

*Unofficial translation***CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY**

(based on mass media reports)

13.01-19.01.2020**№ 3****CARICC MEMBER STATES****REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

10.01.2020 During an operation carried out in Melikli village of Yardimli district, a local resident was detained by employees of the Main Department on Combating Drugs of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan. **500 g of heroin and 600 g of opium** were found and seized during a search. The drugs were purchased and smuggled from Iran by another resident of the same village.

<https://media.az/society/1067760774/v-azerbaydzhane-po-podozreniyu-v-narkotorgovle-zaderzhan-pevec-foto/>

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

16.01.2020 Officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Aktau stopped a group of Almaty residents who had been supplying synthetic drugs to Mangistau region for a long time. The suspects have been detained. A search of them revealed and seized 240 bags of **synthetic drugs weighing 500 g**. This fact was registered in the Unified Register of Pre-Trial Investigations of the Mangistau region police department. https://www.lada.kz/aktau_news/incidents/76185-departament-policii-zhiteli-yuzhnay-stolicy-postavlyali-sinteticheskie-narkotiki-v-aktau.html

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

16.01.2020 Employees of the SBNON of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in Osh and Osh province carried out an operation to uncover and suppress a channel for the distribution of narcotic drugs of herbal origin. A citizen was detained in Osh, from whom **2.465 kg of hashish** were seized. This fact was registered with the AIS ERPP and pre-trial proceedings are continuing. https://www.instagram.com/sbnon_kg/

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

13.01.2020 Police officers in Novgorod province detained and subsequently remanded in custody by a court of law a 23-year-old resident of Veliky Novgorod who organized the supply of drugs to Novgorod province for their subsequent sale without contact. The man was detained near a cache he had set up in a forest area on the border of the Batetsky and Novgorod districts. About **9 kg of synthetic drugs** were extracted by the police from a plastic container hidden underground. In addition, during a search of his car in the trunk, several more bundles of illicit substances were found ready for sale. In total, almost 10,000 **MDMA ("ecstasy") tablets weighing more than 4 kg**, about **8 kg of mephedrone** and **N-methylephedrone** were seized from the illicit trade. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19292037>

14.01.2020 Officers of UNK of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the Tver region, near a house located in Tver, detained a 22-year-old resident of a Central Asian country, from whom **300 g of heroin** were found and seized during a personal search. During a search of the apartment rented by the detainee, objects used in criminal activities were also seized. The man intended to distribute the drug contactlessly through "caches".

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19306349>

16.01.2020 A man was detained at the 1113rd km of the M-8 "Kholmogory" federal highway by employees of UNK of the Department of Internal Affairs of the Arkhangelsk region. He was transporting in a Hyundai-Solaris car about **4 kg of synthetic drugs** prepared for sale in cities of the Arkhangelsk region via caches. Packages of drugs were hidden behind the steering column of the vehicle. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19318592>

16.01.2020 Transport police officers near a railway station in Yaroslavl detained a 37-year-old resident of Yaroslavl, and during a personal search of his clothes found 60 bundles with **heroin weighing more than 120 g**. The drug was intended for sale via caches in central regions of Russia. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19318803>

16.01.2020 Employees of UNK of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the Tver region detained a 29-year-old resident of Tver who intended to distribute a narcotic drug contactlessly via "caches" in the city. During a personal search of the woman and at the place of her residence **700 g of N-methyllephedron**, prepared for sale, were found and seized. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19321384>

17.01.2020 Officers of the Vladikavkaz police department of North Ossetia detained two natives of a Central Asian republic born in 1995 and 1996. During a personal search they found more than 150 convolutions with **heroin weighing more than 200 g**. The defendants arrived in North Ossetia a few days ago to sell drugs via caches. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19329997>

17.01.2020 FSB of Russia on the territory of Serpukhov urban district of Moscow region conducted an operation to stop illegal activities of an organized criminal group specializing in production of synthetic drugs on a large scale and their illegal contactless sale using the Internet in the interests of an Internet shop on the trading platform "Hydra". Location of the laboratory was found out, 5 active members of OCG were red-handedly detained - three Russian citizens and two Ukrainian citizens, from whom at least **66 kg of mephedrone, more than 600 liters of liquid containing synthetic drugs**, as well as various laboratory equipment, chemical reagents and precursors were found and seized. A criminal case has been initiated and is under investigation. The members of the OCG have applied enhanced measures of their own security, expressed in the non-disclosure of their places of residence and the use of sophisticated means of communication. Drugs between OCG members were transmitted exclusively through caches. Drug storage sites were carefully hidden. In general, illegal activities were coordinated exclusively through the Internet.

