

CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY

(based on mass media reports)

18.05-24.05.2020**№ 21****CARICC MEMBER STATES****REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN**

13.05.2020 In the city of Aksu, Pavlodar region, police detained a drug dealer who sold synthetic drugs through social networks via caches. A cache of **500 g of psychotropic substance** was found in the city during a pre-trial investigation. In addition, the police detained a local resident in Pavlodar, in whose backpack were found over **109 g of heroin and more than 103 g of synthetic drugs**. The suspect was remanded in custody. An investigation is under way. Also, in the village of Karabalyk in Kostanay region, police officers and border guards at a customs post detained three truck drivers on their way to the Russian Federation. Hashish and marijuana were found during inspection (no weight reported). <https://almaty.tv/news/proisshestviya/0915-pochti-110-gramm-geroina-khranil-dgitel-pavlodara-v-svoem-ryukzake>

17.05.2020 Employees of Department of KNB on city Nur-Sultan detained a citizen of Kazakhstan who has organized laboratory manufacture of synthetic drugs and distribution via caches. During a search in the drug laboratory they seized **500 g of a-PVP**, flasks, scales, magnetic stirrer, vacuum pump, electric stove, as well as various containers with the remains of psychotropic substances and about **70 liters of precursors**. In addition, five "caches" with **2.5 kg a-PVP** were found. In the course of measures taken, about **3 kg of a-PVP** worth 60 million tenge were seized. The man is being held in a temporary detention facility of the Nur-Sultan Police Department. A pre-trial investigation is under way. https://www.inform.kz/ru/okolo-3-kg-sinteticheskikh-narkotikov-obnaruzhili-v-podpol-noy-laboratorii-v-stolice_a3652925

19.05.2020 In Taldykorgan, Almaty region, police detained a 45-year-old local resident. During searches of the suspect's residence, **a bag of marijuana** was found and seized, and about **9 kg of hashish** was found in a garage. A criminal probe has been launched in that connection. <https://24.kz/ru/news/incidents/item/396755-krupnaya-partiya-narkotikov-iz-yata-v-taldykorgane>

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

22.05.2020 Officers of the GSKN of the Kyrgyz MVD in the city of Osh and Osh province conducted an operation to identify and intercept a drug distribution channel. **1.047 kg of heroin** were seized. One member of the group of drug dealers was detained. This fact is registered in the Unified Register of Crimes and Misdemeanours of the Kyrgyz Republic, and investigative actions and operational measures are being taken to identify other persons involved in this crime.

https://24.kg/proisshestviya/153535_vkyrgyzstane_zaderjan_narkotorgovets_skrupnoy_partiye_geroina/

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

18.05.2020 Two Kemerovo region residents suspected of illegal production of synthetic drugs have been detained by officers of UNK GU MVD of Russia in the Moscow region. The perpetrators rented a house in the village of Abbakumovo, Moscow region, purchased special equipment, chemical reagents and equipped a laboratory for production of synthetic drugs in a garage. A criminal case has been initiated on this fact. A preventive measure in the form of detention was taken against the defendants. During a search, 130 canisters of reagents intended for the production of drugs and more than **13.7 kg of mephedrone** were found and seized. A preliminary investigation is under way.

<https://.../news/item/20185453>

20.05.2020 In Rostov-on-Don, officers of the GU MVD of Russia in the Rostov region detained a 29-year-old suspect in an attempt to sell a large consignment of synthetic drugs, which he illegally stored in his garage. More than **23 kg of synthetic drugs** were found in the garage. A criminal case has been initiated. The suspect has been remanded in custody. Measures are being taken to identify the source of synthetic drugs, as well as to identify other persons involved in illegal actions. <https://.../news/item/20205283>

