

**CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY**

(based on mass media reports)

**07.09-13.09.2020**

**№ 37**

**CARICC MEMBER STATES**

**REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

**12.09.2020** As a result of operation carried out by employees of GUBN MVD of the Republic of Azerbaijan, drugs and psychotropic substances were not smuggled into the country. Based on information received, employees of the General Department detained two men - residents of Baku and Jalilabad district. While inspecting cargo compartment of "Ravon" car driven by one of the detained men, **61 kg of heroin, more than 10 kg of opium and 15.299 kg of methamphetamine** were found and seized. Drug seizures cost about 8 million manats. Detained persons received narcotics that were smuggled into the territory of Azerbaijan and hidden on the territory of Sulucheshma village of Jalilabad region by a citizen of a neighboring state. Criminal case was initiated. [https://vesti.az/kriminal/v-azerbajdzhane-iz\\_yaty-narkotiki-na-summu-8-mln-manatov-video-416095](https://vesti.az/kriminal/v-azerbajdzhane-iz_yaty-narkotiki-na-summu-8-mln-manatov-video-416095)

**REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN**

**07.09.2020** Police officers as part of operative and preventive measures "Transit" and "Karasora" at the station Oskemen-1 searched the house of a 45-year-old citizen, located near the railway in Serebryansk city of East Kazakhstan region. **Over 50 kg of marijuana** were seized. A pre-trial investigation has been launched. [https://www.inform.kz/ru/bolee-50-kg-narkoticheskikh-sredstv-hranil-v-svoem-dome-zhitel-vko\\_a3694296](https://www.inform.kz/ru/bolee-50-kg-narkoticheskikh-sredstv-hranil-v-svoem-dome-zhitel-vko_a3694296)

**KYRGYZ REPUBLIC**

**09.09.2020** Employees of SBNON MVD KR conducted a special operation to identify and stop organized transnational group engaged in supply of particularly large consignments of drugs smuggled from Tajikistan to Kyrgyzstan. A citizen of Tajikistan, born in 1982, was detained on the border territory in Arka village of Batken region. **2.6 kg of heroin** were found in the car interior during a search. <https://elgezit.kg/2020/09/09/sotrudniki-sbnon-mvd-kr-presekli-kanal-sbyta-narkotikov-izyav-2-6-kg-geroina/>

**RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

**07.09.2020** Employees of UNK UMVD of Russia in Ulyanovsk region as a result of special operation conducted jointly with the regional FSB of Russia closed down supply and distribution channel of synthetic drug **methyl dioxypyrovalerone (MDPV)** in the region. Two residents of Perm Krai in Moscow region purchased a large shipment of the drug through cashes, after they attempted to import illicit substance into Ulyanovsk region for further sale, but were detained on the territory of Nikolaevsky district. During inspection of the suspects' cars, a cache of **2 kg with MDPV** was found. A criminal case was opened. The court chose a preventive measure in the form of detention. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/21073620>

**07.09.2020** A 34-year-old man was detained in Rzhev by officers of ONK UMVD of Russia in the Tver region. The man intended to sell **200 g of heroin**. The suspect was detained and a criminal case was initiated. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/21073804>

**08.09.2020** Employees of UNK GU MVD of Russia in the Krasnoyarsk Krai detained a 35-year-old resident of the Republic of Khakassia, who was transporting in his car a large shipment of hashish disguised as a fire extinguisher. In forest area of Yemelyanovsky district, police found a cache that the suspect had used to store drugs. A total of **700 g of hashish** were seized. A criminal case was opened. The detainee is in custody. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/21082032>

**10.09.2020** Employees of ONK UMVD of Russia in Vologda region detained a criminal group consisting of two residents of a region of Central Russia, born in 1978 and 1989, who were engaged in illegal sale of drugs of synthetic origin in the territory of Vologda through caches. The detainees stored and transported about **3.250 kg of synthetic drugs** for sale, of which about 500 g were found in caches in Vologda and Yaroslavl regions. Criminal proceedings were instituted against the suspects. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/21108823>

