

CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY

(based on mass media reports)

20-26.04.2020

№ 17

CARICC MEMBER STATES

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

19.04.2020 State Border Service of Azerbaijan is continuously taking measures to protect state border and combat drug trafficking:

1) On April 15, border patrol of the State Border Service on the official territory of the "Goradiz" border patrol detained two violators, citizens of Iran, and during a personal search seized **1.725 kg of heroin, 1.8 kg of marijuana, 1.335 kg of teriyak (raw opium), 400 g of methamphetamine and 195 tablets of methadone M40;**

2) On April 19, border guard detachment of the State Border Service prevented an attempt to smuggle drugs at the Goradiz outpost. More than **11 kg of marijuana, 620 grams of heroin, 55 grams of crystal methamphetamine**, one "Magnum" pistol, one magazine and 28 cartridges were seized from the perpetrator. Investigative efforts are under way to investigate these facts.

<https://www.trend.az/azerbaijan/incident/3226868.html>

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

20.04.2020 On the Chadan-Bayan-Tala highway in the Republic of Tyva, police of the inter-municipal department of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs "Dzun-Khemchiksky" and members of the Rosgvardiya stopped a VAZ-2115 car with a 27-year-old resident of the village of Chyraa-Bazhy as a passenger. During inspection of the vehicle, more than **40 kg of marijuana** were found and seized in the luggage compartment. A criminal case was initiated in this connection. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/20012121>

21.04.2020 As a result of interdepartmental cooperation between the regional UMVD and the Russian Federal Security Service border authorities, a 36-year-old resident of Novosibirsk and her 35-year-old cohabitant suspected of distributing drugs contactlessly in the Kurgan, Tyumen and Sverdlovsk regions were detained in the Tyumen region. Convolutions with **amphetamine and N-methylephedrone, weighing about 7 kg**, were seized from caches, as well as during a search of the suspects' apartment. A criminal case has been initiated.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/20021270>

21.04.2020 In the course of Internet monitoring, employees of the UNK UMVD of the Russian Federation in Ryazan region recorded an activity typical for organization of contactless drug sales. A married couple, two Ryazan residents aged 26 and 36, were involved in drug trafficking. A total of **1,137 kg of synthetic drugs, 98 g of hashish and 3 single doses of MDMA ("ecstasy")** were seized. A criminal case has been initiated against the suspects. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/20022889>

22.04.2020 Officers of UNK MVD of the Stavropol krai detained a native of a neighboring country, who illegally stored about **500 grams of heroin** with him and at his place of residence. The malefactor received through caches wholesale consignments of drug, which was packed in small doses and placed in stashes. A criminal case has been initiated against the defendant. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/20028648>

22.04.2020 Employees of the Krasnoyarsk krai UFSB in the Yemelyanovsk district detained a 35-year-old resident of the Republic of Khakassia, who illegally stored and transported **1.2 kg of hashish** prepared for further sale in the cabin of his car. A criminal case was initiated against the offender and a preventive measure in the form of detention was chosen. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/20026380>

23.04.2020 Employees of OMVD of Russia in the city district of Lobnya detained 30- and 35-year-old natives of Central Asia. During a personal search and inspection of their car, police found and seized more than **800 grams of heroin**. A criminal case was initiated against the perpetrators. Lobnya City Court selected a preventive measure in the form of detention. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/20038216>

23.04.2020 In Saratov region, the police have stopped illegal activities of a woman suspected of possession and wholesale of drugs. Suspected woman was detained in the course of operative-search and investigative actions carried out within a criminal case under investigation. The woman packed and formed wholesale consignments of heroin and then handed them over to retail stashes for further sale through caches in Saratov. Over **1.5 kg of heroin** was seized. A criminal case has been initiated. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/20037563>