21.05.2020 FSB of Russia, together with the Russian MVD, has carried out a multistage operation to interdict illegal actions of a cross-border ethnic criminal group and to dismantle a network of inter-regional supply chains for the purpose of subsequent illegal sale of particularly large consignments of highly concentrated Afghan heroin. Active members of the organized crime group have been identified as nationals of several countries. As part of the first phase of the joint operation, in February 2020, an interregional drug courier was detained red-handed in the Moscow region, and 2 kg of heroin were seized. Then, in the Kaluga region, an active member of the Russian OCG was detained and about 13 kg of heroin was confiscated. At the final stage of the operation, in May 2020, the organizer and active members of the OCG under development were detained and at least 33 kg of heroin were collected. In total, as a result of the joint operation, more than **48 kg of heroin** were seized, and illegal activities of five members of the cross-border ethnic drug group were stopped, against whom the investigating authorities of the MVD of Russia have instituted seven criminal cases and preventive measures in the form of detention were taken.

<http://www.fsb.ru/fsb/press/message/single.htm%21id%3D10438581%40fsbMessage.html>

<https://tass.com/emergencies/1158743>

Video: <https://rg.ru/2020/05/21/reg-cfo/krupnuuiu-set-po-postavkam-narkotikov-likvidirovali-v-tri-etapa.html>

22.05.2020 Officers of UNK GU MVD of Russia in the Kemerovo region detained a 35-year-old resident of Kemerovo suspected of involvement in activities related to drug trafficking. The man purchased synthetic drugs through an online store for further sale in Kemerovo through so-called "caches". According to results of inspection of buildings, structures, plots of land in caches on the territory of the city **400 g of mephedrone** were found and seized. A criminal case has been initiated on this fact. <https://.../news/item/20226146>

22.05.2020 Inspectors of the 2nd DPS regiment (southern) of the GIBDD GU MVD of Russia in the Moscow region together with police officers of OMVD of Russia in the urban district of Kashira at 111 km of the M-4 "Don" highway stopped a taxi car in which a 29-year-old resident of Naro-Fominsk was carrying **250 g of heroin**, prepared for further sale through a cache in Lipetsk. A criminal case has been initiated against the suspect.

<https://.../news/item/20224377>

23.05.2020 Employees of GUNK MVD of Russia together with colleagues from Moscow region have stopped a group whose members are suspected of production and sale of narcotic drugs, as well as illegal storage of ammunition. The offenders have equipped an illegal drug laboratory in a garage located in Odintsovo district, Moscow region. With sufficient knowledge in chemical synthesis, they have set up an entire production cycle. Substances were sold in a non-contact way. Five people were detained. During searches laboratory equipment, personal protective equipment, more than **50 litres of chemical reagents** and about **10 kg of mephedrone** were seized. In addition, 10 rounds of 7.62 mm calibre ammunition were found. Criminal proceedings were initiated against these individuals. [\tfdg.## " #bYk g#hYa #&\\$&' %+- +](#)

25.05.2020 Police officers from the Noginskoye police department of the Russian MVD detained a 39-year-old resident of Smolensk in a wooded area in the urban district of Bogorodsky, Moscow region, who had more than **500 g of methylephedrone** prepared for sale in her backpack during a personal search. A criminal case has been initiated against the detained woman. [\tfdg.## " #bYk g#hYa #&\\$&\(\\$, &-](#)

REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

19.05.2020 Employees of the State Security Service of Uzbekistan during operational measures carried out:

- 1) in Saryasia district of Surkhandarya region found and seized **61,838 kg of hashish**. Measures are currently being taken to identify ownership of narcotic drugs;
- 2) in Namangan, a Lacetti car was stopped and inspected, with **1.5 kg of hashish** in the trunk that a previously convicted drug trafficker was carrying;
- 3) in the Uchkurgan district, located on the border with the Kyrgyz Republic, a citizen was stopped who had **278 g of hashish** and 1000 USD during inspection. The man purchased drugs in Kyrgyzstan and smuggled them into Uzbekistan;
- 4) In Kashkadarya region, a Lacetti car was stopped at a DPS post in Guzar district. **506 g of hashish and 236 g of opium** were found hidden during inspection of the car in the engine section. The driver purchased drugs from a resident of Tajikistan for \$4,500 and smuggled them into Uzbekistan for further sale in Karshi city;
- 5) three residents of Andijan province were detained upon receipt of **479 g of hashish** thrown by Kyrgyz citizens through the Uzbek-Kyrgyz border wire fence.

