03.2019 Buenaventura Anti-Drug Police agents found 1.5 tons of cocaine hidden in iron molds inside five containers carrying scrap for export from the port of Buenaventura to the port of Antwerp (Belgium). The cargo arrived in the port city of Manizales, in the Caldas department. A consignment of cocaine was hidden inside 774 iron forms, covered with a lead plate, to avoid detection by a scanner, and lubricant to prevent dogs from detecting it. Value of the consignment of cocaine is estimated at \$ 93 million. In another operation, 97 kg of marijuana, two sets of snorkeling equipment and four oxygen cylinders were found in a small boat. Anti-Drug Police agents also found **cocaine** bags with a total weight of **115 kg** in two containers intended for shipment to the port of Paita (Peru).

INFORMATION

DRUGS,

РЕГИОНАЛЬНЫЙ ИНФОРМАЦИОННЫЙ

ASIAN REGIONAL G OF NARCO

NARCOTIC

AND

НЕЗАКОННЫМ ОБОРОТОМ НАРКОТИЧЕСКИХ СРЕДСТВ, ПСИХОТРОПНЫХ ВЕЩЕСТВ И ИХ

COORDINATION

PSYCHOTROPIC

FOR

AND

COMBATING

ЦЕНТР

THEIR

THE

по

ILLICIT

БОРЬБЕ

PRECURSORS

ПРЕКУРСОРОВ

CENTRE

координационный

SUBSTANCES

https://www.elpais.com.co/judicial/incautan-tonelada-y-media-de-cocaina-en-buenaventura-gue-seria-enviadaa-belgica.html

#### MALTA

**20.03.2019** During an inspection, customs officers in the port of Malta using the scanning method of four refrigerated containers with a load of fruits selected by controlling group because of their high risk, three of them were found to have hidden packaging in the refrigerant compressor compartments and one behind the lining of an internal compartment. The containers were transported through Malta from South America on the way to a EU state. Total found were **240 packs of cocaine weighing 288 kg**.

https://www.timesofmalta.com/mobile/articles/view/20190319/local/324-million-worth-of-cocaine-hauled-bycustoms.705032

## MOROCCO

20.03.2019 Officers of the Moroccan General Directorate for National Security (DGSN) in Tangier seized 80 kg of cocaine and 6915 tramadol tablets. Police arrested two suspects involved in the drug trade. The operation was carried out in the framework of this case led to the seizure of a large amount of money in dirhams derived from the drug trade, as well as from a car. Police placed suspects in custody for further investigation. https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2019/03/268548/police-cocaine-tangier-psychotropic-tablets/

## THE NETHERLANDS

**12.03.2019** Customs agents in IJsselmeydenen during an inspection of a container with a load of bananas found 124 kg of cocaine. The container came from South America. The drugs were inside four sports bags, and were seized and destroyed. Street value of the cargo is estimated at 3 million euros. Investigation is conducted by the National Prosecutor's Office in Rotterdam. https://www.fiod.nl/douane-vindt-124-kilo-cocaine-tussen-bakbananen/

## PAKISTAN

20.03.2019 The Anti-Drug Force (ANF) arrested a drug dealer and seized 9 kg of heroin during an operation in Peshawar, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Police is investigating this case. https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2019/03/20/drug-pusher-held-with-9kg-heroin-in-peshawar/



**22.03.2019** Special units for port control together with the National Aviation Service and canine unit in Balboa, Rodman, in a container with bags of coffee from Nicaragua found 13 bags of cocaine with a total weight of about 492 kg. The final destination of the goods was listed Belgium. The search and seizure of the container were carried out in consultation with the Panama Drug Control.

INFORMATION

DRUGS,

НЕЗАКОННЫМ ОБОРОТОМ НАРКОТИЧЕСКИХ СРЕДСТВ, ПСИХОТРОПНЫХ

РЕГИОНАЛЬНЫЙ ИНФОРМАЦИОННЫЙ

AND

COORDINATION

PSYCHOTROPIC

FOR

AND

ВЕЩЕСТВ

COMBATING

ЦЕНТР

THEIR

и их

THE

по

ILLICIT

БОРЬБЕ

PRECURSORS

ПРЕКУРСОРОВ

CENTRE

координационный

SUBSTANCES

http://www.aeronaval.gob.pa/default.asp?aid=noticias&n=articulos-noticias-2019-20190322b.html

ASIAN REGIONAL G OF NARCO

NARCOTIC

#### PARAGUAY

15.03.2019 Officers of the Drug Enforcement Department (SENAD) at Silvio Pettirossi Airport as a result of risk profile analysis of goods to be shipped to Europe found 9,254 kg of cocaine in boxes with commercial cargo of nebulizers and bicycle wheels. The destination of the order was listed Madrid (Spain). http://www.senad.gov.py/articulo/13806detectan-cocaina-en-ruedas-de-bicicleta-y-nebulizadores-que-iban-como-encomienda-a-espana.html

