

CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY

(based on mass media reports)

13.07-19.07.2020

№ 29

CARICC MEMBER STATES

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

13.06.2020 Employees of the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan at Astara post during customs inspection of "SCANIA" cargo vehicle with a trailer carrying a shipment of melons, tomatoes and eggplant from the Islamic Republic of Iran by transit through the territory of Azerbaijan to Ukraine, found and seized **101 kg of heroin** in plastic boxes of eggplant with the help of a service dog¹.

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

14.07.2020 Employees of UNK GU MVD of Russia in the Voronezh region together with the regional FSB prevented a fact of heroin sale in Voronezh and Voronezh region by contactless means. A 39-year-old resident of Moscow and a 35-year-old resident of the Belgorod region were detained distributing heroin through caches. About **1.5 kg of heroin** was seized. The women recognized addresses of wholesale stashes via the Internet, then packed drugs into smaller quantities and placed them in caches, burying bundles in the ground and giving coordinates to buyers. A criminal case was opened against the suspects, and a preventive measure in the form of detention was chosen. <https://мвд.рф/news/item/20617474>

15.07.2020 Employees of the Krasnoyarsk Krai UNK UMVD in cooperation with GUNK MVD of Russia dismantled a synthetic drugs manufacturing laboratory in the city of Uyara, which was equipped in a garage by a 34-year-old local resident. The perpetrator received ingredients for making drugs in postal parcels. During inspection of the garage **1.235 kg of amphetamine, about 800 g of precursors**, laboratory equipment, glass jars and flasks, in which drug, reagents were manufactured, as well as electronic scales were found and seized. A criminal case has been initiated against the man. <https://мвд.рф/news/item/20620154>

16.07.2020 Employees of the traffic police of the Tyumen region department of the Russian Interior Ministry stopped a car driven by a 22-year-old driver with a 51-year-old woman as a passenger on the federal highway "Tyumen - Omsk". During inspection of the vehicle, a bag with **400 g of mephedrone and over 4 kg of hashish** were found in the cabin, intended for distribution in several regions. A criminal case has been initiated on this fact. In the course of investigation, officers of the Tyumen region Department of Internal Affairs of Russia in the neighboring Sverdlovsk region revealed a cache with **1 kg of drugs**. The defendants are currently being held in custody. <https://мвд.рф/news/item/20634132>

¹ Information provided by representatives of the State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan during a working meeting with CARICC leadership held on 2 July 2020.

16.07.2020 Employees of UNK UMVD of Russia in the Murmansk region detained a 28-year-old resident of Murmansk in a forest belt during an attempt to sell drugs via caches. Examination of 11 caches revealed **65 g of methamphetamine and 300 MDMA tablets**. The suspect organized several online shops selling drugs through a messenger. 480,000 rubles from the sale of drugs were found and seized at his place of residence. A criminal case has been initiated. <https://мвд.рф/news/item/20635910>

OTHER COUNTRIES

BELGIUM

14.07.2020 The Federal Judicial Police of Eastern Flanders, in cooperation with the Ghent Customs Investigation Service and the shipping police in the port of Ghent, seized about **37 kg of cocaine**. The 200-metre-long cargo ship Ultra Daniela left Barranquilla, Colombia, for the Sifferdock destination in Ghent, Belgium, with a cargo of coal. The ship was filled with coal in five large holds. When one of the holds was emptied, a black bag containing approximately 37 kg of cocaine was found. The shipment was worth about 2.6 million euros. Police intercepted a car with three suspects - two Belgians aged 36 and 37 and an Albanian citizen aged 26. Numerous searches were carried out in Seele and Antwerp. The fourth suspect, a 47-year-old Belgian owner of a car intercepted at Sifferdock, had been arrested in Seele. The investigation also included a search of an apartment in Albania, where a loaded gun was seized, approximately €1.7 million in cash and 20 kg of gold in bars. Two Albanian citizens were arrested there as well. https://www.nieuwsblad.be/cnt/dmf20200714_94879412

INDIA

17.07.2020 Police in Ri-Bhoy, Meghalaya intercepted a truck carrying **500 kg of marijuana**. <https://nenow.in/north-east-news/meghalaya/meghalaya-ri-bhoi-police-intercepts-truck-carrying-500-kg-marijuana.html>

IRAN

18.07.2020 The Iranian Anti-Narcotics Police seized **15.880 tons of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including 85 kg of heroin, 12.742 tons of opium, 300 kg of methamphetamine, 1.110 tons of hashish, 13 kg of morphine and 1,630 kg of other narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances** from 11 to 17 July².