A total of **64.6 kg of hashish and 236 g of opium** were seized. At present, criminal proceedings have been initiated on these facts. <https://podrobno.uz/cat/proisshestviya/sgb-zaderzhala-krupnyu-partiyu-gashisha-privezennogo-iz-tadzhikistana-ves-narkotikov-prevysil-61-kg/>
<https://uznews.uz/ru/article/20950>

OTHER COUNTRIES

ALBANIA

18.05.2020 In a police operation in the port of Durres, a 49-year-old truck driver from Tirana was arrested and was carrying about **38 kg of heroin**. The heroin was divided into 68 packages and hidden in two locations inside the truck. The detainee's case file was

submitted to the Durres prosecutor's office in connection with a criminal offence of drug trafficking. <https://www.albaniandailynews.com/index.php?idm=42406&mod=2>

BELGIUM

18.05.2020 Special units of the Belgian Federal Police, during a large-scale operation and raids on main wholesale market in Brussels, found and confiscated **11.5 tons of cannabis** worth 114 million euros (124.6 million USD). Six people were arrested. The operation involved 30 crews of police cars and a helicopter. More than 100 companies operate on a 34.5-acre territory occupied by the main wholesale market of Brussels, and about 23 thousand visitors are serviced every month.

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/2020/05/19/marijuana/belgian-police-seize-115-tons-cannabis-arrest-6-people/>

BRAZIL

18.05.2020 Federal Revenue Service (IRS) Customs confiscated **730 kg of cocaine** in the port of Santos. The cocaine was hidden among a shipment of paper bound for Europe. The cargo had its final destination at the port of Livorno (Italy), but with a planned move to Algeciras (Spain). It was selected by Customs for verification using objective risk analysis criteria, including non-intrusive scanner inspection and service dogs. The criminals used criminal "Rip-off" technique, whereby drugs are placed in a legal cargo without the knowledge of exporters and importers. The seized consignment has been handed over to the Federal Police, which will continue the investigation based on information provided by the IRS.

<http://receita.economia.gov.br/sobre/acoes-e-programas/acoes-da-receita-federal/noticias/2020/maio/8a-regiao-fiscal/receita-federal-apreende-730-kg-de-cocaina-no-porto-de-santos>

20.05.2020 Federal Revenue Service (IRS) Customs confiscated **357.5 kg of cocaine** in a joint operation with the Federal Police (PF) at the port of Paranagua, on the coast of Parana. Drugs were detected by a scanner in frozen fruit juice barrels. The cargo was intended for the port of Rotterdam (Netherlands). Seized shipment has been sent to the Federal Police, which will continue the investigation.

<https://g1.globo.com/pr/parana/noticia/2020/05/20/receita-e-policia-federal-apreendem-357-kg-de-cocaina-misturada-com-carga-de-suco-de-frutas-no-porto-de-paranagua.ghtml>

<https://folhadolitoral.com.br/editorias/policia/acao-conjunta-apreende-cerca-de-357-quilos-de-cocaina-no-terminal-de-containers-do-porto-de-paranagua/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8j5kjuU9jJ4&feature=emb_logo

21.05.2020 Federal Revenue Service (IRS) Customs in the port of Santos, G-ç Paulo, found a total of **519 kg of cocaine** in two export shipments:

1) **146 kg of cocaine** concealed in a shipment of sugar were found at a container terminal during regular operations. The final destination of the shipment was 7' hÿ d'Ivoire, with transshipment at the port of Antwerp, Belgium. Perpetrators used criminal "Rip-off" technique to conceal the drug, whereby drugs were placed in a legal cargo without the knowledge of exporters and importers;

2) **373 kg of cocaine** were found hidden inside equipment in a container with three generators, a compressor and a compressed air unit. The final destination of the cargo was the port of Latakia, Syria.