<http://www.fsb.ru/fsb/press/message/single.htm%21id%3D10438525%40fsbMessage.html>

<https://www.rbc.ru/society/17/01/2020/5e2159419a794727b6daea3c>

REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

10.01.2020 Police detained a 39-year-old resident of Dushanbe on suspicion of drug trafficking, from whom **1.2kg of opium** was found and seized. A criminal case has been opened against the detainee and a preliminary investigation is under way.

<https://asiaplustj.info/ru/news/tajikistan/laworder/20200111/militsiya-tadzhikistana-zaderzhala-narkotorgovtsa-kotorii-nedavno-bil-osvobozhden-po-amnistii>

OTHER COUNTRIES

ARGENTINA

15.01.2020 Customs found about **82kg of cocaine** in the hold of a Martinair cargo plane hired by KLM, which was about to depart from Aceis International Airport. The cocaine shipment was intercepted on the runway of Minister Pistarini International Airport. The drug originally arrived on flight MP 6912, carrying horses for polo from Guarulos São Paulo, Brazil, with a stopover in Buenos Aires, Argentina, with final destination in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Three crew members and four dispatchers were detained.

https://www.clarin.com/especiales/encontraron-82-kilos-cocaina-avion-despegar-ezeiza_0_qvkjfNyj.html

BRAZIL

16.01.2020 The Federal Tax Customs Service (IRS) at the port of Paranagua seized 211% more cocaine in 2019 than in 2018. IRS seizures at the Port of Paranaguá reached **15.23 tons** in 2019 (4.89 tons in 2018), representing 26 per cent of the total **cocaine** seized in Brazil (57.15 tons). In 2019, the port of Paranagua registered 27 cocaine seizures, all of which were destined for Europe, mainly at seaports in Belgium (13 seizures) and the Netherlands (7 seizures). In 20 of the 27 cases, the drugs were placed in destination containers without the knowledge of the exporter, using a method known as "Rip-on/Rip-off". In six other cases, the method of concealing a cocaine consignment among a cargo was used, and in one case drug was found abandoned in the yard of a port terminal.

<http://receita.economia.gov.br/sobre/acoes-e-programas/acoes-da-receita-federal/noticias/2020/janeiro/9a-regiao-fiscal/receita-federal-bate-recorde-de-apreensoes-de-cocaina-no-porto-de-paranagua-em-2019>

16.01.2020 The Federal Tax Customs Service (IRS) in the port of Itajai, South Carolina, seized **935 kg of cocaine hydrochloride** destined for the port of Antwerp, Belgium, with the support of the Federal Police. The opening of the container revealed irregularities in the way the products were stacked, while the opening of the cargo destined for export revealed packages of cocaine. In 2019, **4,315 tons of cocaine** were seized at the port of Itajai. The seized cocaine was sent to the Federal Police, which is responsible for investigation.

<http://receita.economia.gov.br/sobre/acoes-e-programas/acoes-da-receita-federal/noticias/2020/janeiro/9a-regiao-fiscal/receita-federal-apreende-935-kg-de-cocaina-no-porto-de-itajai>

<https://www.nsctotal.com.br/columnistas/dagmara-spautz/receita-e-policia-federal-apreendem-quase-uma-tonelada-de-cocaina-no>

17.01.2020 The Federal Tax Customs Service (IRS) detected and seized **1910 kg of cocaine** in the port of Santos. The cocaine consignment was concealed in export shipments. The cargo containers were selected for inspection using objective risk analysis criteria, including non-intrusive scanner inspection. In the first case, **1,229 kg of cocaine** was found on 14 January in a shipment of soy protein meal packed in bags. The final

destination of the cargo was the port of Antwerp, Belgium. In the second case, 681 kg of cocaine was found on 16 January in a shipment of lemons packed in boxes. The cargo was destined for the Netherlands. The seized cocaine was handed over to the Federal Police, which will continue its investigation based on information provided by Customs.

