

CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY

(based on mass media reports)

28.10-03.11.2019

№ 44

CARICC MEMBER STATES

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

04.10.2019 SBNON officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic discovered **1 ton and 446 kg of sulfuric acid** in Osh in the course of operational-search measures. Activities of a criminal group engaged in the sale of this large consignment of precursors for the production of drugs were stopped.

<https://www.borbor.kg/news/2533352/v-kyrgyzstane-vyavili-15-tonny-kisloty-kotoruu-ispolzuut-dla-proizvodstva-geroina>

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

28.10.2019 UNK officers of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs for the Penza region stopped a group of people suspected of selling illegal substances. The group consisted of 9 people - 5 residents of Penza, 2 natives of Tajikistan, who were studying in a local university, as well as a young man and a girl from Vologda region. A total of about **500 g of narcotic drugs of synthetic origin** were confiscated. Three of the detainees provided wholesale supplies of drugs from other regions. In a rented apartment, the substances were packed in smaller batches and then stored in caches and then communicated via the Internet to other participants in illegal activities in order to organize further distribution of illegal substances. A criminal case has been initiated on this fact. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18758005>

29.10.2019 A 27-year-old resident of Kemerovo, who was manufacturing drugs for further sale in a rented private house, was detained by officers of UNK of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the Kemerovo region. In the course of search in the house **450 g of mephedrone and more than 1 kg of precursors**, which are used for manufacture of synthetic drugs, were found and seized. This fact is under investigation. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18767152>

29.10.2019 A 36-year-old resident of Perm, suspected of illegal drug trafficking, was detained at a gas station in the village of Lavrovo, Moscow Region, by officers of OKON OMVD of Russia in the Klin city district. More than **10 kg of methylephedrone** were found and seized during a vehicle search. A criminal case has been initiated on this fact. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18763918>

30.10.2019 At 115 km of the Yoshkar-Ola-Zelenodolsk highway, a car driven by a 31-year-old resident of Kazan was stopped by officers of UNK MIA in the Republic of Tatarstan. During the inspection, 3 packages of **mephedrone weighing 1.5 kg were** found in a stash located in the front right wing liner. The man took the drug in Solnechnogorsk, Moscow Region, for its further delivery to Kazan. On his way he managed to equip caches in Chuvashia and Mari-El. A criminal case has been initiated.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18781205>

29.10.2019 Officers of OKON OMVD of Russia in the city of Usinsk in the Komi Republic conducted an operation to arrest a 40-year-old local resident who arrived by train from St. Petersburg, who had about **49.6 g of cocaine and 298.7 g of mephedrone** in his suitcase. A criminal case has been initiated on this fact.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18767639>

30.10.2019 Officers of the Main Transport Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation, in cooperation with the Department of Transport of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation for the North Federal District, detained members of an organized group suspected of illegal shipments of synthetic drugs from East Asia by air and rail to various regions of Russia for the purpose of their further sale through online stores. One of the organizers of an illegal drug trafficking channel responsible for receiving and selling drugs in the Siberian Federal District was detained by police officers at the Inskaya station of the West Siberian Railway. In the course of personal searches and searches of the defendant's place of actual residence, more than **10 kg of synthetic drugs**, as well as equipment and materials for their preparation for sale, were found and seized. A criminal case has been initiated in this regard.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18779625>

01.11.2019 The Investigative Department of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs for the Tomsk region has completed the investigation of a criminal case against seven residents of the Tomsk region and Novosibirsk, who are accused of participating in a criminal association and attempting to illegally sell drugs on a large and especially large scale using the Internet. The defendants were involved in drug trafficking in the Siberian Federal District between September 2017 and January 2019. The drugs were sold in a contactless manner using messengers and electronic payment systems. A total of about **65 kg of narcotic drugs of synthetic origin and 10 kg of herbal origin** were seized. Currently, the criminal case has been referred to the court. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18804206>

01.11.2019 A 40-year-old man in a forest near the village of Machikhino, located in the Naro-Fominsk district, was detained by officers of UNK GU MVD of the Russian Federation for the Moscow region, who was seized a drug of **synthetic origin belonging to the group of cathinones with a total weight of more than 20 kg ("salt")**, intended for subsequent sale. A criminal case has been initiated.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18804650>