24.04.2020 Employees UNK UMVD of Russia across the Astrakhan region have stopped activity of Internet shop selling illicit substances. In different settlements of the region, on an island and in a wooded area nine inhabitants of Astrakhan, Krasnodar and Perm regions at the age from 22 till 44 years were simultaneously detained. Among them are managers, operators, couriers, wholesalers and ordinary stashes. During personal searches and raids, police officers seized **640 grams of amphetamine**, a large sum of money, 15 mobile phones and laptops, 10 cryptocurrency bank cards, digital scales and packaging materials. The offenders sold drugs contactlessly through a network of caches, the location of which was reported through a messenger and proceeds were cashed in by converting bitcoins. A criminal case has been initiated against the suspects. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/20044617>

24.04.2020 In Samara region, police seized a large shipment of drugs from the person responsible for a car accident born in 1994, who lives in a neighbouring region. The driver of "VAZ-2114" at 1152 km of M-5 "Ural" highway in Isaklinsky district of Samara region committed an accident, falling asleep at the wheel. Having lost control of the vehicle, he caused a collision with a car by the side of the road. The victim of the road accident refused to be hospitalized, while the passenger car passenger died at the scene of the accident. During inspection of the car, a **synthetic drug weighing over 2.5 kg** was found. The man intended to sell drug in several regions. Criminal proceedings were instituted against the suspect and a preventive measure in the form of custody was chosen. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/20050297>



24.04.2020 A 32-year-old resident of the Moscow region was detained in Orekhovo-Zuyevo by officers of UNK GU MVD of Russia in Voronezh region on suspicion of selling narcotic drugs. During an inspection of the scene and an industrial zone located in Ramonsky district, police found and seized about **1.3 kg of mephedrone**. A criminal case has been initiated. A measure of restraint in the form of detention was chosen against the defendant. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/20046250>

REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

24.04.2020 Employees of the DCA Department in Khatlon region detained a resident of Pyanj who was illegally carrying more than **35 kg of narcotic substances, including 15 kg of hashish, 19.19 kg of opium and 965 g of methamphetamine** in the trunk of his car. Criminal cases have been initiated against the detainee, as well as against two other citizens involved in the case.

<https://akn.tj/news/%d0%bc%d1%83%d1%81%d0%be%d0%b4%d0%b8%d1%80%d0%b0%d0%b8-35-%d0%ba%d0%b3-%d0%bc%d0%b0%d0%b2%d0%be%d0%b4%d0%b8-%d0%bc%d1%83%d1%85%d0%b0%d0%b4%d0%b4%d0%b8%d1%80/>
<https://regnum.ru/news/accidents/2928216.html>

REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

11.04.2020 During operational measures in the city of Almalyk, Tashkent province, the SGB officers confiscated about **2.3 kg of opium and 6.5 kg of hashish**. In addition, SGB officers searched the house of a local resident, and as a result **2.569 kg of hashish and 1.997 kg of opium** were found. The drugs were smuggled in from Tajikistan. The drug courier was also detained. Drugs were also seized during operational actions carried out in Tashkent, Kuva district of Ferghana region and Taylak district of Samarkand region.

<https://regnum.ru/news/society/2913112.html>
<https://uznews.uz/ru/article/20134>

OTHER COUNTRIES

AUSTRALIA

24.04.2020 In March this year, detectives from the Drug and Firearms Squad of the State Crime Command established Strike Force Cassea to investigate importation of drugs into New South Wales. Based on information received from the New South Wales State Police Force, Australian Border Force (ABF) and Australian Federal Police (AFP) officers at the Sydney Container Verification Centre inspected a shipment that arrived in Sydney from Iran in early April. The claimed cargo contained bottled water, but inspection showed that it was **methylamphetamine, nearly 160 litres** in volume. The cargo is estimated to be worth \$80 million. Detectives in an ongoing investigation indicted two men, aged 33 and 48, who were involved in importing and accessing a shipment of methylamphetamine in Old Guildford. <https://newsroom.abf.gov.au/releases/two-charged-after-shipment-containing-more-than-80-million-worth-of-liquid-meth-seized>

