

*Unofficial translation*

## CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY

(based on mass media reports)

**02.09-08.09.2019**

**№ 36**

### CARICC MEMBER STATES

#### REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

**26.08.2019** In the course of a joint operation of the Economic Investigation Service and the security service of Kazpost, a drug smuggling channel from Europe was intercepted. A resident of Almaty, who received drugs by mail from a European Union country, was detained. After receiving a parcel, the man was arrested and **500 tablets of the psychotropic substance "ecstasy"** were found inside the parcel.

<https://www.nur.kz/1813468-almatinec-po-pocte-polucal-narkotiki-iz-evropy.html>

**05.09.2019** Pavlodar police officers in the North Kazakhstan region seized a large consignment of marijuana and hashish. A 34-year-old drug dealer was detained. In a dacha settlement on the outskirts of Petropavlovsk, two residents of the regional centre born in 1976 and 1985 were detained while selling **10 kg of marijuana and 2 kg of hashish**. In the course of further searches of one of the dacha plots and a rented apartment, another **4 kg of marijuana and 1 kg of hashish** were confiscated in addition.

[https://express-k.kz/news/svodka/v\\_sko\\_izyata\\_krupnaya\\_partiya\\_narkotikov-146916](https://express-k.kz/news/svodka/v_sko_izyata_krupnaya_partiya_narkotikov-146916)

#### KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

**06.09.2019** As a result of an operation carried out by officers of the SBNON of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, criminal actions of a drug gang, which included residents of Talas province, were stopped. Drug traffickers were growing an Indian type of cannabis for sale on an illegal plantation. More than **2.005 tons of cannabis** were seized. Several traffickers were arrested. Investigators are identifying other persons involved in the crime.

<https://www.mk.kg/incident/2019/09/06/bolee-2-tonn-narkotikov-izyali-u-gruppirovki-v-kyrgyzstane.html>

#### RUSSIAN FEDERATION

**03.09.2019** Staff members of the Russian MVD UNK in Voskresensk detained a 27-year-old resident of the Republic of Mari El suspected of drug trafficking. In the course of personal inspection 56 packages containing **800 g of N-methylephedrone** were found and seized from him. A criminal case has been launched on this incident. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18162403>

**04.09.2019** Officers of GUNK of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation together with their colleagues from the regional FSB of the Russian Federation with the participation of the Department of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation for the Ryazan region detained 24 members of a criminal network on suspicion of organizing the sale of drugs, who were regional representatives of an online shop for contactless distribution of drugs in the Ryazan, Moscow, Lipetsk and Vladimir regions. A criminal case is being

investigated against the organizers and participants in the criminal network. About **7 kg of narcotic drugs of synthetic origin** were seized during searches.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18178343>

**05.09.2019** FSB officers of the Ivanovo region together with officers of the UNK Department of Internal Affairs of Russia in the Ivanovo region stopped a supply channel for synthetic drugs in the region. A 21-year-old resident of Moscow region was detained, who received large consignments of synthetic drugs, packed into smaller ones and sold them in a contactless way through caches to smaller wholesalers. More than **9 kg of the synthetic drug "spice"** were seized from the defendant during arrest. A criminal case was launched.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18190093>

**06.09.2019** A 46-year-old resident of St. Petersburg, suspected of drug trafficking, was detained by officers of the St. Petersburg and Leningrad Region UNK of the Ministry of Internal Affairs together with the Russian Federal Security Service. The man was detained at the Ivangorod border crossing point after crossing the state border of the Russian Federation in a Cadillac car. During an inspection of the vehicle, 110 briquettes containing about **63 kg of hashish** were found in caches equipped in the sills and arches of the vehicle. A criminal case has been initiated in connection with the drug smuggling. The court selected a preventive measure in the form of detention for the drug mule.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18209440>

## OTHER COUNTRIES

### AUSTRALIA

**05.09.2019** Police seized large quantities of illicit drugs from a small island off the coast of Geraldton after receiving information about a suspicious yacht and unusual movements of its crew. Approximately 40 bags containing up to **1 ton of cocaine** and ecstasy were found on a 15-metre yacht called "Zero", which was drifting on the reef near the island of Stick, located in the Abrolhos of islands, approximately 60 km west of Geraldton. On Burton Island, a 51-year-old French national and a 34-year-old British national have been arrested and charged with importing commercial quantities of controlled drugs.

