

CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY

(based on mass media reports)

15-21.07.2019

№ 29

CARICC MEMBER STATES

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

21.07.2019 A local resident was detained by officers of Anti-Narcotics Division of the Binagadi District Police Department of Baku and **82.189 g of methamphetamine** prepared for further sale were found and seized from her. <https://zerkalo.az/v-baku-zaderzhana-narkotorgovka/>

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

17.07.2019 Officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the city of Rudnyi and Fedorovsky district of Kostanai region dismantled an organized criminal group (OCG) that was selling drugs in the region. The organized crime group consisted of 10 members. **400 g of heroin** were seized. In addition, 3.5 million tenge and 6.5 thousand U.S. dollars were seized as well as gold items and 5 vehicles by which the suspects were moving. Pre-trial investigation is being conducted in respect of the organizers and members of the criminal group. <https://kursiv.kz/news/obschestvo/2019-07/u-narkodilerov-v-kostanayskoy-oblasti-izyali-pyat-mashin-i-6-mln-tenge>

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

16.07.2019 Officers of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs UNK in the Tver region in Rzhev detained three young men from neighboring countries aged 19 to 22 years, suspected in sale of drugs. About **600 grams of heroin** were seized prepared for contactless sale in Rzhev and Tver. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/17591236>

16.07.2019 Illegal actions of four suspects in trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in the Tula region were stopped by officers of UNK of Department of Internal Affairs of Russia. More than 500 caches, scales and packaging materials with the logo of an online store were seized. In addition to ready-made stashes, more than **500 grams** of unpackaged various narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, such as **amphetamine, hashish, marijuana, "ecstasy", mephedrone and LSD**, were seized. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/17587277>

19.07.2019 An interregional drug courier was detained in Tyumen by officers of UNK of Department of Internal Affairs of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs for the Tyumen region, whose duties included equipping drug caches in the territory of various constituent entities of the Russian Federation. The man delivered drugs from the Moscow region to Ufa, Chelyabinsk, Perm, Yekaterinburg and Tyumen for further sale. More than **3.4 kg of synthetic narcotic drugs** and **more than 400 g of psychotropic substance** were found and seized during personal searches and searches of place of residence. In total,



more than **4 kg of illicit substances** were seized from caches equipped in various cities of the Tyumen region. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/17629776>

22.07.2019 Officers of the Russian Interior Ministry's Volgograd region Department of Internal Affairs UNK detained two Central Asian citizens suspected of drug trafficking. During a personal search, **983 grams of heroin** prepared for sale were seized from them. The drug was brought from another region and was intended to be sold in a contactless manner on the territory of Volgograd and Volzhsky. A criminal case was initiated against the suspects. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/17643902>

22.07.2019 Officers of the Main Directorate for Combating Trafficking in Drugs of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation together with their colleagues from UNK of the Main Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation for the Samara region detained a local resident and a citizen of one of neighboring countries, suspected of creating an extensive network for distribution of synthetic drugs in the Central and Volga Federal Districts of Russia. In garage boxes they equipped a drug lab as well as a place for storage and packaging drugs. More than **20 kg of synthetic drugs and more than 120 kg of precursors** were seized as well as laboratory equipment. Orders were received through an online shop. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/17651487>

22.07.2019 A 19-year-old resident of Moscow suspected of illegal sale of psychotropic substances was detained by the Russian Interior Ministry in Solnechnogorsk district of Moscow region, and more than **300 grams of amphetamine** were seized from him during a personal search. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/17648992>

OTHER COUNTRIES

AUSTRALIA

15.07.2019 384 kg of cocaine were seized in a joint operation by the New South Wales Police, the National Anti-Gang Squad (AFP) and the Australian Border Force (ABF). Previously, police received information about a drug trafficking syndicate operating in southern New South Wales and smuggling drugs. In June, Australian Border Force (ABF) officers intercepted an excavator that had arrived from South Africa. At the Sydney Container Research Centre, an X-ray examination of the excavator revealed that a large quantity of drugs had been concealed inside the excavator. Street value of the seized consignment is estimated at 144 million US dollars. The persons involved in the crime were subsequently established. As a result of controlled delivery, two men aged 33 and 34 from Karabakh were arrested for involvement in smuggling. <https://newsroom.abf.gov.au/releases/joint-operation-sees-384kg-of-cocaine-seized-two-charged>