BELGIUM

23.04.2020 Police at a warehouse in the port of Antwerp in a container of fish found and confiscated almost **4 kg of cocaine**. Fourteen people, including citizens of Suriname living

in Belgium, were arrested. Cocaine seizures were estimated to cost about 200 million euros. Several weapons were also seized during the operation, including three Kalashnikovs.
https://www.standaard.be/cnt/dmf20200423_04932129

BRAZIL

20.04.2020 Federal Revenue Service (IRS) Customs seized **559 kg of cocaine** in the port of Paranagua. A concealed cocaine shipment was detected using a scanner in a rubber cargo. The shipment was destined for the port of Antwerp, Belgium.

<http://receita.economia.gov.br/sobre/acoes-e-programas/acoes-da-receita-federal/noticias/2020/abril/9a-regiao-fiscal/receita-federal-apreende-559-quilos-de-cocaina-no-porto-de-paranagua>

20.04.2020 During a routine inspection, approximately **800 kg of cocaine** were found and seized in a mango container by the Federal Police and the Federal Revenue Service in the port of El Salvador. The mango shipment was destined for the port of Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Federal Police will continue to investigate in order to identify those responsible for transportation of mangoes.

<https://g1.globo.com/ba/bahia/noticia/2020/04/20/cerca-de-800-kg-de-cocaina-sao-apreendidos-em-carregamento-de-manga-no-porto-de-salvador.ghtml>
<https://globoplay.globo.com/v/8496246/>

22.04.2020 Federal Revenue Service, Federal Police and the Brazilian Navy discovered **349 kg of cocaine** in a joint operation at the port of Santos on the São Paulo coast. The cocaine consignment was detected during a routine hull inspection operation at the port. Drug was contained in packages attached to the hull of a vessel bound for a port in Europe.

<https://g1.globo.com/sp/santos-regiao/porto-mar/noticia/2020/04/22/operacao-encontra-mais-de-300-kg-de-cocaina-dentro-de-casco-de-navio-em-sp.ghtml>

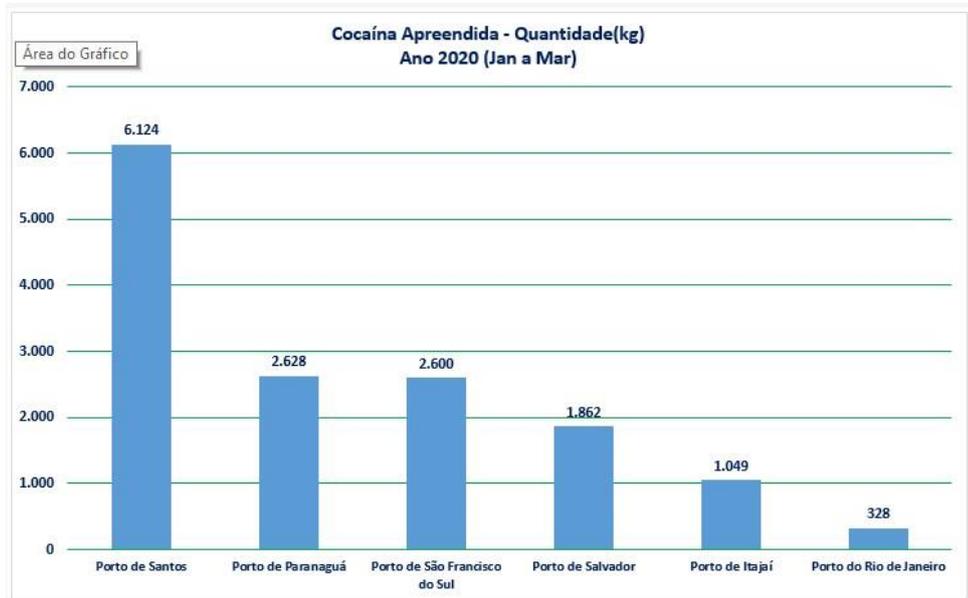
23.04.2020 Following investigations and monitoring in Santos, the State Department for Drug Prevention and Control (DENARC) of the Civil Police and the 4th Police Division of the Drug Investigation Division (DISE) detained two criminals who were carrying **109.3 kg of cocaine** using a truck in a container of meat. A large amount of cocaine was concealed in beef boxes. In addition to drugs, two trucks, a semi-trailer, a consignment of meat, a container, an electric saw and a pry bar were seized.