<https://www.afp.gov.au/news-media/media-releases/significant-drug-seizure-abrolhos-islands>

### BRAZIL

**03.09.2019** Customs officials of the Internal Revenue Service's Customs Control Division at the port of Paranaguá (IRS) confiscated about **165 kg of cocaine**. The cocaine shipment was concealed in a container with frozen chicken meat destined for the port of Rotterdam, the Netherlands. It was discovered during routine surveillance work at a container terminal at the port terminal. Cocaine was placed in a container with legal cargo without the knowledge of its owner.

<https://tarobanews.com/noticias/policial/receita-federal-apreende-165kg-de-cocaina-no-porto-de-paranagua-45309.html>

Video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=10&v=-rr0qlhAA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=10&v=-rr0qlhAA)

**05.09.2019** Officers of the Customs Control Division of the Federal Tax Service of Internal Revenue at the port of Paranaguá (IRS) in a container with a cargo of peanuts found and

confiscated **756 kg of cocaine**. The cargo was destined for the port of Algeciras (Spain). The seized drugs were sent to the Federal Police responsible for conducting investigations. <http://receita.economia.gov.br/noticias/ascom/2019/setembro/receita-federal-realiza-apreensao-de-mais-de-meia-tonelada-de-cocaina-no-porto-de-paranagua>

**05.09.2019** Federal police at São Paulo International Airport arrested a 51-year-old Nigerian citizen with a permanent visa in Brazil who was flying to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, while attempting to smuggle large amounts of cocaine. More than **16 kg of cocaine** were concealed in 24 metal cylinders in the passenger's luggage. <http://www.pf.gov.br/imprensa/noticias/2019/09/pf-apreende-droga-dentro-de-cilindros-metalicos>

**05.09.2019** The Federal Police, together with the Federal Revenue Service (IRS), carried out an operation in the port of Natal, which resulted in the seizure of more than **70 kg of cocaine**. A shipment of cocaine was concealed in salt bags destined for Antwerp, Belgium. <http://www.pf.gov.br/imprensa/noticias/2019/09/pf-apreende-cocaina-que-iria-para-a-europa-em-sacos-de-sal>

**05.09.2019** The Federal Highway Police (PRF) seized **326.2 kg of cocaine hydrochloride** in Campinah Grande do Sul, Curitiba metropolitan area. The drug was concealed in a hidden compartment under the floor of the pickup truck. In addition to the cocaine packed in 298 packages, PRF agents seized two packs of dollar bills worth a total of \$300,000, the equivalent of \$1.23 million. A 35-year-old driver was detained. The stash was inside the cab of the truck and was a box between rims of the chassis, which was opened by a hydraulic rail mechanism. The man explained that he had left São Paulo and was to deliver the vehicle to Paranagua. The investigation is being conducted by the Federal Police Directorate in Curitiba. <https://www.prf.gov.br/agencia/prf-apreende-326-quilos-de-cocaina-e-macos-de-dolares-na-grande-curitiba/>

Video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O65\\_hwYZ7pw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O65_hwYZ7pw)

## UNITED KINGDOM

**04.09.2019** An international investigation by the National Crime Agency (NCA) resulted in the largest seizure of heroin in the UK in history. **1,297 kg of heroin** were found on the Gibraltar container ship during its stop at the port of Felixstowe. The NCA's intelligence revealed that heroin would be on board when it moored in the UK on its way to Antwerp. Market value of the shipment is about £27 million. The ship arrived at port on August 30 and was searched by border guards and the NCA. A shipment of heroin was hidden among many towels and bathrobes. After the officers seized drugs, they returned the container to the ship, which continued to Antwerp and moored in the Belgian port city on September 1. The container was transported by truck to a warehouse in Rotterdam, Netherlands under supervision of law enforcement authorities in the Netherlands and Belgium. A controlled delivery resulted in the arrest of four persons who were in the process of unloading the cargo. Previously, **398 kg of heroin** had been seized from a ship in Port Felixstowe on 2 August. <https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/nca-investigation-results-in-biggest-ever-uk-heroin-haul>

## GUATEMALA

**01.09.2019** Agents of the National Civil Police's (PNC) General Directorate of Analysis and Information on Drugs (SGAIA), after checking a container in Puerto Santo Tomás de Castilla,

Isabal, found 500 packs of **cocaine weighing about 500 kg**. The drug packages were hidden in 20 bags, which were checked by agents together with prosecutors from the state ministry. <https://mingob.gob.gt/localizan-500-paquetes-de-cocaina-en-puerto-santo-tomas-de-castilla/>