SPAIN

14.07.2020 Agents of the National Police and Taxation Authority, in a joint operation off the coast of Cadiz, Andalusia, intercepted a British flagged sailing boat carrying **400 kg of hashish**. Two Bulgarian citizens on board were arrested on charges of drug smuggling. https://www.policia.es/prensa/20200717_2.html#
 Video: https://www.policia.es/videos/wmv/20200717_2.mp4
http://www.interior.gob.es/es/web/interior/noticias/detalle/-/journal_content/56_INSTANCE_1YSSI3xiWuPH/10180/12113649/?redirect=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.interior.go

² Data provided by liaison officer of the Anti-Narcotics Police of the Islamic Republic of Iran.



[b.es%2Fes%2Fprensa%2Fnoticias%3Fp_p_id%3D101_INSTANCE_GHU8Ap6ztqsg%26p_p_lifecycle%3D0%26p_p_state%3Dnormal%26p_p_mode%3Dview%26p_p_col_id%3Dcolumn-2%26p_p_col_count%3D1](https://www.caricc.org/b.es%2Fes%2Fprensa%2Fnoticias%3Fp_p_id%3D101_INSTANCE_GHU8Ap6ztqsg%26p_p_lifecycle%3D0%26p_p_state%3Dnormal%26p_p_mode%3Dview%26p_p_col_id%3Dcolumn-2%26p_p_col_count%3D1)

CHINA

18.07.2020 Hong Kong police arrested a 25-year-old woman and a 41-year-old man who were members of a criminal drug syndicate in Ping Che, Ta Kwu Ling, during an operation that seized **67.3 kg of methamphetamine** valued at about HK\$40 million.

[https://www.thestandard.com.hk/breaking-news/section/4/151294/Duo-due-in-court-over-HK\\$40m-meth](https://www.thestandard.com.hk/breaking-news/section/4/151294/Duo-due-in-court-over-HK$40m-meth)

THE NETHERLANDS

16.07.2020 In the first half of 2020, customs officials in the Netherlands seized twice as much cocaine as in the same period last year. A total of 77 **cocaine** seizures totalling **25 tons and 599 kg were made** (60 cocaine seizures totalling 12 tons and 160 kg were made in the same period last year). Those drug shipments were intercepted mainly at the ports of Rotterdam and Vlissingen. The largest consignment of 4,515 kg of cocaine was seized in Vlissingen in April. An additional 648 kg of cocaine were seized by customs officials during investigations not related to seaports. <https://nltimes.nl/2020/07/16/twice-much-cocaine-intercepted-first-half-year>

PAKISTAN

16.07.2020 The Anti-Narcotics Force of Pakistan (ANF) seized **1,045.18 kg of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in 16 operations against drug trafficking, including 203.4 kg of hashish, 549 kg of morphine, 7.3 kg of opium, 285.46 kg of heroin and 20 g of amphetamine**. Twenty-one offenders have been arrested and seven vehicles confiscated. <https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/anf-seizes-104518-kgs-drugs-in-16-operations-976287.html>

18.07.2020 The Anti-Narcotics Force of Pakistan (ANF) at Bacha Khan International Airport in Peshawar detained a woman on a flight to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, during a baggage check as she attempted to smuggle **7 kg of heroin** in her suitcase.

