

CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY

(based on mass media reports)

27.01-02.02.2020

№ 5

CARICC MEMBER STATES

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

29.01.2020 As a result of joint operation of GTK and Main Department on Drugs Control of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Azerbaijan, a citizen of Azerbaijan was detained in Khirdalan, from whom **4,055 kg of opium** and **4,958 kg of hashish** were seized ready for further sale.

29.01.2020 Customs officers at the Bilasuvar customs office intercepted an attempt to smuggle **1.118 kg of heroin** hidden in the walls of a suitcase of a Pakistani citizen who arrived from Iran.

29.01.2020 Employees of the customs post "Yalama" of the Northern Territorial GTU during inspection of a railway passenger train "Rostov - Baku" in the ceiling niche of several compartments of the second car found **650 bottles of psychotropic substances**, which were smuggled into the country by two conductors of this car. All three facts are under investigation. <https://haqqin.az/news/168755>

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

28.01.2020 Police in Petropavlovsk detained a woman engaged in drug trafficking, from whom **300 grams of heroin** were seized. The woman had previously been tried for drug trafficking crimes. During the detention, the suspect tried to escape. A criminal case has been initiated. <https://ru.sputniknews.kz/incidents/20200128/12673678/polisy-geroin-video.html>

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

27.01.2020 Employees of UNK of Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in Penza region detained two residents of Tula region - a young man and a girl suspected of selling synthetic drugs. About **2.5 kg of synthetic drugs** were seized. The couple came to Penza specifically to carry out illegal activities. The drugs were intended to be sold contactlessly through caches. A criminal case has been initiated against the suspects. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19407351>

27.01.2020 A criminal case is being investigated by the GSU GU of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia for the Perm Krai against 16 members of a criminal community who were involved in illegal sale of drugs in Perm, the Perm Krai, the Udmurt Republic, the Sverdlovsk, Kirov and Orenburg regions. The defendants carried out criminal activity in the interests of four Internet shops in the period from January 2018 to September 2019. More than **10 kg of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances (LSD, cocaine, MDMA, mephedrone, hashish and amphetamine)** were seized. Criminal cases have been initiated regarding organization and participation in a criminal association and legalization of



more than 460,000 roubles extracted by criminal means. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19404385>

27.01.2020 Employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs on transport in the Central Federal District at Leningradsky railway station in Moscow detained a 37-year-old citizen of the Republic of Belarus, from whom **992.29 g of N-methylephedron** was found and seized during a personal search. A criminal case was initiated.

<https://tass.ru/proisshestiya/7617313>

29.01.2020 UNK employees of the Russian Interior Ministry's Voronezh Region Directorate detained a 25-year-old native of a Central Asian state, who was selling heroin in a contactless way by equipping caches in Voronezh. The drugs were sold through messengers. About **200 grams of heroin** were seized. A criminal case was initiated. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19433716>

29.01.2020 At the "Magri" stationary post, officers of the traffic police of the Department of Internal Affairs of Russia in the city of Sochi, Krasnodar region, stopped a car, in which there was a driver - a 41-year-old resident of Moscow and two passengers - residents of the Chelyabinsk region aged 19 and 25 years. A personal search of the passengers' belongings revealed 490 tablets containing MDMA ("ecstasy"), more than **1 kg of amphetamine** and about **980 g of hashish**. More than **600 g of mephedrone** was found during a subsequent inspection of the suspects' homes in Sochi. A criminal case has been initiated.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19431494>

30.01.2020 Russian OMVD officers in the Yegoryevsk urban district, Moscow Region, stopped a car driven by a 27-year-old Central Asian citizen suspected of drug trafficking. **200 grams of heroin** were found in the interior of the vehicle. The detainee planned to sell heroin on the territory of Yegoryevsk via stashes. A criminal case has been initiated.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19436836>

30.01.2020 Employees of UNK GU of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in Krasnoyarsk krai dismantled online store selling drugs. Activities of a group of persons engaged in the illegal sale of narcotic drugs in Krasnoyarsk have been suppressed. Three men organized the sale of drugs of synthetic origin through caches on behalf of the online store. One of them, a man born in 1994, was a wholesale "stasher" and the other two, born in 1987 and 1989, were retailers. More than **6 kg of synthetic drugs** prepared for further sale, as well as items and means of communication used in criminal activities, were discovered and seized during searches of detainees, as well as during inspections of their homes and cars. A criminal case has been initiated.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19435686>

OTHER COUNTRIES

BRAZIL

28.01.2020 IRS Customs found packages of cocaine in three biodiesel tank containers during an inspection at Itapoa port. So far, there is no complete estimate of the amount of drugs hidden in the tanks. The cocaine's destination was Portugal.