## GUINEA BISSAU

**03.09.2019** More than 1.8 tons of cocaine were seized by police in the former Portuguese colony on the Atlantic coast, which had long been main transit point for Latin American cocaine destined for Europe. The shipment arrived by sea in the north-west of the country and was concealed in bags of flour. A two-week intelligence operation resulted in the arrest of 8 people, including 4 nationals of Guinea Bissau, 3 Colombians and 1 Malian. According to the police, the consignment was sent to Islamist fighters. The drugs belong to the Al-Qaida terrorist organization. Cocaine comes from Colombia, but its destination is the Arab Maghreb. The Al-Qaida branch in North and West Africa is based mainly in northern and central Mali, but is present throughout the region.

<https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/guinea-bissau-police-say-1.8-tonnes-of-cocaine-seized-in-biggest-ever-haul/45204006>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5gEsjclbqHQ>

## GERMANY

**03.09.2019** As a result of a joint investigation by the Limburg Prosecutor's Office and the Limburg-Weilburg Police Department, members of an organized group of Iranian nationals involved in smuggling drugs from Iran into Germany were arrested. The defendants were involved in drug trafficking in several federal states. For about a year, investigators of the commission on drugs conducted a comprehensive investigation into the Iranian group. On 26 and 27 August, a cross-border police operation was conducted in which a special force was deployed. A total of 11 people between the ages of 22 and 66 have been arrested. Among other things, three Iranian trucks (40 tons) were seized in the Limburg-Nord gas station and recreation area and the drivers were arrested. Subsequent investigations have resulted in the seizure of more opium and **heroin** in a number of vehicles and apartments (**exact weight is not specified**). The drugs were partially hidden in vehicle parts. All 11 detainees were Iranian asylum-seekers. Investigations are planned throughout Germany.

<https://www.presseportal.de/blaulicht/pm/50153/4365091>

## IRAN

**08.08.2019** Police found and confiscated **123 kg of opium and 80 kg of hashish** in three operations destined for Tehran in Yazd. Three smugglers were arrested and handed over to judicial officials. <https://en.mehrnews.com/news/149837/Police-confiscate-203kg-drugs-in-Yazd>

## SPAIN

**02.09.2019** The national police in international waters near the Azores intercepted an American sailboat called "The Seascope" with **800 kg of cocaine aboard**, the Canary Islands Police Headquarters reported. During the operation, three sailors were arrested who were on board the ship.

<https://www.20minutos.es/noticia/3749609/0/policia-espanola-intercepta-velero-con-800-kilos-cocaina-cerca-islas-azores/>

## MEXICO

**08.09.2019** The Mexican Navy Secretariat, as the national maritime authority and Coast Guard, in coordination with Altamira Customs, Tamaulipas discovered and confiscated **49 kg of cocaine** as a result of security checks inside the warehouse on board the UBC TOKYO. The ship was sailing under the flag of Cyprus from Barranquilla, Colombia, and a shipment of cocaine was concealed in a cargo of iron ore. <https://maritimebulletin.net/2019/09/08/drug-bust-on-us-bulk-carrier-ubc-tokyo-in-altamira-mexico/>

## MYANMAR

**07.09.2019** According to the Central Committee for Drugs Abuse Control (CCDAC), the Myanmar authorities seized a large amount of narcotic drugs, including **454,670 tablets of stimulants (amphetamines) and 4 kg of cannabis** in Rakhine State. Stimulant tablets worth more than 909 million kyats (\$606,000) have been confiscated in two houses in the town of Maungtau. Three people have been charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. One suspect fled the scene and was later detained at a bus station in Anne, Rakhine, with 4 kg of marijuana. On the same day, **1,950 kg of caffeine** were seized from two vehicles in Tatileuk, Shan State. In addition, an anti-drug task force seized **39,900 tablets of stimulant (amphetamines) and 660 g of heroin** in Momauk, Kachin. Four defendants were charged under the country's law on narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-09/07/c\\_138373608.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-09/07/c_138373608.htm)

## NEW ZEALAND

**06.09.2019** Customs seized about **469 kg of methamphetamine** concealed inside a shipment of electric motors and arrested three people: two Canadians and a New Zealand national on charges of importing and possessing a controlled Class A drug. In mid-2019, customs opened an investigation into an international drug trafficking syndicate with links to a company in New Zealand. In mid-August, a consignment from Thailand arrived at the port of Auckland and was inspected and methamphetamine was found. In particular, there were 60 electric motors in the shipping container, each containing an average of about 8 kg of methamphetamine. Street value of the shipment is estimated at \$235 million. As a result of a series of searches in Auckland, police found and seized another 15 kg of methamphetamine, weapons and large amounts of cash. <https://www.customs.govt.nz/about-us/news/media-releases/customs-biggest-methamphetamine-seizure/>