In both cases, the selection of cargo for inspection was based on an analysis of objective risk criteria. Non-intrusive scanner inspection and inspection by service dogs were used. Seized cocaine shipments were handed over to the Federal Police, which will continue the investigation. <http://receita.economia.gov.br/sobre/acoes-e-programas/acoes-da-receita-federal/noticias/2020/maio/8a-regiao-fiscal/receita-federal-localiza-519-kg-de-cocaina-em-duas-cargas-de-exportacao-no-porto-de-santos>

Video: <http://g1.globo.com/sp/santos-regiao/videos/v/mais-de-500-kg-de-cocaina-sao-localizadas-escondidas-em-cargas-no-porto-de-santos-sp/8570758/>

21.05.2020 The Federal Police (PF) stopped a truck on a highway in the southwestern state of Mato Grosso do Sul that was carrying about **28 tons of marijuana** hidden among a cargo of corn. The police monitored the truck after suspicions of the driver at a hotel in the town of Ponta Poran on the Brazilian-Paraguayan border were raised. The driver was carrying the cargo to the southern state of Brazil, Rio Grande do Sul. He has been arrested and will be charged with drug trafficking. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/wires/ap/article-8343869/Brazil-police-seize-marijuana-nations-biggest-bust.html>

23.05.2020 The Federal Highway Police (PRF) seized **300 kg of cocaine** in the Belo Horizonte metropolitan area of Itatiayuso, Brazil. During police inspection work, a truck carrying irrigation pipes was stopped on the 537 km BR 381 (Rodovia Fernand-Diaz). Inspection of the truck found cocaine packs in a hidden compartment on the roof of the vehicle. Drugs were loaded in Cabreuva and destined for the state of Alagoas.

<https://agencia.prf.gov.br/agencia/prf-apreende-300-quilos-de-cocaina-em-itatiayu-mg-durante-operacao-na-br-381/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=6XtgGkUJp4A&feature=emb_logo

Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i2xlRhDrPow&feature=emb_logo

UNITED KINGDOM

21.05.2020 Border guards at Heathrow airport prevented an attempt to smuggle more than **170 kg of heroin** into the UK. Drugs were found in a shipment of 630 boxes of fruit and nuts, and were hidden in the outer walls of cardboard boxes in flat packets. Each box contained approximately 270 grams of heroin. The investigation has been referred to the National Crime Agency (NCA). Two men aged 36 and 51 were detained in the Bradford area on suspicion of importing Class A drugs, the third man was detained in Birmingham. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/170-kilos-of-heroin-seized-by-border-force-at-heathrow>

21.05.2020 Officers from the Specialised Criminal Command stopped a minibus near the Aldgate East Underground Station in London's Whitechapel area. A 25-year-old minibus passenger was carrying a backpack with **2.5 kg of cocaine** and about 50,000 pounds in cash. The man was arrested on suspicion of possession for the supply of Class A drugs and possession of criminal property. In further investigation, a 34-year-old man was detained with a suitcase in which **2.5 kg of cocaine** and approximately €) \$\$\$\$ in cash were also found. The man was arrested on the same grounds.

