

CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY

(based on mass media reports)

17.02-23.02.2020

№ 8

CARICC MEMBER STATES

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

19.02.2020 Employees of the Police Department of Khatai district of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan detained a resident of Baku and found and seized **13 g of heroin and 5 grams of methamphetamine** during a search. The man purchased drugs by contactless method from a resident of Bilasuvar district who was later arrested. **525 g of heroin and 130.503 grams of opium** were seized during a personal search of the detainee and a search of his car. It was established that drug trafficking in the country was organized by an unknown Iranian citizen. <https://vesti.az/kriminal/v-azerbajdzhan-zaderzhany-lica-prodavavshie-narkotiki-posredstvom-google-maps-396629>

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

18.02.2020 Employees of UNK MVD of the Udmurt Republic detained a 42-year-old resident of Votkinsk, Perm region, who illegally stored about **1.5 kg of heroin** with him and his place of residence. The detainee was a stashor of an online shop selling narcotic drugs. He took drugs from a cache for further distribution in the territory of the Udmurt Republic in Perm region. A criminal case was initiated on this fact. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19572089>

19.02.2020 FSB of Russia intercepted a stable smuggling channel for supply of drugs to Russia from Central Asian countries on a particularly large scale organized by members of a transnational criminal group. On the territory of the Bolshechernihovskiy district of Samara region, an active member of the group - a citizen of a Central Asian country, who was found in possession of more than **20 kg of heroin**, was detained. The substance was kept in caches equipped with a Toyota Camry vehicle, on which the detainee crossed the state border of the Russian Federation through a multilateral vehicle checkpoint. A criminal case has been initiated against the foreign national by investigation unit of the territorial security body. <http://www.fsb.ru/fsb/press/message/single.htm%21id%3D10438533%40fsbMessage.html>

20.02.2020 Employees of the North Ossetian MVD UNK, together with colleagues from the Russian Interior Ministry's North Ossetian Federal District department, dismantled a drug laboratory. Mephedrone was illegally produced by a 24-year-old resident of the village of Mayramadag, who rented an apartment in Vladikavkaz and equipped it with a drug lab. During examination of homeownership, raw materials and equipment for drug production were seized: electric devices for mixing reagents, glass flasks, scales, a respirator and a furnace. All equipment and detailed instructions for preparation of mephedrone were ordered online. He kept manufactured drug in a freezer and was going to distribute it in the territory of the republic through stashes. A criminal case has been initiated on this fact. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19598609>

REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

20.02.2020 In the course of operative actions carried out on the territory of Samarkand, Syrdarya and Tashkent regions, officers of the State Security Service of Uzbekistan seized about **7.5 kg of narcotics, including 1.08 kg of heroin, 1.457 kg of opium and 4.936 kg of hashish**. Criminal proceedings have been instituted on all detected facts. <https://www.podrobno.uz/cat/proisshestviya/sqb-v-khode-operativnykh-meropriyatiy-v-regionakh-izyala-okolo-7-5-kg-narkotikov/>

OTHER COUNTRIES

BRAZIL

16.02.2020 Internal Revenue Service (IRS) officers, together with the Federal Police (PF), seized **114 kg of cocaine** at the port of Itajai, South Carolina. Drugs were found inside a container in black bags among pallets with wooden slabs. The container was selected for inspection following a risk profile analysis. The cocaine shipment was placed in a legal cargo inside the port terminal using a "Rip-on/Rip-off" technique. The timber cargo was destined for the port of Antwerp, Belgium. Seized cocaine has been handed over to the Federal Police, which is conducting an investigation. <http://otempodefato.com.br/geral/receita-federal-apreende-114-quilos-de-coca%C3%ADna-no-porto-de-itaja%C3%ADsc-1.2202643>

20.02.2020 Military Police (PMSC) of Itapoa, Santa Catarina, received an anonymous complaint stating that there was a container with hidden drugs in a port terminal at Itapoa port. After inspecting several containers with forwarded specifications, 12 bags of **cocaine totalling 13.94 kg** were found in one of them. Cocaine was inside a refrigerated container's cooling system. Drugs were seized and handed over to the Civil Police Division for investigation. <http://www.segurancaportuariaemfoco.com.br/2020/02/pm-sc-apreende-cocaina-em-terminal.html>

GERMANY

21.02.2020 German police and customs prevented **700 kg of cocaine** from entering Germany as a result of a joint operation with Belgian colleagues in Antwerp. In a German investigation into a cargo company from Lower Saxony, information on the arrival of five suspicious containers carrying food salt from Brazil in the port of Antwerp was received and transmitted to Belgian law enforcement authorities. In early February, Belgian investigators inspected the containers and found more than 700 kg of cocaine in the cargo of declared salt. The German carrier was not only responsible for the supply chain, but also had a relationship with the buyer of salt. Ultimately, the salt containers were transported by truck to Lower Saxony, where investigators were able to gather evidence of drug smuggling. <https://www.brusselstimes.com/belgium/96255/700-kg-of-cocaine-disguised-as-table-salt-found-in-antwerp/>

GREECE

18.02.2020 Greek Police (ELAS) seized large amounts of drugs as well as military weapons in two separate raids in the Attica and Magnesia regions. In Athens, the police arrested two suspects, a 22-year-old man and a 28-year-old woman, in the western suburb of Zephyri.