<http://receita.economia.gov.br/noticias/ascom/2020/janeiro/receita-federal-localiza-quase-duas-toneladas-de-cocaina-em-acao-no-porto-de-santos>

17.01.2020 The Federal Tax Customs Service (IRS) confiscated **8.86 kg of cocaine and 1.2 kg of hashish** at the São Paulo post offices in January in mail and parcels destined for the domestic market as well as for Australia, France, Nigeria, Pakistan and Spain. The drugs were concealed in various items (pens, blankets, book covers, mugs, bottles of shampoo).
<http://receita.economia.gov.br/sobre/acoes-e-programas/acoes-da-receita-federal/noticias/2020/janeiro/8a-regiao-fiscal/receita-federal-apreende-mais-de-8-5-kg-de-drogas-em-remessas-postais-nos-primeiros-dias-do-ano>

HONDURAS

11.01.2020 As part of a joint operation of the National Anti-Narcotics Directorate of the National Police in coordination with the Public Prosecutor's Office, the National Border Police Directorate (DNSPF), the Agency for Sanitary Regulations (ARSA) and the National Border Police Directorate at the premises of the National Port Company, a large amount of precursor used to produce cocaine hydrochloride was detected and seized during a container inspection that was carrying electrical materials and various goods. During inspection of contents of the container, police officers found cardboard boxes marked "5191-4 METHILETILKETON UN 1193". The cargo contained a total of **1176 litres of liquid methylethylketone**. <http://policianacional.gob.hn/noticias/5247>

<https://www.latribuna.hn/2020/01/14/en-contenedor-trasegaban-precursor-para-cocaina/>
<https://twitter.com/PoliciaHonduras/status/1216800064712126466>

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

15.01.2020 Agents of the Narcotics Control Directorate (DNCD) seized **21 kg of cocaine** in a joint operation with the General Customs Administration (DGA), the Intelligence Directorate of the General Staff of the Ministry of Defence (J-2) and the specialized port authority (CESEP) at the Haina International Port Terminal (HIT). The drug was on board a ship called YUAN SHUN HAI from Barranquilla, Colombia.

<http://www.dncc.gob.do/index.php/noticias/item/inautan-21-paquetes-de-cocaina-en-operacion-conjunta-en-bodega-de-barco-en-el-muelle-de-haina-oriental>

<https://acento.com.do/2020/actualidad/8770094-hallan-cocaina-en-un-barco-procedente-de-colombia-atracado-en-haina/>

EGYPT

15.01.2020 Employees of the Egyptian Interior Ministry's General Drug Control Directorate (MENAFN) at the seaport of East Port Said, northeast of Cairo, found **630 kg of hashish** in a container among apple boxes. Two Arab men are suspected of attempting to smuggle cocaine, one of whom was detained at his residence near Cairo.

<https://menafn.com/1099556621/630-kg-illegal-drugs-confiscated-in-Egypt-Cairo>

INDIA

17.01.2020 Border Security Service (BSF) intercepted an attempted smuggling of drugs and weapons near the Chontra border post in the Gurdaspur sector, resulting in the seizure of **22 kg of heroin**, 90 rounds of ammunition and two ammunition magazines. The smugglers managed to escape in the direction of the border with Pakistan.
<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/bsf-seizes-22-kg-heroin-smuggled-from-pakistan-in-gurdaspur-sector-27635>

IRAQ

16.01.2020 Kurdish security forces at the Kurdistan-Turkey border crossing arrested two smugglers, from whom **27 kg of heroin** were seized. The criminals attempted to smuggle drugs into Turkey by concealing them in the driver and passenger seats of the car.
<http://www.basnews.com/index.php/en/news/kurdistan/574761>

IRAN

14.01.2020 Qom Police, in cooperation with the Laurestan Provincial Police, confiscated **1,006 tons of opium**. A smuggler planned to transport a shipment of opium to Qom Province. The vehicle used to transport the drugs was also seized during the operation.
<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/154551/Over-1-ton-drugs-confiscated-in-Qom-Prov>

