

CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY

(based on mass media reports)

07.06-14.06.2020**№ 24****CARICC MEMBER STATES****REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

08.06.2020 Employees of the State Border Service of Azerbaijan have prevented import of large consignment of narcotic and psychotropic substances to the country. The driver and passenger of a Gazelle car - 46-year-old resident of Baku and 38-year-old resident of Agdjabedi district - were detained on the territory of "Goytepe" frontier post near Agaly village of Bilasuvar district. They picked up **4.265 kg of heroin, 2.01 kg of methamphetamine, 2.005 kg of opium, 1.07 kg of marijuana and 490 tablets of medicines** on the territory of frontier post with Iran. The forbidden substances were intended for import and further sale in the territory of Azerbaijan. A criminal case has been initiated on this fact, investigation is under way. <https://1news.az/news/presechen-vvoz-krupnoy-partii-narkotikov-v-azerbaydzhan---foto>

12.06.2020 Operation carried out by employees of the GUBN of the Ministry of Internal Affairs has prevented import of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances into the country and their sale. A resident of Masalli district was detained in Baku and **11.93 g of narcotics** were found and seized during a personal search. During a search of the rented apartment in Baku, **24.885 g of heroin, 1.87 kg of opium, 3.275 kg of methamphetamine** and electronic scales were seized. The man imported narcotics into the territory of Azerbaijan on behalf of Iranian citizen, kept them in caches in Chahirli village of Masalli district and then transported to Baku. In the course of another operation carried out in Absheron district, the officers detained two suspects in illegal drug trafficking - residents of Baku and Goychay district. **3,309 kg of heroin** were seized from the detainees during a search. They purchased the heroin for sale from an Iranian citizen. Criminal cases have been instituted in connection with these facts. <https://media.az/important/1067779788/mvd-predotvrascheny-vvoz-i-realizaciya-bolee-33-kg-narkoticheskikh-sredstv-foto-video/>

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

09.06.2020 Employees of the Almaty Police Department UPN prevented a major supply of narcotic substances to Nur-Sultan and Ust-Kamenogorsk. Two brothers planned to illegally send drugs from Almaty for further sale in Nur-Sultan and Ust-Kamenogorsk. **2 kg of synthetic drugs**, worth 30 million KZT, were seized. A 36-year-old brother was given the role of courier, the second man and his 30-year-old brother had to send drug parcels through long-distance freight carriers. The men have been detained and taken into custody. A pre-trial investigation has been initiated. <https://ru.sputniknews.kz/incidents/20200609/14200022/politsiya-narkotiki-kanal.html>

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

08.06.2020 Three members of a criminal group involved in purchase and sale of **34.7 kg of cocaine** in the Moscow region have been identified and detained by the Economic Security Service's "K" department. The detainees were indicted. The cocaine carrier was a resident of Moscow, in whose car a particularly large quantity of cocaine was found, as well as a GSM signal suppression device and two mobile phones. He planned to receive 100,000 rubles from an accomplice for transporting drugs. The third member of the criminal group was also a Moscow resident. A preventive measure in the form of detention was taken against the defendants. <https://tass.ru/proisshestviya/8678429>

08.06.2020 Employees of the 2nd DPS regiment (southern) of the Interior Ministry's traffic police department in the Moscow region at a stationary checkpoint located on the 124th km of the M-5 "Ural" highway, stopped a car driven by a 31-year-old resident of the Saratov region. As a result of inspection of the vehicle, **2 kg of cannabis and 1 kg of mephedrone** were found and seized. A criminal case was initiated against the drug courier and a preventive measure in the form of detention was chosen.

<https://мвд.пф/news/item/20341299>

10.06.2020 Employees of UNK of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the Arkhangelsk region in 100 km from Arkhangelsk on M-8 "Kholmogory" motorway stopped Opel car driven by a 20-year-old resident of Kostroma who was carrying over **1 kg of synthetic drug** intended for sale in the region. A criminal case has been initiated.