BRAZIL

15.07.2019 Police in Ermelino Matarazzo, located in the eastern part of São Paulo, confiscated about **50 kg of cocaine paste** hidden in boxes of laundry detergent, partially sold to occasional customers at a local supermarket. Buyers found drug packages after purchasing them when they opened detergent boxes. One customer returned to the store and reported the discovery. Another reported the discovery to police. A total of 40 boxes of

Tixan Ypê detergent containing about 50 kg of cocaine paste were found. The supermarket manager was arrested and three other suspects detained.

https://www.newsweek.com/cocaine-laundry-detergent-smuggling-brazil-1449699?piano_t=1

UNITED KINGDOM

19.07.2019 Customs officers at Wekford discovered **35 kg of cocaine** in a semi-trailer registered in Ireland carrying eight horses and carrying a ferry from Cherbourg, France. Value of the seized drugs is estimated at €2.5 million. A 40-year-old Irishman was detained on suspicion of committing this crime. <https://www.irishexaminer.com/breakingnews/ireland/-/938101.html>

GREECE

15.07.2019 At Athens International Airport a 50-year-old Canadian citizen was arrested for smuggling **6.1 kg of heroin** concealed in his luggage. The drug courier arrived in Athens on a flight from Lahore, Pakistan, via Qatar.

<http://www.ekathimerini.com/242603/article/ekathimerini/news/canadian-arrested-at-athens-airport-with-heroin>

GEORGIA

21.07.2019 Law enforcement agencies of Georgia detained Iranian citizens of 24 and 46 years old, as well as a 47-year-old citizen of Azerbaijan. The citizen of the Republic of Azerbaijan was detained in Rustavi with **700 grams of heroin** seized from him during a personal search. About **1 kg of heroin** was seized from the detained Iranian citizens. The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia continues to investigate the case of illegal acquisition and storage of drugs on a particularly large scale. <https://haqqin.az/news/154591>

INDIA

18.07.2019 Police officers at the Attibel, Bangalore Metropolitan Area, Karnataka State, detained a man carrying **250 kg of marijuana** in a vehicle from Visakhapatnam, located in Andhra Pradesh State, to Madurai, Tamil Nadu State.

<https://www.deccanherald.com/city/bengaluru-crime/2-drug-dealers-held-large-amount-of-marijuana-seized-747826.html>

IRAN

16.07.2019 Kermanshah provincial police officers seized **533 kg of opium** during intelligence work. One smuggler was arrested.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/147711/Police-seize-533kg-of-opium-in-Kermanshah>

17.07.2019 Iranian Anti-Narcotics Police seized **1.490 tons of opium** as well as several firearms and automatic weapons during a special operation in Saravan District in the south-eastern province of Sistan and Balochistan.

<http://en.farsnews.com/newstext.aspx?nn=13980426000896>

20.07.2019 In a joint operation of the Southern Iranian Anti-Narcotics Force in Bushehr and Hormozgan, **655 kg of opium** smuggling in a vehicle was thwarted, belonging to an

organized criminal drug gang. Iran shares a border of 900 kilometres with Afghanistan and is used as a main channel for smuggling Afghan drugs into Europe.

<https://www.tasnimnews.com/en/news/2019/07/20/2058205/iranian-police-seize-650kg-of-opium-in-single-operation>

SPAIN

16.07.2019 A Colombian national was arrested at Barcelona International Airport when attempting to smuggle **500 g of cocaine**. The man concealed a bag of cocaine with him, hiding it under a wig. The drug courier arrived on a flight from Bogotá, Colombia.

<https://uk.reuters.com/article/us-spain-police-drugs/colombian-caught-in-spain-with-cocaine-under-toupee-idUKKCN1UBOX1?rpc=401&>

ITALY

18.07.2019 Italian police officers arrested a 39-year-old Nigerian national at Fiumicino International Airport in Rome in an attempt to smuggle 94 plastic capsules containing **1.7 kg of heroin** into the country. The man arrived on a flight from the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa.