SPAIN

15.01.2020 National police agents arrested 18 people belonging to a criminal organization that exported large quantities of hashish from Alicante to France. The organization, through traders from Zaragoza, concealed its illegal activities under the guise of legitimate international trade between European companies in heavy goods vehicles. The seized **4073 kg of hashish** was smuggled from Morocco and subsequently stored in various institutions and industrial warehouses located in Alicante, Malaga, Atarfa (Granada) and San Vicente de Raspaig (Alicante). One of the industrial warehouses was used by the organization to equip hidden compartments, known as "calettes", in industrial equipment and in freight trailers. In one of the trucks used by the organization to transport drugs, agents found 1,007 kg of hashish, with furniture serving as a cover. The investigations began after the first cache of 1,240 kg of hashish was discovered in France, where French police authorities arrested a man carrying hashish in a Spanish truck. <http://prensa.policia.es/manico.rar>

16.01.2020 The Civil Guard, as part of Operation AZARIEL, dismantled a criminal organization that smuggled large quantities of hashish to Spain using high-speed boats. Seizures were made of **3 tons of hashish**, 4595 blocks of cigarettes, a boat and a vehicle. The operation began after the Malaga Command Operations Centre (COS) received information that a British flagged pleasure craft was carrying large quantities of hashish. Five British citizens responsible for organizing and managing logistics and drug distribution have been arrested. The British are accused of crimes related to drug trafficking, belonging to a criminal organization and smuggling of tobacco products. The criminal organization used the pier for a boat in Fuengirola Harbour, where drugs were unloaded and then handed over to the United Kingdom. <https://www.guardiacivil.es/es/prensa/noticias/7210.html>

ITALY

13.01.2020 During the "Samba-2020" operation, employees of Guardia di Finanza of La Spezia and Genoa, together with the Customs Agency, discovered more than **333 kg of cocaine** inside a container from Brazil carrying wooden crates with granite slabs. To identify those responsible for cocaine smuggling, the shipment was transported under the control of the authorities to its destination, which was a warehouse located in Massa Carrara. Four managers, nationals of Croatia, Albania, Brazil and Italy, have been arrested.

<http://www.gdf.gov.it/stampa/ultime-notizie/anno-2020/gennaio/sequestrati-oltre-333-kg-di-cocaina-proveniente-dal-brasile-ed-arrestati-quattro-responsabili>

16.01.2020 On three beaches in Sicily, in Contrada Ginestra, located in Termini Imeres, in the area of Cefalu and Castel di Tusa, the bodies of three dead divers were found. The authorities suggest that in recent days, on beaches in northern and southwestern Sicily, from Messina to Agrigento, more than **100 kg of hashish** were found. The value of the discovered drugs is estimated at over 1 million euros. The sea around Sicily is a crossroads for hashish trafficking from Morocco, Spain and other places. For many years, Italian investigators have been tracking shipments of Moroccan hashish weighing up to 100 kg, which were delivered to Spain by boats crossing the Strait of Gibraltar. Deliveries are made on yachts, cargo ships or fishing boats, and drugs are often transferred to powerful motor boats on the high seas, which are sent to European ports, including Italy.
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jan/16/scuba-divers-bodies-found-in-sicily-linked-to-drug-trafficking>

MALAYSIA

16.01.2020 The police seized **309.76 kg of methamphetamine (Xiabu), 12.7 kg of heroin, 637.72 kg of ecstasy tablets, 564.83 kg of erymeen 5 tablets and 6.5 kg of cocaine** in raids conducted by the Department of Narcotics Crime Investigation of Bukit Aman (NCID) on various premises in Sentul, Capong and Zelayang. Nine persons belonging to the largest drug syndicate, including eight Malaysians and one Indonesian national, have been arrested. The cost of the drugs is estimated at 144.9 million yuan. The police also confiscated assets of the drug syndicate, a Toyota Vellfire car, cash and jewelry, as well as two pistols and several 9-mm bullets.

<https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2020/01/16/drugs-worth-rm1449mil-seized>

THE NETHERLANDS

14.01.2020 Customs intercepted **921 kg of cocaine** during an inspection at the port of Vlissingen. The drugs were hidden in a container from Ecuador with a cargo of bananas. The shipment was detected using a mobile scanning method. Seized cocaine shipment has been destroyed. Police have launched an investigation.