31.10.2019 At 111 km of the M-4 "Don" motorway, a car driven by a 22-year-old resident of the city of Lobnya was stopped by officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation in the Kashira city district of the Moscow region. During the inspection of the vehicle under the steering column was found a package with 150 convolutions with **heroin, weighing more than 300 g**. In addition, the passenger - a 41-year-old resident of Moscow - had **2 g of methylephedrone** in his bag. Criminal cases have been initiated.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18795586>

REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

31.10.2019 Uzbek SGB officers in the Syr Darya region interdicted a large consignment of smuggled heroin. Drug couriers, who organized the delivery of **20.032 kg of heroin** from Tajikistan to Kazakhstan, were arrested. The organizer of the transit shipment of drugs is a citizen of Kazakhstan residing in the Turkestan region. A citizen of Tajikistan managed to bring drugs to Uzbekistan and hide them in the house of a friend living in Tashkent. The organizer of the criminal group is a native of the Republic of Kazakhstan; he was arrested while transporting a consignment of heroin to Kazakhstan on bypass roads of the Syrdarya region. Total value of the seized drug exceeds 300 thousand US dollars. A criminal case has been initiated and an investigation is under way. In Uzbekistan, two weeks earlier, special services arrested a drug courier from Tajikistan who was transporting **2kg of heroin** to Tashkent Oblast. <http://www.news-asia.ru/view/accidents/13006>

OTHER COUNTRIES

BRAZIL

30.10.2019 Internal Revenue Service (IRS) agents discovered and seized **333 kg of cocaine** in a joint operation with the Federal Police at the port of Paranagua. More than 13 tons of drugs were seized in the port of Paranagua in 2019. The cocaine shipment was concealed in a container among numerous steel racks and was destined for the port of Le Havre, France. The drug was discovered through examination of images after the cargo had been scanned. <http://receita.economia.gov.br/noticias/ascom/2019/outubro/receita-federal-apreende-333-quilos-de-cocaina-no-porto-de-paranagua-1>
<https://agoralitoral.com.br/noticias/mais-333-kg-de-cocaina-sao-apreendidos-em-paranagua/>
 Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=10&v=4dWuH7-OCK4

01.11.2019 Internal Revenue Service (IRS) agents, in a joint operation with the Federal Police at the port of Santos, on the coast of São Paulo, discovered and seized more than **198 kg of cocaine** in sacks containing coffee beans. When the cargo was opened, 182 packages of cocaine were found, placed in six bags. The final destination of the shipment was Switzerland, but the shipment had first to arrive at the port of Gioia Tauro (Italy). The drug was placed in a legal shipment without the knowledge of exporters and importers. The shipment was seized by the IRS and handed over to the Federal Police, who supervised all the work. <https://g1.globo.com/sp/santos-regiao/porto-mar/noticia/2019/11/01/pf-apreende-198-kg-de-cocaina-em-carga-de-cafe-torrado-no-porto-de-santos-sp.ghtml>
 Video: <http://g1.globo.com/sp/santos-regiao/jornal-tribuna-2edicao/videos/t/edicoes/v/quase-200-kg-de-cocaina-sao-apreendidas-em-carga-no-porto-de-santos/8054417/>

GREECE

01.11.2019 Drug Enforcement officers of the Attica Police Force, in cooperation with the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), discovered and confiscated **105 kg of cocaine** and some 800,000 euros in cash during a targeted investigation of an apartment in the southern suburbs of Brahami. Three foreign nationals, two Albanian nationals and one Croatian national, members of a criminal organization, were arrested. <https://www.thenationalherald.com/266581/major-drug-trafficking-ring-dismantled-102-kilos-of-cocaine-confiscated/>

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

01.11.2019 945 kg of cocaine were seized by agents of the National Drug Control Directorate (DNCD) during an operation at the multimodal port of Caucedo. The drug was concealed in a container and destined for the port of Rotterdam, the Netherlands.
<http://www.elcentineladigital.com.do/nacional/dncd-incauta-945-paquetes-de-cocaina-en-puerto-multimodal-caucedo>
<https://cdn.com.do/2019/11/01/dncd-incauta-945-paquetes-de-cocaina-en-puerto-multimodal-caucedo/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ioajd4tAU4Q>