<http://www.jornalfloripa.com.br/agencia2/noticia.php?id=1510389>

Video: https://static.ndonline.com.br/2020/01/WhatsApp-Video-2020-01-28-at-12.00.09-1.mp4?_=1

31.01.2020 Customs of the Federal Revenue Service in the port of Paranaguá, together with the Federal Police Station of Paranaguá, confiscated **221.5 kg of cocaine**, which was detected with an image scanner. The cocaine shipment was inside a container loaded with machine parts destined for the port of Antwerp, Belgium.

<http://receita.economia.gov.br/noticias/ascom/2020/janeiro/receita-federal-apreende-221-5-quilos-de-cocaina-no-porto-de-paranagua>

BULGARIA

02.02.2020 Bulgarian Interior Ministry officials identified a cocaine supply chain from Colombia, finding about **500 kg of cocaine** in two trucks loaded with citrus fruits. Packages of cocaine were distributed among 6,700 cardboard boxes of fruit. The police estimated that each box contained between 80 and 100 grams of drugs. Two men, whose companies were listed as recipients of the shipment, were detained for "participation in an organized criminal group trafficking cocaine from Colombia to Bulgaria". One of those arrested was the former director of the Sofia Customs Agency.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/miscellaneous/bulgaria-busts-cocaine-trafficking-route-from-827252.html>

GERMANY

21.01.2020 Customs personnel in Bremen and the police in Bremerhaven prevented an attempted smuggling of **13 kg of cocaine**. Two people have been arrested. The investigation is being carried out by investigators from the Hamburg Customs Investigation Department and the local police in Bremerhaven on behalf of the Bremen-based public prosecutor's office in Bremerhaven. <https://www.presseportal.de/blaulicht/pm/50367/4505933>

EGYPT

28.01.2020 General Department of Narcotics Control of the Egyptian Ministry of Interior, in cooperation with the armed forces, seized more than **20 tons of marijuana** and destroyed more than **283 acres (114.5 ha) of cannabis and opium poppy** located in South Sinai province in a large-scale campaign aimed at detecting illicit drug crops. The operation also resulted in the seizure of **828 kg of cannabis seeds and 243 kg of opium poppy seeds**. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-01/29/c_138740065.htm

INDIA

31.01.2020 During a raid on a house in the Sultanwind district of Amritsar, the Punjab Special Task Force (STF) found and seized **188 kg of heroin, 38 kg of dextromethorphan, 26 kg of caffeine powder** used to mix with heroin and **six barrels containing 207 kg of chemical composition**. A chemical sample was sent for research. The police have arrested seven people, including the owner of the house and a 24-year-old woman. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/police-recover-180-kg-heroin-from-house-in-amritsar-detain-afghan-national/story-Hz1EJXgo8pL1oghwpBX43K.html>

IRAN

31.01.2020 Between 25 and 31 January 2020, the Iranian Narcotics Police seized **65 kg of heroin, 10 tons and 864 kg of opium, 291 kg of methamphetamine, 79 kg of morphine, 1786 kg of hashish and 79 kg of other narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances¹.**

SPAIN

26.01.2020 UIPA and the Regional Training Centre for Dogs (Crac) conducted the anti-drug operation "Las Palmeras" in a container terminal in the port of Guayaquil. As a result, **644.46 kg of cocaine** were found and seized in a canned tuna container destined for Barcelona, Spain. <https://www.policiaecuador.gob.ec/en-el-puerto-maritimo-de-guayaquil-agentes-antinarcoticos-hallan-mas-de-media-tonelada-de-cocaina/>

31.01.2020 National Police agents, in a joint operation with the Customs of the Tax Administration, seized **195.5 kg of cocaine** being transported inside a container carrying a cargo of bananas. The seal of the container was broken and, after appropriate visual inspection, five backpacks were found inside the container next to the door containing **195.5 kg of cocaine**.