<https://мвд.пф/news/item/20357466>

11.06.2020 Inspectors of the 2nd DPS (southern) regiment of the Interior Ministry's traffic police department in the Moscow region at a stationary checkpoint on the M-4 "Don" highway stopped a car driven by a 21-year-old citizen of a neighboring country, who was moving from Moscow towards Pyatigorsk. During inspection of the vehicle, about **1.2 kg of heroin** was found in the interior under decorative plates and a niche under the handbrake. A criminal case was initiated and a preventive measure in the form of detention was taken against the suspect. <https://мвд.пф/news/item/20369848>

11.06.2020 In the Samara region, officers of the traffic police department of the Stavropolsky district of Russia stopped a car under the control of a 33-year-old man at a stationary DPS post. During inspection of the vehicle **35.6 g N-methylephedron** was found in the trunk of the car. The detained man was distributing drugs through caches. 4 such caches were found in the neighboring Orenburg region, from where more than **1 kg of N-methylephedron** was seized. These facts are under investigation. The suspect has been remanded in custody. <https://мвд.пф/news/item/20371145>

REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

10.06.2020 During three operations carried out on the territory of Karakalpakstan, Navoi and Fergana regions, SGB officers of Uzbekistan seized **21,981 tablets of psychotropic drug**. A car was stopped in Ferghana region of Uzbekistan, during examination of which 11 thousand such tablets belonging to one of the passengers were found. It was found that the tablets had been smuggled out of Kazakhstan. <https://regnum.ru/news/society/2977563.html>

14.06.2020 Uzbek SGB officers in Surkhandarya region seized over 8.5 kg of opium and 2.38 kg of poppy heads smuggled from Afghanistan. Also, the SGB in Tashkent region detained a citizen of Tajikistan during illegal crossing of the state border, from whom 983 grams of opium were seized. A total of **11.884 kg of opium and about 3 kg of poppy heads** were seized. Criminal proceedings have been initiated and investigations are under way with regard to all the facts identified. <https://podrobno.uz/cat/proisshestviya/sgb-izyala-11-8-kg-opiya-chast-narkotikov-dostavlena-iz-afganistana-takzhe-zaderzhan-narkokurer-iz-t/>
<http://russian.people.com.cn/n3/2020/0615/c31519-9700438.html>

OTHER COUNTRIES

AFGHANISTAN

08.06.2020 Officers of the Counter Narcotics Police (CNP) found and seized **95 kg of opium** in the village of Darwishk, Kong district, Nimroz province, following an operation. The opium consignment was transported in a vehicle. Also in a separate operation, CNP officers arrested three people on charges of smuggling **2 kg of opium and 2 kg of hashish** in the Rodat and Deh Bala districts of eastern Nangarhar province. <http://www.afghanistantimes.af/police-seize-95kg-opium-in-nimroz/>

BRAZIL

11.06.2020 Agents of the Federal Police (PF) and the Federal Revenue Service (IRS) confiscated **107 kg of cocaine** in the port of Paranagua, on the Paraná coast. The drug was found in two containers with shipments of frozen chicken. The cargo was destined for the port of Gioia Tauro (Italy). <https://globoplay.globo.com/v/8620905/>

UNITED KINGDOM

11.06.2020 Detectives from the Garda National Drug and Organised Crime Bureau and tax officials at the port of Dublin discovered and seized **93 kg of cannabis and 62 kg of cocaine**. The total value of the drugs was €6.2 million. Drugs were hidden in hot water cylinders in a trailer that had arrived in Dublin from Rotterdam, the Netherlands. The driver of truck from Northern Ireland was arrested. The truck and trailer, registered in the United Kingdom, were also seized by tax officials. <https://www.dublinlive.ie/news/dublin-news/massive-shipment-cocaine-cannabis-worth-18403579>

INDIA

09.06.2020 Police found **9.12 kg of heroin** in a field in the area bordering Pakistan, in the area of responsibility of Kulwant border outpost in Patti sub-division. Two alleged drug smugglers, Dall villagers aged 25 and 27, have been arrested. Heroin, placed in six plastic bottles, was smuggled from Pakistan and hidden in a cache at a depth of 1 foot (0.3m) underground. The police team (DSP) found heroin at pillar No. 176. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/tarn-taran-police-seize-9kg-heroin-at-indo-pak-border-nab-2/story-S33uitOcevF6KdrvQBzs7M.html>

11.06.2020 In a raid by counter-terrorism police, three associates of the terrorist organization Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) were arrested and **21 kg of heroin** were seized. The

detainees belonged to a cell that provided financial assistance to active terrorists of the banned terrorist group LeT. Other members who are in hiding have been identified. The cell was in close contact with Pakistani terrorists. According to the police, drug proceeds were used to finance terrorist activities. The raid revealed a link between drug dealers and terrorists. The case is registered at the Hardwara police station. A special investigation team was established to investigate the defendants' links with terrorist groups, radicals, smugglers and other anti-national elements. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/chandigarh/three-let-workers-held-with-21kg-heroin-worth-rs-100-crore-in-j-k/story-hqSo7vCB8xQMGXSEO2l0eL.html>

IRAN

13.06.2020 From 6 to 12 June, the Iranian Anti-Narcotics Police seized **13.357 tons of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including 113 kg of heroin, 10.076 tons of opium, 207 kg of methamphetamine, 2,135 kg of morphine, 730 kg of hashish and 96 kg of other narcotic drugs**¹.