THE NETHERLANDS

23.10.2019 Customs at the port of Vlissingen discovered and seized **1008 kg of cocaine** during an inspection. The cocaine was hidden in boxes of bananas. The drugs were found by search dogs, after which the shipment was seized and destroyed. The container had arrived from Ecuador and was heading to a company in Heerhugowaard. The company had nothing to do with the smuggling of drugs.
<https://www.nu.nl/walcheren-en-beveland/6007734/douane-onderschept-1008-kilo-cocaine-in-haven-van-vlissingen.html>
<https://www.belastingdienst.nl/wps/wcm/connect/bldcontentnl/berichten/nieuws/douane/douanne-vindt-1008-kilo-cocaine>

INDIA

29.10.2019 Kalangut police in the Kandolim beach belt in North Goa arrested a Nigerian national who had illegally stored **1,021 kg of cocaine, 2,035 kg of MDMA ("ecstasy"), 760 g of amphetamine, 106 g of cannabis herb and 1.2 kg of hashish** in his residence. The man was arrested in accordance with relevant articles of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act (NDPS).
<https://www.devdiscourse.com/article/national/724513-nigerian-man-held-with-drugs-worth-rs-3-cr-in-go>

IRAN

02.11.2019 After a series of reconnaissance operations, Hamedan provincial police intercepted a large consignment of opiates. A total of **954 kg of opium, 4 kg of crystalline methamphetamine and 5 kg of heroin** were seized. Several smugglers were arrested. Vehicles carrying drugs were seized.
<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/151826/Police-bust-954-kg-of-drugs-in-W-Iran>

SPAIN

31.10.2019 Civil Guard, together with the Customs Enforcement Service (SVA) at the port of Algeciras, confiscated **325 kg of cocaine** and arrested three suspected drug smugglers. Two suspicious vehicles were reported by a port worker. The truck carrying drugs concealed among officially declared goods contained two people. The second vehicle, a van, was usually used by port workers to service container terminals. The driver of the van and two people in the truck were arrested. https://www.europasur.es/algeciras/Tiroteo-alijo-cocaina-puerto-narcotrafico_0_1405659646.html

CYPRUS

30.10.2019 Drug enforcement officers detained four Larnaca residents aged 26, 35, 36 and 52 on suspicion of drug trafficking and membership in a criminal organization. During a police operation in the Kellya area, **1 kg of cocaine** were seized.

<https://cyprus-mail.com/2019/10/30/police-seize-one-kilo-of-cocaine-arrest-four-suspects/>

MEXICO

01.11.2019 Officers of the Ministry of National Defence, with the participation of federal police officers, seized **74 kg of cocaine** during a vehicle check on the Cardenas-Coatsacoalkos highway in La Venta, Huimanguillo municipality. A drug dealer from the State of Chiapas was transporting cocaine from the city of Comitán to the city of Halapa, Veracruz. The driver was arrested and drugs and car were confiscated.

<https://www.riviera-maya-news.com/chiapas-man-arrested-transporting-74-kilos-of-cocaine/2019.html>

NICARAGUA

01.11.2019 National police seized **344 kg of cocaine**, which was left on a beach in the western department of Chinandega by traffickers. After receiving information on suspicious movements on Los Clavos Beach, located in the municipality of El Viejo, in the border area with Honduras, anti-drug forces found 10 packages containing the above-mentioned amount of cocaine at the scene.

<https://www.plenglish.com/index.php?o=rn&id=48573&SEO=nicaraguan-police-seize-more-than-340-kgs-of-abandoned-cocaine>

PAKISTAN

03.11.2019 Excise Intelligence officers in the Khyber Agency near Jamrud stopped an attempted smuggling of **20 kg of heroin** during a special operation. The consignment was being transported in a car from Jamrud to Peshawar. The heroin was concealed in hidden cavities of the vehicle. The driver was arrested.