<https://www.eastlondonadvertiser.co.uk/news/crime-court/two-arrested-as-drugs-and-cash-seized-1-6666471>

24.05.2020 Eastern Region Special Operations Unit (ERSOU), with the assistance of Kent and Essex police specialists, discovered about **280 kg of cocaine** at the Purflit industrial site in Essex as part of an ongoing investigation into serious and organized crime. The consignment is estimated to cost €\$ million. Two men, aged 40 and 50, are charged with

conspiracy to supply Class A drugs and are detained pending trial. Four other men arrested in connection with the seizure of cocaine consignment have been released on bail. During the lockdown associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, the National Crime Agency (NCA) and other UK law enforcement agencies seized more than 25 tonnes of Class A drugs and 0.9 million in cash. <https://ersou.police.uk/news/2020/05/26/region%E2%80%99s-biggest-drugs-seizures-may20/>

GREECE

22.05.2020 A DIAS motorcycle patrol found **2.21 kg of cocaine** in a car parked in the Athens Glyfada area. Drugs were distributed in four packs. The vehicle was registered as stolen and had no licence plates. The investigation has been referred to Attica Security's narcotics department. <https://www.ekathimerini.com/252960/article/ekathimerini/news/cocaine-found-inside-stolen-car-in-southern-athens>

INDIA

23.05.2020 Members of the Crime Investigation Agency (CIA) seized **252 kg of poppy straw and 4 kg of opium** during a truck stop and subsequent search on the Badruhan-Ubhawal road in Sangrura, Punjab State. Two men were arrested in connection with drug smuggling. <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/punjab/252-kg-poppy-husk-seized-88593>

IRELAND

19.05.2020 Garda officers in Dublin stopped a van on the outer ring road in Clondalkin, where a 30-year-old man was detained, carrying about **1.7 kg of cocaine** in his car. The cost of the shipment is 117 thousand euros. The man was arrested at the scene and taken to Ronanstown Garda station, where he is being held under section 2 of the Criminal Justice (Drug Trafficking) Act 1996. <https://www.irishtimes.com/news/crime-and-law/man-arrested-after-117-000-worth-of-cocaine-seized-in-clondalkin-1.4257088>

COSTA RICA

19.05.2020 Members of the Drug Control Police of the Ministry of Public Security (PCD) discovered **550 kg of cocaine** in two containers during an inspection work at the Gaston Cogan dock in the port of Moine de Limon. The first container held 357 kg of cocaine, while the second concealed 193 kg of cocaine. Packages of cocaine were placed under the bottom panel of empty containers that did not contain legal cargo and had the following route: Turbo (Colombia) - Moin (Costa Rica) - Puerto Barrios (Guatemala).
<https://www.facebook.com/seguridadcrc/>
 Video: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=265280321260129>
<https://twitter.com/seguridadcrc/status/1262461708418920448>

MYANMAR

18.05.2020 Counter-narcotics police near Loikan Village in Shan State, in north-eastern Myanmar, seized the largest shipment of synthetic drugs in East and South-East Asia. During a military operation conducted from 20 February to 9 April, police and military officers discovered and seized more than **3,700 litres of methylphenethyl, 17.5 tons of methamphetamine (193 million tablets), nearly 163,000 litres and 35.5 tons of**

drug precursors as well as weapons. More than 130 people have been arrested. The operation was supported by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Australian Federal Police. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-myanmar-drugs-exclusive/exclusive-huge-fentanyl-haul-seized-in-asias-biggest-ever-drugs-bust-idUSKBN22U0Q8>
<https://www.journalgazette.net/news/world/20200518/myanmar-police-seize-large-amount-of-liquid-fentanyl>
<https://www.dw.com/en/un-issues-warning-after-myanmar-raids-net-record-breaking-fentanyl-seizures/a-53492734>
<https://edition.cnn.com/2020/05/18/asia/myanmar-drug-bust-intl-hnk/index.html>

THE NETHERLANDS

23.05.2020 550 kg of cocaine were found in an empty sea container in the port of Rotterdam. As part of a subsequent investigation, the Public Prosecutor's Office arrested nine people, the so-called "evacuators" in the port, suspected of involvement in drug smuggling. Apparently, drugs came from a recently arrived container and were moved to an empty container for subsequent "evacuation". Drug "evacuators" usually hide in the port and are locked inside empty containers, waiting for the right moment to unload illegal cargo. Nine detainees are investigated to obtain evidence and determine their role in the drug smuggling scheme. <https://nltimes.nl/2020/05/23/550-kilos-cocaine-rotterdam-port-leads-nine-arrests>