<https://punchng.com/police-catch-nigerian-man-with-heroin-in-rome/>

MOLDOVA

21.07.2019 General Inspectorate of Police stopped actions of a criminal group whose members were engaged in selling synthetic drugs through an online store. In two years, the leader of the gang managed to fetch 1.5 million lei from criminal activity. The gang had good communication and a clear division of responsibilities. The leader of the group created a network for selling drugs of synthetic origin, using a messenger. More than 200 packets of **alpha-PVP** with a total weight of **about 500 g**, mobile communication means, computer equipment, objects used in criminal activity, bank cards and money in the amount of 8,650 lei, 2000 euros and 4000 US dollars received from sale of psychotropic substances, were found and seized at place of residence of the organizer. The leader of the group is a 25-year-old citizen of Moldova, who is in custody, and four other members of the group are wanted.

<https://ru.sputnik.md/incidents/20190721/26946195/biznes-ne-vykhodya-iz-doma-kak-kishinevets-ezhednevno-zarabatyval-10-tysyach-leev.html>

NEPAL

18.07.2019 Parsa District Police Office (PDO) arrested four Bahá'í residents aged between 20 and 42 years transporting about **120 kg of marijuana** in the trunk of a car to India.

<https://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/four-arrested-with-120kg-marijuana-in-parsa/>

THE NETHERLANDS

15.07.2019 Customs officers together with the police inspected containers at the port of Rotterdam and seized **86 kg of crystalline methamphetamine**. Scanning inside one of containers coming from Mexico revealed a suspicious space. Further examination in a 5-meter auger of a feeder wagon revealed a consignment of drugs. Police investigation led to the arrest of a 57-year-old suspect from Hague.

<https://www.politie.nl/nieuws/2019/juli/15/verdachte-aangehouden-na-vondst-86-kilo-crystal-meth.html>

PAKISTAN

17.07.2019 Islamabad police repelled an attempt to smuggle a large consignment of drugs into Punjab and arrested five drug traffickers, including two women. Based on intelligence reports of drug trafficking as a result of vehicle searches leaving the city, a police group stopped a vehicle carrying passengers destined for Peshawar. The vehicle was found to contain **23 kg of hashish, 27 kg of opium and more than 3 kg of heroin**.

<https://nation.com.pk/17-Jul-2019/police-arrests-five-drug-peddlers-in-peshawar>

17.07.2019 Anti-Narcotics Force of Pakistan (ANF) seized **1,502 kg of narcotic drugs** in 26 special operations in various regions of the country, including **842.55 kg of hashish, 500.465 kg of amphetamine, 115.11 kg of opium, 42.419 kg of heroin and 800 g of amphetamine, and 4,000 Zenox tablets**. Thirty-nine suspects were arrested, including three women smugglers of drugs. Twelve vehicles used to smuggle drugs were also seized. <https://dunyanews.tv/en/Crime/500828-ANF-recovers-1502Kg-drugs-in-nationwide-operations>

19.07.2019 Pakistan Railway Police (PRP) discovered two packages of **heroin weighing 555 g** in one a wagon of a train bound for India during a cargo inspection at a railway station. <https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/pakistan-railways-police-recover-555g-heroin-673186.html>

USA

17.07.2019 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials inspected vehicles arriving from San Juan Santo Domingo ferry and found 17 packages of **heroin weighing 2.7 kg** in the rear brake drums of a Ford van. The U.S. Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) arrested the driver of the van. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-san-juan-seizes-6-pounds-heroin-concealed-inside-brake-drums>

15.07.2019 U.S. border patrol agents at a checkpoint near Hebbronville, Laredo, Texas, prevented an attempted smuggling of **31.6 kg of methamphetamine**. As a result of search, 41 packages of methamphetamine were found in a vehicle carrying two Mexican nationals. The driver and passenger were arrested and the vehicle confiscated. The case was forwarded to the Drug Enforcement Administration. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/laredo-sector-border-patrol-agents-intercept-over-2-million-dollars>