<https://www.samaa.tv/news/pakistan/2020/07/anf-drugs-peshawar-airport/>

PERU

13.07.2020 In a joint operation between the National Anti-Drug Police and the Third Corporate Prosecution Office, which specializes in drug trafficking crimes, about **46 kg of cocaine** were seized in a container at the port terminal of Callao, managed by DP WORLD Callao. The criminals used a method known as "Rip-off". <https://perurec.com/callao-trafficantes-pretendian-enviar-46-paquetes-con-alcaloide-de-cocaina-desde-el-puerto/>

PUERTO RICO

17.07.2020 Border Patrol agents from Ramey discovered a vessel moving without navigation lights eastward, approximately 10 nautical miles west of Peña Blanca, Aguadilla, and alerted the Maritime Unit of the Puerto Rico Police Department's United Rapid Response Force (FURA) to the interception. Five Dominican nationals were on board. During inspection of the boat, **36 kg of cocaine and 3 kg of fentanyl** were found and seized. The seized

cocaine was estimated to have been worth approximately \$900,000 and fentanyl \$42,000. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/border-patrol-fura-seize-80-pounds-cocaine-and-6-pounds-fentanyl-5>

20.07.2020 U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents seized **19.4 kg of cocaine** in a joint operation with the Air and Maritime Operation (AMO) near Playa Color, Fahardo. During patrol, the AMO encountered a fast-track vessel heading west towards Fahardo. Upon detecting patrol, the man on board threw a bag of drugs into the water and changed course. As a result of the pursuit of the ship, one person was arrested. Cocaine is worth \$485,000. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is in charge of prosecuting and investigating the case. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/amo-seize-43-pounds-cocaine-and-arrest-one-individual-fajardo-puerto>

USA

14.07.2020 Officers from the Customs and Border Protection Service (CBP) of the Field Operations Office (OFO) at the World Trade Bridge in Laredo, Texas, found **74.75 kg of methamphetamine** in a Freightliner commercial trailer carrying a shipment of tiles from Mexico. The shipment was valued at over \$3 million. The vehicle and drugs were confiscated. The case was handed over to special agents of US Homeland Security Investigations (ICE-HSI) for further investigation. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-officers-intercept-hard-narcotics-worth-over-3-million-world-trade>

14.07.2020 Officers from the Allen County Sheriff's Office, Ohio, seized **11.5 kilograms of fentanyl**, \$128,000, several firearms and two electric pharmaceutical presses to produce drugs in tablets. A 39-year-old man was arrested. <https://www.limaohio.com/news/419154/fentanyl-seizure-one-of-the-largest-ever-for-allen-county>

17.07.2020 U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents with the Office of Field Operations (OFO) at the Farr Reynos International Bridge, Texas, found **3.468 tons of marijuana** transported in a trailer truck from Mexico. Drugs are valued at \$1.529 million. Drugs and the trailer vehicle were confiscated. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-field-operations-seizes-over-three-tons-marijuana-worth-15-million>

UKRAINE

12.07.2020 In the course of coordinated actions of the Administration of the Odessa port and the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) in the seaport Yuzhny in a container with bananas from Ecuador about **56.4 kg of cocaine (47 briquettes)** were found and seized. The cargo was delivered through the shipping company "LARS MAERSK". Investigation is currently under way³.

PHILIPPINES

16.07.2020 Members of the 2nd Provincial Mobile Force Company (2-nd PMFC), the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency in Central Visaya (PDEA-7) and the Toledo Police Station discovered an illegal cannabis plantation during a special operation in Barangay

³ Information provided by UNODC Office in Vienna under the Global Container Control Programme (CCP).



Bagacay, Toledo City, Cebu Province. **95,000 marijuana plants** were destroyed during the operation. <https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/327479/p38-million-worth-marijuana-plants-uprooted-in-toledo-city>

18.07.2020 In a large-scale special operation, the Police, together with the Kalinga Provincial Joint Force, uncovered an illicitly cultivated area of 4,500 square metres of cannabis in Barangay district of Lokkong in Tinglayan. **66,000 marijuana plants** were destroyed during the operation. <https://www.sunstar.com.ph/article/1864170/Baguio/Local-News/Kalinga-police-PDEA-destroy-P132-M-marijuana>