SPAIN

10.06.2020 National Police officers in the municipality of Kahiz, in the Aksarkia region, Malaga, discovered the largest marijuana plantation ever found in the province of Malaga, hidden on a 6,000 m² farm. They found 5 greenhouses where **18,000 cannabis** plants were grown among tomatoes. <https://www.hortidaily.com/article/9224611/5-greenhouses-with-18-000-cannabis-plants-discovered-in-malaga/>

12.06.2020 National Police agents have identified new routes for hashish to enter Europe. Criminal organizations buy hashish consignments from Moroccan suppliers, using corrupt loaders, first at the ports of origin in Morocco, where they load hashish backpacks onto merchant ships bound for Spain, and then to unload drugs from ships and deliver it to final customers, workers at port facilities in Algeciras. The "blind hook" method is widely used to transport cocaine from South America through freight containers, but was recently discovered in Spain for the first time to send hashish from Morocco. In the course of an investigation, the National Police seized **11 kg of hashish** as early as 27 March. Two members of a criminal organization involved in the international hashish trade between Morocco and Spain were detained in Algeciras. One of the detainees was an employee of port facilities and had access to its restricted areas. <https://www.diarioarea.com/2020/06/12/a-prision-un-estibador-que-trato-de-sacar-11-kilos-de-droga-de-una-terminal-de-contenedores/>

CHINA

09.06.2020 Hong Kong police officers arrested two drug traffickers during a raid on a residential apartment - a 45-year-old man and a 25-year-old woman - from whom **3.4 kg of crystalline methamphetamine and 3.2 kg of cocaine** were seized. The cost of drugs is HK\$5.8 million (\$748,000). Investigation is under way. According to the Hong Kong Customs and Excise Department, almost 1.2 tons of drugs were seized at cargo terminal of Hong Kong International Airport in 2020, which is 165% of the same period last year. About **100 kg of cocaine, 135 kg of methamphetamine and 133 kg of ketamine** were seized.

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

<https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/law-and-crime/article/3088266/hong-kong-police-arrest-two-suspected-drug-traffickers>

14.06.2020 Hong Kong customs officers at the Lok Ma Chau checkpoint, located on the border with mainland China, found **17.2 kg of heroin** in four parcels mailed from Malaysia via Shenzhen. The shipment costs HK\$14.9 million (US \$1.92 million). A 15-year-old boy was arrested and charged in connection with this case. Express parcels contained fume cupboards where drugs were concealed. <https://www.scmp.com/print/news/hong-kong/law-and-crime/article/3088960/hong-kong-teen-charged-after-customs-seizes-hk149>

COLOMBIA

09.06.2020 Members of Anti-Narcotics Department of the National Police in the port of Buenaventura confiscated **4,928 kg of cocaine hydrochloride**, which had been mixed with granulated rubber following a chemical process. The cargo was packed in 1,733 bags of 30 kg each and was held in two containers to be transported to Central America and then to Turkey. Estimated value of the shipment is USD 265 million.

https://www.heraldmillmedia.com/news/nation/colombia-seizes-5-tons-cocaine-in-biggest-haul-during-pandemic/article_4289f857-6b80-50f3-8637-d3bd40c90e07.html

<https://www.mindefensa.gov.co/irj/portal/Mindefensa/contenido/noticiamdn?idXml=a022b68e-bf8c-3810-3e97-db689d59505e&date=09052020>

<https://noticiasneiva.co/2020/06/10/coronavirus-incautan-cerca-de-toneladas-de-cocaina-en-buenaventura-conflicto-y-narcotrafico-justicia/>

MALAYSIA

04.06.2020 Customs agents at Port Clanga seized **2.5 tons** of dried goat and camel milk mixed with **ketamine**. A container of powdered milk was shipped from a South Asian country and its shipment was declared goat and camel milk powder. The shipment is valued at 100 million yuan. Powdered milk and ketamine were packaged separately in small 25 g packets. Each box contained 20 packets. Preliminary studies showed that dried milk was produced in Malaysia and exported to a South Asian country in December 2019. However, the shipment was shipped back to Malaysia because its packaging did not meet the importer's standards. A 55-year-old foreign national and a 40-year-old Malaysian national were detained on suspicion of involvement in drug trafficking. As part of investigation, Customs has identified involvement of owners of a milk company in drug smuggling.