<https://g1.globo.com/sp/santos-regiao/noticia/2020/04/23/dupla-e-presas-apos-esconder-mais-de-100-kg-de-cocaina-em-conteiner-de-carne-bovina-em-santos.ghtml>
https://www.policiacivil.sp.gov.br/portal/faces/pages_home/noticias/noticiasDetalhes?rascunhoNoticia=0&collectionId=358412565221042075&contentId=UCM_051658&_afLoop=13537315833548&_afWindowMode=0&_afWindowId=null#!%40%40%3F_afWindowId%3Dnull%26collectionId%3D358412565221042075%26_afLoop%3D13537315833548%26contentId%3DUCM_051658%26rascunhoNoticia%3D0%26_afWindowMode%3D0%26_adf.ctrl-state%3Dwimu1y0in_4

24.04.2020 Federal Revenue Service (IRS) Customs seized **14.8 tons of cocaine** in the first quarter of 2020, 15.3% more than a year earlier. At the same time, 40 per cent of drug seizures were made in the port of Santos. Even with added challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which exposed IRS officials to risks other than those inherent to combating drug trafficking, cocaine seizures continue to increase. In order to combat movement of drugs in the country, the agency continuously invests in technology, training of public officials and intelligence activities, such as information exchange with national security and customs administrations in other countries. About 40 per cent of cocaine seizures by IRS occurred at the port of Santos (SP), the largest port in Latin America, where 6.1 tons of cocaine were seized. Other ports where large quantities of drugs were seized (2.6 tons

each) were Paranagua (PR) and San Francisco do Sul (South Carolina). In 2019, IRS recorded a record amount of cocaine seizures (57.8 tons). The result was 84% higher than in 2018.

<http://receita.economia.gov.br/noticias/ascom/2020/abril/receita-federal-apreende-14-8-toneladas-de-cocaina-no-primeiro-trimestre>



25.04.2020 Customs of the Federal Revenue Service (IRS) detected **911 kg of cocaine** in an export cargo in the port of Santos, on the coast of Sao Paulo. The cargo was destined for the port of Hamburg, Germany. Drug was found as a result of a routine inspection in a container containing a shipment of orange oil, which had been selected for inspection using objective risk analysis criteria, including non-intrusive inspection by a scanner. The specifics of drug concealment pointed to the use by criminals of the criminal "Rip-off method", in which drug was placed in a legal cargo without the knowledge of exporters and importers. Seized cocaine consignment was transferred to the Federal Police, which will continue investigation based on information provided by IRS.

<https://g1.globo.com/sp/santos-regiao/porto-mar/noticia/2020/04/25/receita-federal-localiza-911-kg-de-cocaina-em-carregamento-de-oleo-de-laranja-no-porto-de-santos.ghtml>

UNITED KINGDOM

22.04.2020 Border guards at the port of Dover arrested three people after two unrelated **cocaine seizures totalling 190 kg**. In the first case, about **140 kg of cocaine**, potentially worth about 14 million pounds, were found in a cache in the floor of a truck that had arrived from the Netherlands with a cargo of paper. A 62-year-old Dutch citizen from Nieuwegein was arrested and subsequently charged with importing cocaine. During a search of a second truck carrying a shipment of toy building blocks, officers discovered two caches containing about **50 kg of cocaine**. Two Czech citizens were arrested on suspicion of importing. They were later released. After the seizures, both cases were forwarded to the National Crime Control Agency (NCA) for investigation.