USA

18.05.2020 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers working at the port of entry in El Paso, Texas, in two actions:

- 1) at the Paso del Norte border crossing point, detained a 24-year-old U.S. citizen who attempted to smuggle **680 g of heroin, 23 g of methamphetamine and 510 tablets of oxycodone** attaching drug bundles to his body at the waist line;
- 2) at the Bridge of the Americas, detained a 31-year-old male and a 34-year-old female U.S. citizen who was driving a Toyota Camry. CBP officers found **7.05 kg of methamphetamine** in a rear tire of the vehicle as a result of X-ray inspection. All seized items were handed over to Homeland Security Investigations to press charges of drug smuggling. <https://elpasoheraldpost.com/el-paso-cbp-officers-seize-meth-heroin-oxycodone-pills-in-two-seizures/>

20.05.2020 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials at the World Trade Bridge in Laredo, Texas, found **30.46 kilograms of cocaine** after an in-depth inspection of a trailer truck driven by a 23-year-old Mexican citizen carrying a shipment of electric vehicles. The truck entered the United States from Mexico. Drugs hidden among cargo were found after being examined by dogs and a non-intrusive imaging system. Drugs are worth more than \$517,000. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-officers-intercept-narcotics-worth-over-500k-world-trade-bridge>

20.05.2020 Crew of Coast Guard boat Active in San Diego, California, while patrolling international waters of the East Pacific off the coast of North and Central America, intercepted a smuggling vessel and confiscated more than **1 ton of cocaine** on board. <https://www.stripes.com/news/coast-guard/coast-guard-offloads-37-million-of-cocaine-in-san-diego-1.630637>

21.05.2020 Officers from the Fayette County Sheriff's Office, with the assistance of K-9's, stopped a Ford F-150 on the 660-mile I-10 Highway in La Grange, Texas, to inspect the

vehicle. A search of the vehicle found **9.3 kg of heroin** inside two car batteries. Heroin seized is worth \$2.79 million. The 52-year-old driver was arrested.

<https://foxsanantonio.com/news/local/k-9-unit-finds-more-than-27-million-of-heroin-inside-car-batteries-during-traffic-stop>

21.05.2020 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials at the Express Consignation Center in Cincinnati, Ohio, seized two shipments of **methamphetamine weighing 22.68 kg** that arrived May 20 and 21 in parcels of soap from the same shipper in Mexico. Methamphetamine was mixed with soap. The first parcel was destined for a consignee in Atlanta, the second for a consignee in Minnesota. Methamphetamine is worth \$217,000.

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/50-pounds-meth-hidden-bars-soap-seized-cbp-officers-cincinnati>

21.05.2020 Humboldt Communications Center, California, received a report of a vehicle towing a cargo trailer that caused a dangerous drive, resulting in a minor collision near Redcrest. Garberville County police officers, with assistance from Humboldt County Sheriff, found the vehicle and stopped it on the SR-254. An inspection of the trailer found about **353 kg of marijuana**. The driver was questioned and released.

<https://kymkemp.com/2020/05/21/minor-traffic-collision-leads-to-778-pounds-of-processed-marijuana-located-inside-a-cargo-trailer/>

22.05.2020 Officers from the Cameron County Office in Brownsville, Texas, stopped and searched a GMC Sierra pickup truck in the rear bumper area and back door and found a fake door covered with plaster-like material. Inside the hiding compartment there were 20 packs of **cocaine weighing 21.5 kg** in total. The female driver was arrested and taken to the Sheriff's Office. Seized shipment was worth approximately \$1 million.