During a search of the suspects' home, **5 kg of heroin and 700 g of cocaine** were found and seized. In addition, near the town of Volos, police searched the home of two suspects aged 44 and 49 and found unlicensed weapons, drugs and cash. Seizures included a submachine gun, a hunting rifle, several cartridges, including long-range cartridges and anti-aircraft guns, as well as more than **1 kg of cannabis** along with equipment used to grow and process drugs. <http://www.ekathimerini.com/249678/article/ekathimerini/news/two-drug-busts-lead-to-seizure-of-heroin-cocaine-and-illegal-weapons>

INDIA

17.02.2020 A special large-scale operation against illicit opium poppy cultivation in various villages of Changlang district in Arunachal Pradesh, in particular in Sompoi, Longsang and Tamlom villages, eradicated **poppy plantations** covering a total area of about **6.5 ha** and seized and destroyed over **2.6 tons of opium poppy**. <https://www.sentinelassam.com/north-east-india-news/aranachal-news/opium-destroyed-in-three-changlang-villages-arunachal-pradesh/>

IRAN

15.02.2020 Police in Sistan and Balochistan province after a series of intelligence operations and during a clash between counter-narcotics forces and a gang attempting to smuggle drugs into the country through Sib va Sooran district seized about **1.629 tons of opium and 204 kg of crystalline methamphetamine**. Three perpetrators were detained, one car was seized, and several weapons were seized. <https://en.mehrnews.com/news/155650/Over-1-ton-of-illicit-drugs-seized-in-SE-Iran>

18.02.2020 After a series of intelligence operations in Khormozgan province, counter-narcotics forces identified and arrested 17 drug traffickers, seized **1,207 kg of drugs, including 874 kg of opium, 278 kg of hashish and 55 kg of heroin**. <https://en.mehrnews.com/news/155759/Police-bust-1-2-tons-of-drugs-in-Hormozgan-province>

21.02.2020 From 15 to 21 February 2020, the Iranian Anti-Narcotics Police seized **190 kg of heroin, 10 tons and 861 kg of opium, 243 kg of methamphetamine, 1 ton and 763 kg of hashish and 35 kg of other narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances¹**.

IRAQ

18.02.2020 Kurdistan Region Drug Enforcement Officers in Erbil arrested two Iranian nationals attempting to smuggle a large shipment of drugs from Erbil to Canada through an international transportation company, concealing **5 kg of opium and 3 kg of ketamine** in shafts and other spare parts for an excavator. <https://www.kurdistan24.net/en/news/8a0bb367-9912-4868-9571-d9ec2c8e27b5>

THE NETHERLANDS

15.02.2020 Customs at Princess Juliana International Airport (PJIA) arrested a citizen of Suriname in an attempt to smuggle **5 kg of cocaine** in her luggage. Female drug courier

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

flew to St. Maarten on a Caribbean Airlines flight from Trinidad and Tobago. Earlier, on January 25, customs at Princess Juliana International Airport (PJIA) also seized about **8 kg of cocaine**. The smuggled cocaine was found in the luggage of two women from the United States who arrived in St. Maarten on a Windward Islands Airways flight from Curacao. Cocaine was hidden in a double bottom of the suitcases. <https://thedailyherald.sx/islands/customs-seizes-5kg-cocaine-at-airport>

PANAMA

18.02.2020 Drug Prosecutor's Office in Colón and Guna Yala, in a joint action with DNA personnel, detected and seized **34 kg of cocaine** in a refrigerated container from Ecuador. https://twitter.com/PGN_PANAMA/status/1229763939342397440

20.02.2020 As part of a joint effort by security agencies under the Global Container Control Programme (PGCC), the National Customs Administration was able to identify 8 black bags containing **250 kg of cocaine** in a container. The container, which was en route, departed from the port of departure of Salvador Aqahutla (El Salvador) to its final destination in India. According to declaration and documentation supporting the customs transport, the cargo was cardboard waste. Cocaine was seized from the port area by the Ministry of State after being tested, with the support of National Police officers. https://www.ana.gob.pa/w_ana/index.php/23-news/se-detecta-droga-dentro-de-un-contenedor-en-transito
https://twitter.com/PGN_PANAMA/status/1230238645086494720