<https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2020/06/09/customs-seizes-container-load-of-goat-camel-milk-mixed-with-drugs-worth-rm100mil>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ywl0zWY3RTk>

MEXICO

10.06.2020 Federal Ministry Police officers in Wichtla, Chiapas, stopped a truck driven by a 67-year-old driver who was carrying approximately **647 kg of cocaine**. Drug was found during inspection of the truck, where 647 packets of cocaine were hidden inside 13 boxes among a cargo of raffia. Driver was arrested, drug was seized. <https://www.riviera-maya-news.com/anonymous-tip-leads-feds-to-647-kilos-of-cocaine/2020.html>

MYANMAR

09.06.2020 Police in the town of Shwe Ku, Kachin state, acting on intelligence, stopped a vehicle that contained **8.14 kg of heroin and 142,500 tablets of stimulants (amphetamines)**. Three suspects have been apprehended and are under investigation.

<https://menafn.com/1100295552/Myanmar-confiscates-8-kg-of-heroin>

OMAN

09.06.2020 In two separate operations, members of the General Department for Combating Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of the Royal Oman Police (ROP) intercepted smuggling of large quantities of drugs and psychotropic substances into the Sultanate by two international criminal groups. Three members of the international drug trafficking network have been arrested. Seizures included **40 kg of hashish, 1,029 tablets of psychotropic substances, 2.5 kg of heroin and 0.5 kg of opium**, all of which were imported into the Sultanate by sea. ROP officers also confiscated **8 kg of heroin and some crystalline methamphetamine** from an Asian national who was a member of an international criminal group smuggling drugs into Oman. Legal action is being taken against four defendants. <https://timesofoman.com/article/3015869/oman/international-drug-gang-arrested-in-oman>

POLAND

09.06.2020 More than **3.2 tons of cocaine-containing substances** were seized in Gdynia thanks to cooperation of CBŚP, the Border Guard Service and the Gdansk Office of the National Prosecution Office. Drugs were found in a consignment of frozen pineapple pulp, which was imported from Ecuador between 16 November and 13 December 2019. The shipment arrived by sea at the port of Hamburg, Germany, and was then transported by truck to Gdynia. 144 metal barrels with a capacity of 250 kg containing frozen pineapple pulp were stored in a warehouse in Gdynia. Employees of MOSG and CBŚP took X-rays with the help of an X-ray machine, and border dogs indicated presence of drugs in the barrels. It was decided to keep the goods and appoint a chemical examination, which determined that the barrels contained more than 3.2 tons of cocaine. Three men aged between 64 and 71 - residents of the Pomeranian province were arrested by the Gdańsko-Poludenskie District Court at the request of the Pomeranian Office of the Department of Organized Crime and Corruption of the National Prosecution Office in Gdańsk. They are charged with participation in an organized criminal group, two of them are charged with smuggling narcotic drugs, the third - with assistance in drug smuggling. <http://www.policja.pl/pol/aktualnosci/189700,Dziewki-wspolpracy-CBSP-SG-i-PK-przejeto-ukryta-w-zamrozonej-pulpie-ananasowej-ko.html>
<https://wtvbam.com/news/articles/2020/jun/09/poland-seizes-three-tonnes-of-cocaine-worth-761-million/1027287/?refer-section=world>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ZdASm9zvaM>

PUERTO RICO

10.06.2020 The U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) anti-smuggling team inspected containers arriving at M/V Kydon aboard the Santo Domingo-San Juan ferry and found eight bags containing **223 kg of cocaine** in a container. Cocaine seized was valued at US\$ 6

million. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-san-juan-field-operations-seizes-492-pounds-cocaine-inside>

USA

10.06.2020 Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents and Office of Field Operations (OFO) officers at the Hidalgo International Bridge in Texas, arrested a 32-year-old woman and a 31-year-old male U.S. citizen from Lubbock, Texas, in an attempted smuggling of **35.02 kg of methamphetamine and 2.14 kg of heroin** from Mexico in a Mitsubishi Eclipse vehicle. Drugs are worth \$1.733 million. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-officers-hidalgo-international-bridge-seize-17-million-hard>

10.06.2020 Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Field Operations Office (OFO) officers at the World Trade Bridge in Laredo, Texas, detained a driver attempting to smuggle **261.6 kg of marijuana** from Mexico in a commercial trailer. The shipment is valued at over \$115,000. Drugs and the trailer have been confiscated. The case was handed over to Special Investigation Agents of the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement-Homeland Security Investigations (ICE-HSI) for further investigation. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-field-operations-seizes-over-115k-marijuana-within-commercial>