<https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/millions-of-pounds-worth-of-cocaine-seized-at-dover>

GERMANY

22.04.2020 Customs at the port of Hamburg found and seized about **18 kg of cocaine** in maintenance hatches in a refrigerated container coming from Argentina. Previously, containers were usually selected by the Hamburg port investigation team for customs clearance as part of a risk analysis. Requests are currently being reviewed by competent authority of the Hamburg Customs Investigation Department.

<https://www.presseportal.de/blaulicht/pm/50367/4578085>

GEORGIA

06.04.2020 The Georgian Interior Ministry, together with the U.S. Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), stopped members of an international organized criminal group in Batumi, which planned to transport a large shipment of heroin through the territory of Georgia. In the course of joint actions two Bulgarian citizens were detained and up to **40 kg of heroin** were seized. Detained Bulgarian citizens carried drugs in a cache in a car from Armenia to Georgia for subsequent transportation to Europe. Drug seizures amount to US\$ 2 million.

<https://haqqin.az/news/176447>
<https://www.ekhovkavkaza.com/a/30577576.html>

DENMARK

23.04.2020 Police searched an apartment located in Osterbro in Copenhagen and found **8.5 kg of cocaine**. Two men aged 20 and 24 years were arrested and subjected to constitutional questioning in the Copenhagen judicial system.

<https://www.globaldomainsnews.com/the-police-find-the-pounds-and-miles-of-cocaine-in-the-apartment-in-copenhagen>

IRAN

23.04.2020 Police seized **15,399 kg of opium and 1,186 kg of hashish, 428 kg of heroin, 577 kg of crystalline methamphetamine, 53 kg of marijuana, 67 kg of morphine and 116 kg of other drugs** during operations throughout the country. A total of **17,765 kg of drugs** were seized.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/157903/Iranian-police-bust-over-17-tons-of-illicit-drugs-in-a-week>

25.04.2020 Yazd provincial police seized **1.28 tons of drugs in several operations, including 847 kg of opium and 433 kg of hashish**. Ten smugglers have been arrested. Illegal drug shipments were destined for Tehran.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/158003/Over-1-ton-narcotics-confiscated-in-Yazd>

SPAIN

21.04.2020 In operation "Hammer", carried out by the Customs Control Agency of the Tax Authority and the Chief Operations Unit of the Department of Customs and Special Taxes, with the assistance of U.S. and other European customs authorities, bags containing packages of **1,100 kg of cocaine** were found in a container of bananas from Ecuador at the port of Bilbao. It was the largest cocaine seizure in recent years and one of the largest in the territory. Cocaine is estimated to be worth more than 30 million euros.

<https://we.tl/t-RVvbTPOOtr>



https://www.agenciatributaria.es/AEAT.internet/Inicio/La_Agencia_Tributaria/Sala_de_prensa/Notas_de_prensa/2020/La_Agencia_Tributaria_incauta_1_100_kilos_de_cocaina_en_el_puerto_de_Bilbao.shtml
<https://twitter.com/aduanassva/status/1252577221346279426>

COLOMBIA

20.04.2020 The National Police, through the Criminal Investigation Division and Interpol (DIJIN), in coordination with the Office of the Attorney General and the Drug Enforcement Administration of the United States Department of Justice (DEA) in the municipality of Boug (Valle del Cauca), was able to identify a tractor carrying a container in which **1,013 kg of cocaine** were found during inspection. The drug was in a hidden compartment. The seized consignment belonged to a criminal entity with a zone of influence in the south-west of the country and was intended for delivery to the coast of the Ouraba. Subsequently, the consignment was to be delivered to the "Clan del Golfo" drug cartel for shipment to Central America and the United States. <https://www.policia.gov.co/noticia/caleta-instalada-contenedor-se-incautaron-1013-kilos-cocaina>

PAKISTAN

22.04.2020 The Sindh Anti-Drug Police Station in Hyderabad arrested two drug dealers, from whom **11 kg of opium** were seized. Pakistani counter-narcotics forces on tip-off intercepted a suspected vehicle in which men were carrying a shipment of opium. The case has been registered and further investigation is under way. <https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/anti-narcotics-force-arrests-two-recovers-op-900341.html>