01.02.2020 During a joint operation by the National Police and the Tax Authority at the port of Algeciras, backpacks containing approximately **300 kg of cocaine** were found in a container travelling from Guayaquil, Ecuador, to their destination in the UAE. Smugglers used the "Rip-on/Rip-off" method, where drugs were placed in a container with licit cargo without the knowledge of exporter and importer. https://www.policia.es/prensa/20200131_1.html
 Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jGDT7aOtg34&feature=emb_logo

31.01.2020 National Police agents in a joint operation with Revenue Authority customs at the port of Vigo found **10.4 kg of cocaine** in two sport bags hidden in an air-conditioning channel on board a Norwegian ship. The bags with cocaine had an original magnetic device that provided easy access to the bags and prevented possible sudden movements through the ventilation ducts that could lead to their loss. Investigation is testing the version that crew members may have been involved in drug smuggling. https://www.policia.es/prensa/20200131_2.html
<https://nhdiario.es/apresan-diez-kilos-de-cocaina-en-un-buque-noruego-en-vigo/>

CANADA

11.01.2020 Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) found 15 packets of **cocaine weighing 20 kg** at Toronto Pearson International Airport during a flight from St. Maarten in the Caribbean region. CBSA estimates the value of cocaine at more than \$2.5 million. All evidence has been handed over to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP). <https://www.canada.ca/en/border-services-agency/news/2020/01/cbsa-seizes-suspected-cocaine-found-in-a-commercial-aircraft.html>

¹ Information provided by liaison officer of the Anti-Narcotics Police of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

COSTA RICA

02.02.2020 Drug Control Police (PCD) officers found and confiscated **620 kg of cocaine** in a container of medical supplies at Moine port dock in Limone. The drug had been placed in 24 black bags that were inside a container along the route: port Turbo, Colombia - port Moines, Costa Rica. https://www.teletica.com/248406_decomisan-620-kilos-de-cocaina-en-contenedor-con-productos-medicos-en-muelle-de-moin

Video: <https://www.msn.com/es-ar/video/noticias/ext-decomiso-de-productos-medicos-020220/vp-BBZzHT4>

MEXICO

28.01.2020 Military Department of National Defense (SEDENA) in Quintana Roo recorded a violation of Mexican airspace by a two-engine aircraft from South America. Units of the military were deployed in landing zone of the aircraft north-west of Chetumala, Quintana Roo. Upon arrival at the site, the military clashed with the men guarding the aircraft, injuring a general and three soldiers, one of whom died. Once the military repelled the aggression, more than **600 kg of cocaine** were found on the scene. Three assault guns, a twin-engine aircraft and two vehicles were also seized.

<https://www.theyucatantimes.com/2020/01/quintana-roo-airplane-seizure-of-over-600-kilos-of-cocaine/>

01.02.2020 Joint work by the Port 62 Naval Security Group (UNAPROP-62) attached to the Sixth Navy Region, Manzanillo Customs, the National Guard and the Office of the Attorney General (FGR) resulted in the seizure of **48.32 kg of cocaine** in the port of Manzanillo, Colima. The drug was discovered during an inspection of a container unloaded from a vessel called "WAN HAI 613" under the Singapore flag from Guayaquil, Ecuador. <https://www.la-prensa.com.mx/policiaca/incauta-semar-44-paquetes-de-cocaina-en-manzanillo-colima-4782275.html>

UAE

28.01.2020 Customs officers at the Jebel Ali Customs Centre in Dubai stopped smuggling **73 kg of crystalline methamphetamine**. The cargo was concealed inside vehicle parts.

<https://www.thenational.ae/uae/73kg-of-drugs-stashed-inside-car-parts-seized-in-dubai-1.971144>

<https://www.kahramna.com/uae-news/crime/%d8%b3%d9%84%d8%b7%d8%a7%d8%aa-%d8%ac%d9%85%d8%a7%d8%b1%d9%83-%d8%af%d8%a8%d9%8a-%d8%aa%d8%ad%d8%a8%d8%b7-%d9%85%d8%ad%d8%a7%d9%88%d9%84%d8%a9-%d8%aa%d9%87%d8%b1%d9%8a%d8%a8-%d9%85%d8%ae%d8%af%d8%b1/>