<https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/550133-heroin-smuggling-bid-foiled-in-khyber>

31.10.2019 Anti-narcotics forces in Pakistan (ANF) have stopped a drug smuggling attempt on the Dera-Peshawar highway. While inspecting vehicles, officers seized **15kg of hashish and 4.8kg of opium** concealed in secret compartments. Three smugglers, residents of Peshawar, Landikotal and Lakki Marwat, were arrested at the scene. A case against the smugglers has been registered and investigation is underway.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/three-arrested-opium-hashish-recovered-in-d-750678.html>

01.11.2019 Police at the Sardariab checkpoint prevented drug smuggling by intercepting a vehicle registered in Lahore, which resulted in **4 kg of opium** being found in hidden cavities of the vehicle. A woman was also detained at the Charsadda bus station and found carrying **5,595 kg of heroin** smuggled into Rawalpindi.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/city-police-recover-5595-kg-heroin-4-kg-op-751248.html>

PERU

01.11.2019 Intelligence teams from the Anti-Drug Police Department arrested citizens of Ecuador, Peru and Colombia. A trailer truck carrying three hydraulic water pumps purchased

in Colombia entered Peru through Tumbes. The cargo was inspected in Callao using technological measuring equipment before the hydraulic pumps were dismantled. Packages of **cocaine, weighing a total of 191 kg**, were distributed on the side walls inside the bodies of three hydraulic pumps and were not found during customs controls in Colombia and Peru. The route involved arriving in Guatemala prior to the shipment of cocaine to Europe. The cocaine consignment was believed to have been organized by an Ecuadorian national who had completed all customs procedures in Colombia and Peru. The arrested Colombian was international coordinator of the shipment abroad. One Ecuadorian national and two Peruvian drivers are also arrested.

<https://www.americatv.com.pe/noticias/actualidad/callao-decomisan-191-kilos-cocaina-camuflada-bombas-agua-n394876>

PUERTO RICO

31.10.2019 Border patrols south of Puerto Rico resulted in the blocking of a vessel carrying two Dominicans by U.S. Customs and Border Protection Air and Marine Operations (AMO). A vessel carrying 80 bales of cocaine was intercepted off the southern coast of the island, approximately 74 nautical miles south of Guayaama. There were 80 bales of **cocaine, weighing a total of 1902 kg**. The value of the shipment is estimated at \$47.5 million. Special agents working for the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) are investigating the case.

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/amo-seizes-4192-pounds-narcotics-near-guayama-puerto-rico>

USA

28.10.2019 U.S. Coast Guard boat crews in international waters in Florida confiscated **12 tons and 383 kg of cocaine** in 18 special operations over two months, valued at about \$367 million, and **4 tons and 989 kg of marijuana** valued at more than \$10 million. Drug consignments were intercepted in the Caribbean and eastern Pacific waters off the coast of Mexico and Central and South America. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/u-s-coast-guard-offloads-13-tons-seized-cocaine-marijuana-n1072831>

30.10.2019 Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers, in conjunction with the Office of Field Operations, have disrupted attempts to smuggle large consignments of methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine and fentanyl through border crossing points (ports of entry) located in the state of Arizona.

A 47-year-old U.S. citizen was detained in the port of Douglas while attempting to smuggle **4.08 kg of cocaine** worth U.S.\$123,000 in a KIA car. Three packs of cocaine were in the back seat of the vehicle;

at the DeConcini intersection in Nogales, a 42-year-old U.S. citizen from the state of Arizona and a 40-year-old Mexican citizen were detained while trying to smuggle more than **24.49 kg of methamphetamine** worth \$49,000 in a Nissan car. 50 packs of drugs were distributed throughout the car;

On the same day, two U.S. citizens from Arizona were detained at the DeConcini crossroads - a 30-year-old female driver and a 26-year-old male passenger who attempted to smuggle more than **40.8 kg of heroin** worth \$1.03 million, **5 kg of fentanyl** worth \$122,000, more than **900 g of methamphetamine** worth \$2,000 and almost **9 kg of cocaine** worth nearly \$272,000 on a Chevy SUV. In total, more than 70 packages of drugs

were found and distributed throughout the vehicle. The drugs and vehicles were confiscated, and the arrested drug couriers were transferred to the U.S. Homeland Security Investigations. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-officers-seize-16m-worth-drugs>