PUERTO RICO

14.02.2020 United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) seized **98.2 kg of cocaine** concealed in a Flat Rack container arriving on board a Santo Domingo-San Juan ferry. Cocaine seized was valued at \$2.5 million. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/valentine-s-day-surprise-seizure-cbp-san-juan-217-pounds-cocaine>

NORTH MACEDONIA

20.02.2020 In an international operation against criminal networks involved in drug smuggling involving several countries, police in Northern Macedonia seized **1 kg of cocaine**. The operation was supported by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and police in North Macedonia, Albania, Montenegro and Italy. The seized cocaine was smuggled from neighbouring Albania in a truck driven by a Montenegrin national. The police had been following the truck since its entry and had searched a warehouse of a local fruit company in the village of Krushopek, near Skopje, which was its final destination. Following the discovery of cocaine hidden in banana bags, the police detained the owner of fruit company, two employees and truck driver. In the past, the fruit company was actively importing fruit from Colombia and Ecuador into Latin America. The drugs found were probably part of a much larger shipment of drugs. **1.3 tons of cocaine** arrived by ship in Albania, presumably destined for Slovenia, and was then distributed from there to other European countries. <https://balkaninsight.com/2020/02/20/north-macedonia-joins-partners-in-busting-cocaine-smuggling-gang/>

TURKEY

21.02.2020 Gendarmerie forces in eastern Agri province seized **149 kg of heroin**. The consignment was transported by truck coming from Iran. The truck driver, an Iranian national, has been detained. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/nearly-150-kg-of-heroin-seized-in-eastern-turkey/1740877>

UKRAINE

14.02.2020 A criminal group of residents of the city of Kremenchug was engaged in manufacture and sale of psychotropic substances and drugs in the Poltava region. Among those involved in the drug business are former police officers. The leader of the organized criminal group (OCG) and his accomplices were detained during a joint special operation of internal security officers of the National Police of Ukraine, investigators and special forces of Poltava and Dnipropetrovsk police. The persistent criminal group was organized by a 52-year-old resident of the city of Kremenchug, who attracted almost two dozen people, men and women aged 27-52 years, to illegal activities and established the process of drug production and distribution in the region. For this purpose, perpetrators set up a room in a private house located in a village of the Kremenchug district. The area was equipped with 24-hour video surveillance cameras. Numerous searches were conducted in the place of residence of OCG members and in the location of the drug lab. More than **1 kg of amphetamine, 0.5 kg of marijuana, 1 ton of precursors** in canisters and glass containers, six bags of powder substance with a total weight of 300 kg, coils with unknown powder substance, equipment and dishes for drug production were seized. In addition, seven pistols without permits, ammunition for them, mobile phones, office equipment, more than 700 thousand hryvnia, 1.5 thousand dollars in cash and 5 luxury cars were seized. Weapons and drugs were found inside cars. Value of seized drugs and precursors may amount to 2.5 million hryvnia. At present, the main defendants, including the leader and a 40-year-old former police officer, are detained.

<https://www.npu.gov.ua/news/korupczyia/vnutrishnya-bezpeka-naczpolicziji-vikrila-na-poltavshhini-ozbrojenu-grupu-narkodileriv-do-skladu-vxodili-kolishni-pravooxoronczyi/>

ECUADOR

18.02.2020 Police units in Puerto Bolívar, with the assistance of personnel from the Port and Airport Research Unit (UIPA) and the Regional Canine Training Centre (CRAC), during a routine inspection on the Lexa Maersk, found damaged security seals on a container that was transporting seafood to Europe. Frozen shrimp was destined for shipment to the port of Algeciras (Spain). Inside the container, among boxes of seafood, there were five bags of **cocaine with a total weight of 233 kg**. The cocaine bags on top were marked with the abbreviation "PML1". <https://www.eluniverso.com/noticias/2020/02/18/nota/7745634/policia-decomiso-233-kilos-cocaina-puerto-bolivar-destino-espana>

<https://twitter.com/PoliciaEcuador/status/1230232921262448642>

22.02.2020 Agents of the Port and Airport Information Unit (UIPA) and the Regional Canine Training Centre (CRAC) at the seaport of Guayaquil discovered two black bags containing 112 packs of **cocaine hydrochloride weighing 130 kg** in a container terminal between containers as a result of operation "Amanecer".



<https://www.policiaecuador.gob.ec/operacion-antinarcoticos-amanecer-deja-130-000-gramos-de-cocaina-incautados/>

23.02.2020 Agents of the European Anti-Narcotics Intelligence Unit with Coordination (UIACE) found several jute bags of **348,942 kg of cocaine** in a parked Chery van on the Promenade de Commerce parking lot in the Canton of Duran. It is believed that the seized cocaine was intended for shipment to international markets through the seaport of Guayaquil. <https://www.policiaecuador.gob.ec/agentes-de-la-uiace-encuentran-311-paquetes-de-droga-en-furgoneta-estacionada-dentro-de-un-centro-comercial-de-duran/>