PAKISTAN

28.01.2020 Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) from Balochistan seized **1,088 kg of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including 848 kg of opium, 84 kg of hashish, 71 kg of crystalline methamphetamine, 53 kg of morphine and 32 kg of marijuana** during a special operation conducted in the Taftan district of Chagai. The value of seized drugs on the international market amounts to 12 billion rupees (more than \$75 million). <https://dunyanews.tv/en/Crime/529866-ANF-recovers-drugs-worth-Rs12b-in-Balochistan>

29.01.2020 Members of the Excise Intelligence Bureau warned of an attempt to smuggle large amounts of heroin during a vehicle inspection in Punjab. During the search of a vehicle stopped near a highway interchange, **10 kg of heroin** were found and seized. The driver of the vehicle was arrested.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/excise-recovers-10-kg-heroin-arrests-smuggle-822950.html>

PERU

29.01.2020 In the Port Terminal "DP World" in Puerto del Callao, the DIVIPOINT (Drug Enforcement Division at the Port), in a joint operation with SUNAT-CUSTOMS, checked and seized more than **300 kg of cocaine hydrochloride** on board a vessel called "CG CGM" under the Malta flag. The vessel had arrived from San Antonio, Chile, and was on its way to Popora, Ecuador. <https://www.marina.mil.pe/en/noticia/en-operativo-conjunto-se-incauto-mas-de-300-kilos-de-clorhidrato-de-cocaina-en-buque-de-bandera-maltesa/>

PORTUGAL

27.01.2020 Portuguese Police (PJ) intercepted a sailing boat with **1,820 kg of cocaine** on board as part of an operation to combat transcontinental drug trafficking. The international operation, called "Gloria", was conducted by the Anti-Drug Unit, with the support of the Navy and Air Force, in connection with an investigation initiated following an information exchange at the Maritime Analysis and Operations Centre for Drugs (MAOC-N), located in Lisbon. The operation and information exchange was supported by the Brazilian Federal Police (FP), French Customs, the British National Crime Agency (NCA), the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Spanish National Police. Two foreign nationals aged 51 and 53 years were arrested. In addition to drugs, a boat, various equipment and documentation were seized. <https://www.theportugalnews.com/news/police-intercept-sailboat-with-1820-kilos-of-cocaine/52842>

SENEGAL

28.01.2020 During an operation carried out by the Directorate of Mixed Containers and Vessels (UMCC) of the Customs Unit of the Dakar Autonomous Port, with the assistance of the Scientific Police and OCRITIS, **120 kg of cocaine** were found and seized on board the Grimaldi Lines' GRANDE NIGERIA. Cache was found in the ship's ventilation system compartments. https://www.dakaractu.com/Port-Autonome-de-Dakar-La-Douane-saisit-120KG-de-cocaine-dans-le-navire-%C2%A0Grande-Nigeria%C2%A0-ou-les-700-KG-avaient-ete_a183118.html
https://www.seneweb.com/news/Video/port-de-dakar-nouvelle-saisie-de-cocaine_n_307643.html

USA

29.01.2020 Border Patrol agents from El Centro Sector at the 111th and 86th Highways, California, intercepted two drug smuggling attempts:

- 1) agents detained a 30-year-old U.S. citizen in an attempt to smuggle **24.9 kg of methamphetamine** worth \$104,500 in a Ford Explorer fuel tank;
- 2) agents in Salton City detained a 59-year-old man in an attempted smuggling of about **30 kg of methamphetamine** in a Ford F-250 truck worth \$125,400. The substance was found in a hidden compartment located at the rear of the truck, as well as in the rear passenger seat. In both cases, drivers, drugs and vehicles were transferred to the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/border-patrol-foils-2-methamphetamine-smuggling-attempts-less-24-hours>

31.01.2020 Border Patrol Agents at Nogales Station, Tucson, Arizona stop two attempts to smuggle drugs into the United States:

- 1) during examination, agents detained a 19-year-old pregnant woman trying to move inside her body **295 g of fentanyl tablets**;
- 2) agents detained a 31-year-old female driver of a Nissan Sentra in an attempt to smuggle more than **7 kg of methamphetamine, 5 kg of cocaine, 36 kg of heroin** and just under **0.5 kg of fentanyl** hidden in a cache in the vehicle floor. Agents have arrested both female U.S. citizens facing federal drug smuggling charges.