22.04.2020 Police intercepted an APX 516 vehicle carrying **20 kg of opium** from a Waziristan resident at a police post in the Lower Mohmand tribal district. The driver is under arrest. <https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/20kg-opium-seized-accused-arrested-in-mohman-900699.html>

23.04.2020 The Pakistan Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) seized **1,689 tons of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances after 11 anti-drug operations, including 1,120 kg of morphine, 315.8 kg of opium, 251.9 kg of hashish and 2 kg of heroin**. Ten offenders were arrested and five vehicles were seized. <https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/anti-narcotics-force-seizes-1689-metric-tons-901643.html>

27.04.2020 Police in Toru district of Mardan region confiscated over **30 kg of opium and 20 kg of hashish**. Two traffickers have been detained smuggling drugs to Punjab via Mardan. Police have confiscated the car and the contraband, and further investigation is under way. <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/647217-30kg-opium-20kg-charas-seized-in-mardan>

TURKEY

22.04.2020 Police and gendarmerie forces in the Yuksekova area of southeastern Hakkari province seized about **114.9 kg of heroin**. Efforts continue to be made to combat drug trafficking, transportation and possession. Two persons are suspected of committing this crime. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/nearly-115-kg-of-heroin-seized-in-se-turkey/1815263>

UKRAINE

21.04.2020 Law enforcers in Kiev conducted a special operation to expose a drug syndicate, during which more than **50 kg of methadone** worth about \$2 million, about **500 liters of precursors**, equipment used to manufacture the drug, as well as mobile phones, computer equipment, bank cards and other physical evidence were seized. At the same time, about 70 searches were conducted at the place of residence and in vehicles of the group members, as well as in two drug labs in Kyiv. As a result, 13 group members were detained. Among the detained are two organizers of the drug syndicate, one of whom is a former employee of department for combating drug trafficking of internal affairs bodies.

https://www.facebook.com/kyiv.gp.gov.ua/?ref=br_rs

<https://www.rbc.ua/rus/news/kieve-razoblachili-narkosindikatsiya-rekordnoy-1587489556.html>

22.04.2020 Organized drug group activity, which specialized in manufacturing and selling wholesale consignments of psychotropic substances and precursors, was blocked by the SBU in metropolitan area. The group was organized by a former teacher of chemistry - professor of a higher educational institution in Kyiv. The defendants established production of psychotropic - amphetamine and cathinone, as well as precursor - phenylpropene. Two clandestine laboratories were set up at the residence of the group leader in the capital and in the garage of a rented private house in the Kiev region. Chemicals for manufacture of illicit substances were obtained from countries in Asia and Western Europe, including through international mail services. They stored raw materials in a rented warehouse in Kiev. Finished products were offered by group members on a specially created website and through specialized internet platforms. The organizer of the group passed obtained knowledge and experience in production of psychotropic substances to other underground "specialists" among representatives of criminal circles for money. During searches of drug labs, warehouses and an online store, law enforcement officers seized more than **1 kg of amphetamine, more than 5 kg of cathinone, more than 9 kg of phenylpropene**, which is the main component for the manufacture of psychotropic substance amphetamine, and more than **80 litres of other precursors**. Almost 2 kg of cannabis, 2 litres of mercury, more than 1 ton of chemicals and equipment for production of psychotropic substances were also found. Of the seized substances and precursors, the perpetrators planned to produce almost **30 kg of psychotropic substances** worth UAH 7.5 million. The question of informing participants of the drug group about suspicion is being resolved. The operation was conducted by the Chief Department for Combating Corruption and Organized Crime of the SBU under procedural supervision of Kyiv Local Prosecutor's Office No. 6 with the assistance of the Office of the Prosecutor General of Ukraine.

<https://www.ssu.gov.ua/ua/news/1/category/21/view/7475#.YWHVui9W.dpbs>