#### USA

15.03.2019 As part of an investigation into a gang, Brockton, Massachusetts police agents executed a search warrant for a car Accura Cabral, resulting in 423 g of fentanyl and 87 q of cocaine being discovered and seized. An 18-year-old Brockton resident was arrested on drug trafficking charges. https://patch.com/massachusetts/brockton/brockton-state-police-seize-over-500-grams-fentanyl-cocaine

19.03.2019 Several agencies, including the Philadelphia Police, the Pennsylvania State Police, the Delaware State Police, the Department of Homeland Security, the DEA, the Coast Guard, Customs and US Border Protection in a container ship in the port of Philadelphia aboard the MSC Colombia to Europe found 450 kg of cocaine. Market value of the consignment is estimated at \$ 18 million. Case was transferred to Homeland Security Investigations. https://www.nbcphiladelphia.com/news/local/Cocaine-Drug-Bust-Port-of-Philadelphia-Kilograms-Street-Value--507372651.html

19.03.2019 A 31-year-old man from Providence, Rhode Island, has been arrested by agents of the DEA. When a drug dealer was detained, as well as during a search of his apartment, more than 2 kg of fentanyl, 400 g of heroin, \$ 2,000 in cash, as well as various materials for packaging and distribution of drugs were seized. The substance is investigated in the laboratory of the DEA to determine its composition. The man was expected to be paid 115,000 dollars for drug delivery.

http://www.abc6.com/story/40166850/providence-man-arrested-on-federal-charges-over-two-kilograms-offentanyl-seized

20.03.2019 Agents of the Santa Monica Police Department of California as a result of execution of a search warrant in a house in Santa Monica found and confiscated 260 g of fentanyl, 71 g of cocaine and \$ 12,000 in cash. Two Santa Monica residents aged 33 and 36 were arrested on suspicion of possession of drugs for sale. Nationwide, fentanyl has become the leading cause of drug overdose deaths among drug users.

https://ktla.com/2019/03/20/40k-worth-of-fentanyl-7k-in-cocaine-seized-from-santa-monica-home-man-andwoman-arrested/



21.03.2019 Customs, Anti-smuggling and Intelligence officers conducted fieldwork in the Hamzabeyli customs area of the northwestern Edirne province. In an attempt to smuggle on the exit line of trucks waiting to cross the Turkish-Bulgarian border, about 8.881 kg of **cocaine** were found and seized in a passenger's baggage. Drug trafficker was arrested and imprisoned by Edirne court.

INFORMATION

DRUGS,

НЕЗАКОННЫМ ОБОРОТОМ НАРКОТИЧЕСКИХ СРЕДСТВ, ПСИХОТРОПНЫХ

РЕГИОНАЛЬНЫЙ ИНФОРМАЦИОННЫЙ

AND

COORDINATION

PSYCHOTROPIC

FOR

AND

ВЕЩЕСТВ

COMBATING

ЦЕНТР

И

THEIR

их

THE

по

ILLICIT

БОРЬБЕ

PRECURSORS

ПРЕКУРСОРОВ

CENTRE

координационный

SUBSTANCES

https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/nearly-9-kg-of-cocaine-seized-in-nw-turkey/1425091

AN REGIONAL

NARCOTIC

ASIAN

## UKRAINE

**20.03.2019** The SBU Office in the Odessa region, together with the Prosecutor's Office, the National Police, the State Border Service and the GFS Odessa Customs, has eliminated a large distribution channel of cocaine from the Ecuadorian sea. When carrying out inspection activities in respect of cargoes transported from regions of the world that are traditional drug producers, an attempt to transport **257 kg of cocaine** in a container with bananas imported into Ukraine was prevented in the port of Odessa. Total found were 220 packs of cocaine. Market value of the consignment is more than 51 million US dollars. Drugs were intended for countries of the European Union. SBU started criminal proceedings. https://112.ua/obshchestvo/sbu-perekryla-kanal-transportirovki-kokaina-iz-odnoy-iz-stran-yuzhnoy-ameriki-484810.html

**21.03.2019** Officers of the Office for Combating Customs Offenses and International Cooperation of Kiev Customs in cooperation with the Security Service of Ukraine at the checkpoint of the Boryspil airport prevented a smuggling of **3.5 kg of cocaine** into Ukraine. Drug trafficker, a citizen of Ukraine arrived from Panama through Germany, the drug was intended for Israel. Drug bags were located in a specially made cache in the double bottom of the bag. Customs officers filled out a protocol on violation of customs regulations. Materials of the case were revoked by the SBU in the framework of criminal process. The Security Service of Ukraine and Israeli law enforcement authorities conducted an international controlled delivery on this fact. http://sfs.gov.ua/media-tsentr/mitni-novini/372275.html