## PERU

**03.09.2019** The Peruvian police disrupted criminal organization that was smuggling large amounts of cocaine into Europe. A total of **138 kg of cocaine were seized**. The drug cartel used divers to attach consignments of cocaine to the hulls of boats, an innovative and undetectable way of concealing contraband throughout the continent. The operation resulted in the arrest of 12 people, including two Peruvian naval officers, who were prosecuted for their involvement in criminal organization. The network trafficked cocaine to Europe from the Peruvian ports of Pisco, south of the capital Lima, and Chimbote, on the northern coast of the country. Members of the criminal organization used divers to hide drug

bags in the vents on ships' hulls, and metal welding was used for this purpose. This method allowed drug traffickers to avoid security checks at the port and the need to pay dock workers for stacking drugs together. Approximately 600 kg can be placed on board without the crew's knowledge. The Colombian organization was led by a colombians and local Peruvian intermediaries were involved in the criminal scheme.

<https://www.insightcrime.org/news/brief/peru-ecuador-divers-hulls-ships/>

## USA

**08.09.2019** Border patrol agents at the checkpoint on Interstate Highway 15 in Temecula, California, stopped and inspected a Ford F-150 vehicle heading north to find and recover more than **64.86 kg of methamphetamine**. Thirty-three packages of methamphetamine were concealed inside wooden panels in the back of the truck. The driver, a 55-year-old U.S. citizen, was arrested. The drugs were transferred to the Riverside County Sheriff's Office Special Investigation Bureau Southwest Task Force. The vehicle was confiscated by U.S. Border Patrol. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/border-patrol-seizes-over-143-pounds-meth>

## THAILAND

**03.09.2019** The Crime Suppression Division of the National Police in Bangkok has detained two persons suspected of involvement in the shipment of **100 kg of heroin and 1.5 kg of cocaine**. According to the police, such large amounts of heroin are not typical of seizures in Thailand, as methamphetamine tablets, crystalline methamphetamine (ice) or marijuana are most frequently seized by law enforcement authorities. <https://thethaiger.com/hot-news/crime/large-heroin-bust-announced-in-bangkok>

## TURKEY

**04.09.2019** As a result of an operation carried out on a vessel loaded with bananas from Colombia, 70 packages containing **83 kg of cocaine** were found under hatch covers by Mersin police. The shipment of cocaine was seized and all officers on the ship were interviewed by the police. Investigations into the case are ongoing.

<http://www.malatyaguncel.com/muz-yuklu-gemide-83-kilo-kokain-ele-gecirildi-1317103h.htm>

Video: <https://www.msn.com/tr-tr/video/unluler/muz-y%C3%BCkl%C3%BC-gemide-83-kilo-kokain-ele-ge%C3%A7irildi/vi-AAGMVzw>

## UKRAINE

**04.09.2019** Officers of the department of combating drugs crime of the National Police of Ukraine together with colleagues from the Khmelnytsky region under the procedural leadership of the Prosecutor's Office detained a group of drug traffickers. The group included a 36-year-old resident of Khmelnytskyi and a 25-year-old resident of Yarmolinetskyi district. They distributed drugs through stashes. They received orders through an Internet messenger, while clients paid with an electronic wallet. During these searches of the perpetrators' residences about **7 kg of marijuana, more than 100 hemp plants, 1.5 kg of precursors, amphetamine, ecstasy, salt**, etc., and equipment for manufacture of drugs, weapons and ammunition were seized. Criminal proceedings have been instituted in this case. <https://interfax.com.ua/news/general/611580.html>



## ECUADOR

**28.08.2019** The National Anti-Drug Authority of the National Police of Ecuador, together with the Ports and Airports Information Unit (UIPA) and the Regional Training Centre for Dogs (CRAC) in the Guayaquil Metropolitan Area, conducted a police operation called "Coffee", which resulted in detection of an empty container with **29.97 kg of cocaine** in its refrigerated panel. The shipment was destined for the United States and Europe. <https://www.policiaecuador.gob.ec/en-guayaquil-mediante-un-operativo-policial-se-incautaron-30-bloques-de-sustancias-ilegales/>