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/fentanyl-seized-checkpoint-two-separate-incidents>

CROATIA

31.01.2020 Croatian Interior Ministry officers in Radakovo, near Brežice, near the Slovenian border, detained a 41-year-old Slovenian citizen and a 29-year-old citizen of Bosnia and Herzegovina who attempted to smuggle **481 kg of marijuana**. <https://www.total-slovenia-news.com/news/5526-croatian-police-stop-slovenian-carrying-481-kilos-of-marijuana>
<https://www.jutarnji.hr/vijesti/crna-kronika/video-nevjerovatno-uhvateno-dvojac-pao-s-gotovo-pola-tone-marihuane-uhvaceni-su-dok-su-drogu-prevozili-u-malom-mjestu-blizu-granice/9916792/>

UKRAINE

30.01.2020 Zaporozhye region police detained a 23-year-old local resident in a post office in Zaporozhye after receiving a parcel with **1 kg of alpha-PVP**. The detainee was involved in illegal sale of drugs by contactless method - through "caches" and postal mail, for which he used capabilities of Internet resources. In particular, he sold drugs through an online store in Telegram channel. On the same day, as a result of a search of the perpetrator's place of residence, **3400 ecstasy tablets** with a total weight of **1.7 kg, 200 g of alpha-PVP, 10 kg of amphetamine, about 10 kg of marijuana**, electronic scales, computer equipment and mobile phones were seized. The cost of seized drugs is about 10.5 million UAH. Criminal proceedings have been initiated on this fact. https://reporter-ua.com/2020/01/31/355785_u-zaporozhca-izyali-narkotikov-na-10-mln-grn-foto-video

FRANCE

23.12.2019 Customs officials in the port of Jarry seized **57 kg of cocaine** after an inspection of several containers coming from Suriname and destined for Dunkirk. The cocaine shipment was distributed in 45 packages and hidden under the back hatch of a refrigerated container carrying a shipment of bananas. The case is before a specialized interregional court in Fort-de-France. <https://la1ere.francetvinfo.fr/guadeloupe/57-kilogrammes-cocaine-ont-ete-saisis-douanes-terminal-portuaire-jarry-794201.html>

24.01.2020 Anti-Narcotics Office (OFAST) found 660 packets of **cocaine weighing 700 kg** in a container of exotic wood sent from Brazil to a carpenter's company located in Montiusant in the Bordeaux region of France. Three people from Lyon are charged with drug trafficking, smuggling of drugs committed as part of an organized criminal group and other crimes. In addition to drugs, the investigation resulted in the seizure of a stolen car, weapons (three automatic pistols and two assault rifles) and three bulletproof vests. <https://www.tellerreport.com/news/2020-01-29---three-indictments-in-bordeaux-after-a-seizure-of-700-kg-of-cocaine-.ByEv5lkfl.html>



SWEDEN

24.01.2020 Officers from the Customs Crime Division of the Customs Administration at the port of Uddevalla discovered about **25 kg of cocaine** on a vessel arriving from Barranquilla, Colombia. The ship, under the Dutch flag, was en route from Colombia to Sweden and unloaded various goods in the USA and the Virgin Islands of the Caribbean. The police interviewed all 15 crew members, three of whom are suspected of smuggling drugs. The value of the seized drugs is more than SEK 17 million.

<https://www.tullverket.se/nyheter/nyheter/kokslastmed25kilokokain.5.311bf4f016e69d6ea0d73b4.html>

<http://www.marsecreview.com/2020/01/25kg-cocaine-seized-at-swedish-port-of-uddevalla-from-vessel-from-colombia/>

SRI LANKA

30.01.2020 Members of the Peliagoda Special Crimes Police Unit confiscated **192 kg of heroin** during a raid in the Khoran area. Three suspects were apprehended, including two women and one man. This fact is under investigation. <https://www.newsfirst.lk/2020/01/30/police-recover-192kg-of-heroin-from-horana/>

ECUADOR

26.01.2020 At the seaport of Guayaquil, agents from the Ports and Airports Information Unit (UIPA) and the Regional Canine Training Centre (CRAC) discovered **36.9 kg of cocaine hydrochloride** in a container destined for the Republic of Cyprus during a counter-narcotics operation "Vidisha". <https://www.policiaecuador.gob.ec/un-nuevo-cargamento-de-droga-encuentran-agentes-del-uipa-y-crac-en-panel-electrico-de-contenedor/>