<https://www.politie.nl/nieuws/2020/januari/16/08-douane-vindt-921-kilo-cocaine-tussen-bananen.html>

COLOMBIA

17.01.2020 In a joint operation by the Colombian Navy and the Technical Investigation Service of the Office of the Attorney General, **1,007 kg of cocaine hydrochloride** were seized in Caribbean waters on board a merchant ship in the Gulf of Uraba. The seizure took place at the Uraba Coast Guard station in the Bay of Bahia loading area in Turbo Antioquia.

The cocaine consignment was believed to have belonged to a criminal organization affiliated with the organized armed group Gulf Clan and was destined for the port of Antwerp, Belgium. The value of the cocaine is estimated at \$60 million.

<https://www.armada.mil.co/es/content/armada-colombia-incauta-mas-una-tonelada-clorhidrato-cocaina-en-aguas-del-caribe-colombiano>

SINGAPORE

14.01.2020 Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) arrested five suspects in drug-related crimes, from whom more than **1.3 kg of heroin** had been seized in total.

<https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/cnb-operation-drugs-heroin-ice-seized-12265064>

USA

13.01.2020 U.S. Border Protection and Customs Enforcement (CBP) officials at the port of entry in Andrade, California, detained a 36-year-old U.S. citizen while attempting to smuggle **fentanyl, heroin, and methamphetamine weighing 22.23 kg** (1 pack of fentanyl, seven each) in a Chevrolet truck fuel tank. The cost of drugs is estimated at 278 thousand dollars. The vehicle and drugs have been confiscated. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/andrade-cbp-officers-stop-alleged-narcotic-smuggling-trifecta>

14.01.2020 Agents of the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the Office of Field Operations detained 5 people associated with three separate attempts to smuggle over **298.01 kg of narcotics** through ports of entry into Arizona:

1) Officers in the port of Lukeville detained 26-year-old man and 24-year-old woman in Phoenix when attempting to smuggle **210.92 kg of methamphetamine, more than 910 g of heroin, almost 23.13 kg of hashish oil and almost 1.36 kg of fentanyl** hidden in a vehicle floor.;

2) Officers at the port of Sasabe detained a Mexican citizen, a 38-year-old man and a 41-year-old woman, while attempting to smuggle over **52.16 kg of methamphetamine** hidden inside a fuel tank in a Chevy truck to the United States;

3) Officers in the port of San Luis detained a 27-year-old U.S. citizen residing in San Luis, Sonora, Mexico, while attempting to smuggle **9.53 kg of methamphetamine** into the United States in a Ford truck concealed in seat belt hoods.

Drugs and vehicles are confiscated, perpetrators are arrested, and then transferred to U.S. Homeland Security Investigations.

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-officers-seize-2m-worth-drugs-busy-monday>

16.01.2020 Customs and Border Control (CBP) agents arrested two men suspected of drug smuggling:

1) On Interstate Highway 15, a 54-year-old U.S. citizen was detained while attempting to smuggle **5.94 kg of methamphetamine, 2.35 kg of fentanyl and 1.85 kg of oxycotine** into the United States in a Honda Civic vehicle, concealing them in a specially equipped vehicle stash. The drugs have been transferred to the DEA, and the vehicle has been seized;

2) On Interstate Highway 5, a 36-year-old U.S. citizen was detained while attempting to smuggle **22.45 kg of methamphetamine** into the United States in a BMW. The drugs were transferred to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the vehicle was seized.

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/agents-intercept-two-drug-smuggling-loads-one-day>

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

17.01.2020 Officers from the Eastern Division of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service (TTPS) arrested two men aged 25 years and 41 years during Operation Strike Back II in the Toko area, who were carrying over **12.34 kg of cocaine and 38.6 kg of marijuana** in a Nissan X-Trail vehicle. The fact is under investigation by the police.

<http://www.looptt.com/content/2-held-12-kilos-cocaine-seized-during-toco-bust>

TURKEY

17.01.2020 Turkish security forces in Agri province stopped a truck registered in Iran carrying **183 kg of heroin**. A total of 362 packages of heroin were found in the trunk of the truck. The driver, an Iranian citizen, is arrested. The vehicle was seized by the police.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/police-seize-over-180-kg-of-heroin-in-eastern-turkey/1706039>