<https://www.valleymorningstar.com/2020/05/22/5-22-drug-bust-lbmela/>

22.05.2020 Border Patrol Agents from El Centro Sector at the BCP located on Highway 86, California, arrested a 31-year-old male driver while attempting to smuggle **11.13 kg of cocaine** into the United States from Mexico. Drug was hidden in a refrigerated box located in the sleeper compartment of the tractor cab. Drug seizures were estimated at over \$278,000.

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/border-patrol-busts-cocaine-smuggler>

THAILAND

21.05.2020 Two drug couriers, a 22-year-old resident of Bangkok and his 23-year-old companion, were detained by the railway police at Hua Hin Station. The detainees were transporting drugs on a train from Bangkok to Nakhonshithkhammarat city. A search of their bags revealed 19 tea bags containing **19 kg of crystalline methamphetamine**. It is valued at about 10 million baht.

<https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/1921964/>

22.05.2020 Police, immigration officials and local officials detained a 46-year-old resident of Udon Thani province on his farm near Pang Sida National Park, located in Chong Kum tambon, Watthana Nakhon district. The raid on the farm revealed an illegal plantation of cannabis. A total of **1,200 cannabis bushes weighing 525 kg** were seized.

<https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/1922576/man-held-for-growing-ganja-in-sa-kaeo>

ECUADOR

17.05.2020 Agents from the Ports and Airports Information Unit (UIPA) and the Regional Centre for Dog Training (CRAC) found **33.966 kg of cocaine hydrochloride** inside the cooling system of a container during a container inspection at Guayaquil port. Drug was identified during a check of 114 containers prepared for shipment on the MSC Katya before they were shipped to Belgium. <https://www.policiaecuador.gob.ec/en-un-contenedor-que-tenia-destino-belgica-agentes-del-uipa-y-crac-hallan-33-966-gramos-de-clorhidrato-de-cocaina/>
<https://twitter.com/PoliciaEcuador/status/1262049228228046850>

23.05.2020 Agents from the Regional Centre for Dog Training (CRAC), supported by the Ports and Airports Information Unit (UIPA), seized **573.12 kg of cocaine hydrochloride** during Operation Surprise at the seaport of Guayaquil. A cache was found inside a container of bananas intended for shipment to the port of Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Before drug was discovered, CRAC agents near the port container terminal noticed suspicious people who, having noticed the presence of police, tried to escape, but were detained. A total of three people who are in the custody of justice authorities have been detained, and seized drugs have been transferred to the evidence centre of the Anti-Drug Unit in Zone 8. <https://www.policiaecuador.gob.ec/en-operacion-antidrogas-sorpresa-realizada-en-el-puerto-de-guayaquil-el-crac-y-uipa-hallan-575-paquetes-contaminados-con-cocaina/>
<https://twitter.com/PoliciaEcuador/status/1264322953891717128>

RSA

18.05.2020 In a joint operation with the Drug Enforcement Agency (SANEB), the Directorate of Priority Crimes Investigations (DPCI) intercepted a truck bound for Cape Town in Pretoria carrying a container with **38 kg of cocaine** concealed in its cooling system. The container had arrived from abroad. The 37-year-old driver was arrested, the truck was confiscated. <https://www.saps.gov.za/newsroom/selnewsdetails.php?nid=25865>
<https://www.timeslive.co.za/news/south-africa/2020-05-19-cape-town-cocaine-plot-derailed-by-honest-truck-driver/>

24.05.2020 A man suspected of drug trafficking was detained during a police operation in Kempton Park, KwaZulu Natal province. **1 kg of heroin and 35,000 heroin capsules** were found and seized from him during the arrest. The man was taken to Bellar police station and placed in custody. He will be brought before the Durban Magistrate's Court, where he will be charged with possession of drugs. <https://www.news24.com/SouthAfrica/News/man-bust-in-kzn-for-possession-of-heroin-worth-r14m-20200524>