31.10.2019 U.S. border patrol agents at Interstate Immigration checkpoint 8 in Arizona stopped an attempt to smuggle **24.9 kilograms of methamphetamine** in a Honda Odyssey vehicle concealed in the rear bumper area of the vehicle. The cost of the consignment is 126.5 thousand dollars. Two women - a 32-year-old driver and a 17-year-old U.S. citizen from San Luis - have been arrested for transporting a controlled substance. Methamphetamine was destined for the Phoenix in Arizona. The drugs and vehicle were confiscated. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/yuma-sector-bp-halts-more-126k-meth-headed-phoenix>

31.10.2019 In connection with investigation of a drug trafficking and money laundering organization that is the target of Operation Dirty Bird in Dallas County, Texas, three search warrants were executed for residences in Dallas and Mesquite. According to results of the search, 6 firearms, a large amount of ammunition, **27 kg of cocaine, marijuana (weight is not specified)**, about 200 thousand U.S. dollars in cash, jewelry and luxury goods, 5 vehicles were seized. A 27-year-old resident of Dallas and a 35-year-old resident of Mesquite, Texas, were arrested. Both are facing federal charges of drug and arms trafficking. The third man, a 30-year-old resident of Roma, Texas, was arrested in George West, Texas, after police found \$349,600 in cash hidden in secret compartments of his car. Four other members of the criminal group were arrested earlier, when **10 kg of cocaine and 250 g of methamphetamine** were seized. Drugs were smuggled from Pittsburgh, Texas, through Tennessee to North Carolina and beyond. https://www.mytexasdaily.com/north-texas/dallas-county-search-warrants-yield-seizure-of-firearms-cocaine-meth/article_69469662-fc2e-11e9-ba1d-7be2fba3944f.html

TURKEY

30.10.2019 Security forces in south-eastern Turkey seized **360 kg of cannabis and 150 hemp bushes** during a special operation. In Silwan and Hanyi, located in Diyarbakir province, the provincial gendarmerie command detained five suspects of illegal activities. The drugs were in caches equipped in forest areas. Caches of weapons, ammunition and explosives, as well as terrorist clothing, shelter materials and large amounts of food were also found underground. Police also found and seized some **11 kg of heroin** during a search of a cargo trans-shipment centre in eastern Wan province. One suspect was taken into custody and another was released on bail. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/360-kg-of-marijuana-seized-in-southeastern-turkey/1630588>

31.10.2019 Members of anti-drug unit in Batman Province conducted an operation against a criminal group responsible for drug smuggling, which is the financial backbone of the illegal terrorist organization YPG/PKK in Turkey. After receiving an anonymous report, security forces stopped a car outside the city and confiscated **135 kg of marijuana**. The driver was arrested. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/turkey-police-seize-135-kilograms-of-marijuana/1631797>

URUGUAY

30.10.2019 Naval forces seized **5 kg of cocaine** on a Chinese flagged ship that arrived at the port of Montevideo from Brazil. The drug was in the wheelhouse of the MSC Agadir container ship, which moored at a dock of the port. The discovery of a suspicious object on board was reported by the ship's captain. The ship's crew involvement in drug smuggling is not confirmed.

<https://www.subrayado.com.uy/incautan-cinco-kilos-cocaina-un-buque-chino-que-provenia-brasil-n566262>

FRANCE

31.10.2019 Arles and Aix-en-Provence Customs agents found more than **75 kg of cocaine** and 865,000 euros in a refrigerated truck. The value of the cocaine shipment is estimated at 6 million euros.

https://twitter.com/douane_france/status/1189906151820988416

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pgtnTd5-bnM>

SOUTH KOREA

30.10.2019 Two members of the Philippine crew of the GOLDEN SAVANNAH dry cargo ship were arrested by the police for smuggling a large consignment of cocaine into South Korea. The captain of the dry cargo ship is accused of covering up crime, but is not involved in the smuggling of drugs. Both crew members arrested denied the charges. The dry cargo ship arrived at the South Korean port of Taean with a cargo of 120,000 tons of coal for a power plant. The ship arrived from Colombia via Singapore. The dry cargo ship was later stormed by Korean customs officials, who were warned by the U.S. Coast Guard of a large shipment of drugs aboard. Four bags of **100.764 kg of cocaine** hidden in the front of the ship were found. The entire crew is under investigation and the vessel remains at the dock in the port.

http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2019/08/251_274739.html

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nqOmFkd7De4>