16.07.2019 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials at the port of Nogales, Tucson, Arizona, detained a 29-year-old Mexican national attempting to import **8.6 kg of cocaine** from Mexico into the U.S. in the back seat of a Ford vehicle. Officers confiscated drugs and the car. The drug courier was arrested and handed over to the U.S. Homeland Security Investigations and Drug Enforcement Agency. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-arrests-cocaine-smuggler>

16.07.2019 Detectives at the Hopkins County Sheriff's Office detained a 29-year-old man suspected of drug trafficking in Hopkins and Montgomery counties, located in Tennessee. About **10 kg of crystalline methamphetamine, 2.04 kg of heroin and fentanyl, 681 g of ecstasy** and a large amount of money were seized. The man was arrested in the course of an inter-agency investigation that included the Kentucky State Police, Clarksville Police and the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office. <https://www.wkms.org/post/madisonville-man-arrested-22-pounds-meth-45-pounds-heroin#stream/0>

18.07.2019 Officers from the Riverside County Sheriff's Department in Perry, California, discovered a drug lab and about **14.9 tons of marijuana**. Twenty-seven people were detained. <https://abc7.com/perris-pot-bust-guns-honey-oil-lab-59-tons-of-marijuana-found/5404143/>

18.07.2019 Detectives from the Palm Bay Police Department's Drug Enforcement Division, Florida, detained a man from Miami, who was carrying more than **910 grams of fentanyl and heroin** in a bag in the back of a Nissan Altima car on the 95 interstate highway. <https://www.tcpalm.com/story/news/crime/indian-river-county/2019/07/18/ircso-miami-man-trafficking-fentanyl-and-heroin-stopped-sebastian/1766082001/>

18.07.2019 Connecticut State Police in Pomfretta arrested a 40-year-old woman who was carrying in a car 1200 bundles of **fentanyl weighing a total of 265 g**, prepared for further sale. https://www.wfsb.com/news/woman-found-with-bags-of-fentanyl-during-traffic-stop/article_74a71b66-a98c-11e9-8b55-9f30c0ffb9d9.html

THAILAND

15.07.2019 In an international investigation conducted by the Narcotics Suppression Bureau of Thailand, with the assistance of Taiwanese and U.S. law enforcement agencies, three suspected drug traffickers, nationals of China, Thailand and Myanmar, were arrested with seizure of **80 kg of heroin and 15 kg of methamphetamine**. The drugs were discovered during a search of two apartments in central Bangkok. <http://www.taipetimes.com/News/taiwan/archives/2019/07/18/2003718896>

UKRAINE

20.07.2019 National Police curbed actions of a criminal organization specializing in sale of synthetic "designer" drugs through a special Internet resource. Eight members of the criminal organization were detained. A powerful Internet resource for sale of drugs was eradicated, and about **1 kg of concentrate of new psychoactive substances (NPS)** was seized, from which it is possible to produce **30 kg of psychotropic substances** worth almost 9 million hryvnias. Thousands of people were identified as clients of the online shop, including not only drug addicts, but also groups of wholesalers of psychotropic substances. In particular, illegal actions of 7 regional groups of drug dealers - clients of drug organization operating in various regions of Ukraine - were documented. The leader of the OCG was a 37-year-old Kyiv resident, who involved a specialist in IT-technologies, who created a special website for sale of NPS and a channel in messenger and ensured their permanent work and administration. The organizer of the drug enterprise established direct supplies of highly concentrated NPS to Ukraine from China. To legalize (launder) proceeds of crime and cover up illegal activities, the perpetrator established several commercial enterprises. During the final stage of special operation to arrest members of the criminal organization 26 searches were carried out, in addition to drugs, cash seized - more than 150 thousand U.S. dollars, 12 thousand euros and 350 thousand hryvnias, a large number of bank cards, office equipment as well as 2 units of weapons, 8 cars were confiscated. Also, a drug laboratory used for manufacture of retail consignments of psychotropic substances was dismantled. Police blocked all sources of funding for the defendants and seized their bank accounts. Investigation is underway. <https://interfax.com.ua/news/general/601691.html>