21.03.2019 Officers of the Main Directorate for Combating Corruption and Organized Crime of the SBU stopped activity of the largest drug lab in the history of Ukraine. Organizers of drug production produced and sold narcotic substances on a large scale in Ukraine and abroad. During searches in a private house in Kiev, equipment for manufacture of drugs was seized as well as over 10 kg of alpha-PVP, 5 kg of mephedrone, over 5 kg of amphetamine. Market value of seized drugs is more than 20 million hryvnia. It was established that the indicated house was used, in addition to the drug lab, as a warehouse for an illegal online drug store, through which prohibited substances were sold. The web resource was in the dark network of Internet connections Darknet. During a search, three members of the drug group were detained. Criminal proceedings were initiated into illegal production, manufacture and sale of narcotic drugs. https://www.rbc.ua/rus/news/sbu-razoblachilakrupneyshuyu-istorii-ukrainy-1553161382.html

21.03.2019 The Security Service of Ukraine together with the General Directorate for Combating Corruption and Organized Crime coordinated by the General Prosecutor's Office conducted a special operation to arrest leaders of a major international criminal group specializing in drug trafficking in Ukraine and the CIS countries. It was established that the



group consisted of about a thousand people. There was an extensive network, welldeveloped security measures for this grouping and very strict conspiracy rules. The group called "Khimprom", which, according to law enforcement agencies of Ukraine was created by citizens of the Russian Federation and initially worked in Russia. After mass arrests of members of this group in Russia in 2017, its leaders left the Russian Federation, reorganized and began their activities in Ukraine. A daily turnover of this organization from the sale of various synthetic drugs was about 200 million rubles. During searches a wide range of psychotropic and narcotic substances were found. Money from the sale of drugs accumulated in cryptocurrency accounts and electronic wallets. Further, the cryptocurrency was turned to cash using electronic mobile points, after which they were legalized. More than 100 investigative actions were conducted on the territory of Kiev and the Kiev region, as well as in the Kherson, Nikolaev, and Odessa regions, including more than 80 searches, in which drugs, money, valuables, gold bars, jewelry worth more than 5 million US dollars were seized from participants in organized crime groups. Officers detained 20 active members of this organization. A number of participants in the criminal organization are outside Ukraine. The organization had the strictest level of discipline, for any violation of the established rules of conspiracy, conduct, unauthorized contacts or the use of personal mobile phones at workplaces, specially trained members of the criminal group came and cut off fingers of members who committed these violations. https://www.obozrevatel.com/crime/paveldemchina-raskryil-detali-unikalnoj-operatsii-v-ukraine-razoblachili-krupnyih-mezhdunarodnyihnarkotorgovtsev.htm

#### PHILIPPINES

**21.03.2019** A combined force led by the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) in Barangay Tungkai and the southwestern city of Cebu located in the Central Visayi region discovered marijuana plantations. In total, about **10,000 marijuana plants** were found and destroyed. Growing and using marijuana in the country remains illegal under the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1797933/Cebu/Local-News/PDEA-seizes-P34-M-marijuana-in-Toledo-City

**23.03.2019** The Bureau of Customs (BOC) and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) in the Manila International Container Port (MICP) suppressed smuggling of **276 kg of methamphetamine** (Shabou). The drug was contained inside packages sealed in foil under the guise of a tea product, which were contained in 12 bags. The bags were inside a container that arrived in Manila North Harbor from Vietnam. The consignment was confiscated and handed over to the PDEA for investigation. The seizure came as a result of international cooperation and intelligence sharing with colleagues from Vietnam, in which the PDEA received information that a container on board the ship Callao Bridge V145E from Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam) arrived in Manila with a large shipment of drugs. http://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1065417

#### FIJI

**22.03.2019** Military personnel of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Fiji in the deep waters of Fiji during a two-week dive, at a depth of 50 m in Lomaiviti, discovered an underwater repeater (transporter) used by members of criminal organizations to deliver drugs to Fiji. A transponder is a device that, after receiving a radio signal, emits another signal in response. The device was installed at the place of import and export of drugs in



order to warn drug dealers about the coordinates of the drugs thrown into the water. The device was first delivered to the Military Police and then sent abroad for research. A few days after the discovery of the transponder, Police obtained information about a yacht seen in the area. <u>https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/law-order/452439-tn-govts-cash-assistance-for-poor-families-stopped-in-view-of-mcc-ahead-of-polls</u>

### MONTENEGRO

**16.03.2019** In the course of coordinated actions of officers of the Customs Administration, the Police Directorate and the Public Prosecutor's Office in Podgorica, **31.5 kg of cocaine** were discovered hidden in a special part of the container that arrived in the port of Bar from abroad. Cocaine was detected using a systemic risk analysis. Street value of seized cocaine in the drug market is about 2.5 million euros.

http://www.upravacarina.gov.me/vijesti/197282/Zajednicko-saopstenje-Luka-Bar-Carinski-i-policijski-sluzbeniciu-koodinaciji-sa-VDT-otkrili-31-5-kg-kokaina-vrijednosti-2-5-mil.html?alphabet=cyr