10.06.2020 Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials at the port of entry Nogales, Tucson, Arizona, found **32.21 kg of fentanyl tablets (about 300,000 tablets in total), 11.34 kg of heroin and over 2.72 kg of cocaine** in a pickup truck driven by a 63-year-old American citizen. Drugs worth more than 1 million US dollars were hidden in boxes with ceramic tiles. The driver was arrested and handed over to the U.S. Homeland Security Investigations. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/nogales-cbp-officers-find-nearly-300k-fentanyl-pills-heroin-and-cocaine#>

12.06.2020 U.S. Border Patrol agents in remote mountainous area of Mesquita, Tucson, Arizona, arrested five Honduran citizens suspected of smuggling drugs, from whom more than **65.77 kg of methamphetamine** were seized. Seized methamphetamine is estimated to amount to more than \$300,000. The case has been referred to the United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement-Homeland Security Investigations (ICE-HSI) for prosecution. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/three-significant-meth-seizures-three-weeks-bp>

THAILAND

10.06.2020 Anti-narcotics police confiscated **500 kg of crystalline methamphetamine and 100 kg of heroin** in four separate operations, 17 people were arrested. <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/1932088/four-drug-busts-net-hefty-hauls>

TURKEY

08.06.2020 During operations targeting Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) terrorist group's illegal drug production and trafficking, a recognized terrorist organization in Turkey, in the villages of Yalaza and Baglan in the Lice region as well as in some villages of the Hazro region, at least **110 kg of marijuana and 330.6 cannabis plants** were seized. Unregistered firearms and chargers were also confiscated during the operations. In addition, about 2.4 cannabis plants were seized in Sanliurfa province. A man who was cultivating

cannabis in the backyard of his home was imprisoned. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/turkey-around-333-000-cannabis-sativa-roots-seized/1869038>

FRANCE

12.06.2020 In a parking lot about 20 km from the port of Le Havre, police found the body of a 40-year-old docker from Le Havre. The dead man, who was one of the three defendants in a case involving seizure of **1.4 tons of cocaine** in the port of Le Havre on 18 May, was abducted from his home. The body showed signs of severe physical torture, with a rag soaked in gasoline in his mouth. Investigation has been entrusted to the Regional Police Directorate and the Rouen Gendarmerie. Investigators were checking a link between the said seizure of cocaine shipment with a commercial value of over 100 million euros and the murder of the docker. The port of Le Havre, with its regular container traffic from Latin America, is a major entry point for cocaine shipments into France. <https://lemarin.ouest-france.fr/secteurs-activites/defense/36781-un-docker-havrais-assassine-sur-fond-de-traffic-de-cocaine>

UKRAINE

10.06.2020 Police detained three members of an organized criminal group suspected of illegal drug trafficking in Chernivtsi. A 23-year-old Chernivtsi resident organized a drug supply chain to Bukovina. Together with a married couple, 20 and 25 years old locals, they packed up illegal substances in a rented garage, which were sold via the Internet, indicating the location of caches to buyers. During a search, more than **350 ready-made "stashers" of amphetamine, 30 tablets of ecstasy, 500 g of psychotropic substance, 200 g of hallucinogenic fungi, 0.5 kg of cannabis, 1.5 kg of amphetamine**, electronic scales, packing tools and other physical evidence were seized. Seized substances are valued at UAH 1 million. Suspects are charged with illicit manufacture, possession, distribution and sale of narcotic and psychotropic substances. Two of the suspects are under house arrest, and the organizer of the group is in custody. <https://zn.ua/UKRAINE/v-chernovcah-u-zakladchikov-izyali-narkotikov-na-1-mln-griven-fotoreportazh-357130.html>

14.06.2020 In the course of operation carried out by police officers with support of KORD special forces in Nikopol, during a search of the place of actual residence of a 34-year-old man, **300 grams of methamphetamine, 20 cannabis bushes**, electronic scales and 20 thousand hryvnia were seized. The man also kept an improvised explosive device (IED) in a plastic case, which included a grenade RGD-5, 1.5 kg of plastic, three electrodetonators and metal bolts. In addition, police found a Mosin rifle bolt, 0.5 kg of powder and 200 rounds of ammunition. Seized drugs are worth about 400 thousand hryvnia. The man is a member of an organized criminal group engaged in drug trafficking in the country. The suspect was responsible for sale of drugs in Nikopol, Manganka and Cover. In addition, he is accused in a case of premeditated murder. The man was reported on suspicion under several articles of the Ukrainian Criminal Code. Measures are being taken to identify other OCG members and all facts of criminal activity. <https://sobitie.com.ua/ukraina-mir-kriminal/v-nikopole-u-chlena-narkogruppirovki-izyali-narkotiki-samodelnoe-vzryvnoe>