**10.09.2020** Employees of UNK UMVD of Russia in Vladimir region together with their colleagues from GUNK MVD of Russia and representatives of the regional FSB stopped illegal actions of a laboratory producing synthetic drugs. Equipment, packaging materials and more than **180 different containers with precursors** for preparation of synthetic drugs were found in specially equipped premises located in a private home in Alexandrovsky district. A total of **500 g of mephedrone** was seized. A Moscow resident and three foreign nationals who had been on Russian territory in violation of migration law were detained. The 47-year-old suspect purchased a house with a plot of land and on its territory she and her family set up production of synthetic drugs. Ready-made drugs were planned to be sold to drug users in the Central Federal District of Russia through shadow segment of the Internet. Criminal cases have been initiated and are being investigated. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/21115695>

## OTHER COUNTRIES

### AUSTRALIA

**31.08.2020** Australian Federal Police (AFP) and Australian Border Force (ABF) officers conducted inspections of air cargo transportation with welding equipment at two sites in downtown Adelaide. A wooden box with two welding machines was examined with X-ray equipment. Inside the equipment was hidden 18 bags with **20 kg of cocaine**. The cargo was delivered to South Australia from Greece. Wholesale value of the shipment is about 5 million dollars. A 46-year-old resident of Adelaide who had organized delivery of the cocaine consignment was arrested. <https://newsroom.abf.gov.au/releases/31f31a99-7c65-42a6-a697-d02c231237f4>  
<https://www.9news.com.au/national/afp-drug-bust-adelaide-police-find-20kg-of-cocaine-hidden-in-secret-safe-inside-welding-machines/212ac189-3c05-44a2-8f7c-8a78ba5092aa>

## BANGLADESH

**09.09.2020** Customs officers seized **15.065 kg of amphetamine** during a security check at Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka. The cargo flight Bangladesh-Beaman was to fly to Australia via Hong Kong. Amphetamine was in seven of 340 cardboard boxes that were in FedEx Express courier bags. Three export traders were found to be implicated in the illegal cargo. Drugs were in consignment of clothes to be exported by "Neptune Freight". Amphetamine was seized by employees of the Narcotics Control Department. Six people were detained on suspicion of involvement in drug smuggling.

<https://www.dhakatribune.com/bangladesh/dhaka/2020/09/09/6-cartons-of-cocaine-seized-at-dhaka-airport>

## BELGIUM

**10.09.2020** Two dockers were detained at the MPET container terminal on the 1742 Dergank quay in Waasland Harbor on suspicion of involvement in drug smuggling. They were apprehended red-handed when a cocaine shipment was "switched" at the container terminal as drugs moved from a South American container to a European one. This method allows criminal groups to avoid customs checks (scanners). Subsequently, **100 kg of cocaine** were found in the container in which the men were detained.

[https://www.nieuwsblad.be/cnt/dmf20200910\\_94529256](https://www.nieuwsblad.be/cnt/dmf20200910_94529256)

## BRAZIL

**28.08.2020** Federal Revenue Service (IRS) domestic customs oversight and interdiction team at Viracopos International Airport, Sao Paulo, seized about **7 kg of cocaine** in export shipments bound for Mozambique in Africa. The customs control team identified a suspicious shipment containing coconut soap, weighing about 400 kg. Drug was inside several pieces of soap. Seized cocaine was handed over to competent authority for further investigation. <https://receita.economia.gov.br/sobre/acoes-e-programas/acoes-da-receita-federal/noticias/2020/setembro/8a-regiao-fiscal/receita-federal-em-viracopos-apreende-7-kg-cocaina-em-carga-de-exportacao>

**09.09.2020** Federal Revenue Service (IRS) Customs in the port of Santos, Sao Paulo, during container inspection detected and seized **79 kg of cocaine**. The container was destined for the port of Antwerp in Belgium. Packages of cocaine were placed in a cache behind the back wall inside the container, instead of thermal insulation material. The container was selected for inspection using objective risk analysis criteria, including inspection by scanning images. Seized cocaine shipment was delivered to the Federal Police, which will continue investigation based on information provided by the Federal Revenue Service. <http://receita.economia.gov.br/sobre/acoes-e-programas/acoes-da-receita-federal/noticias/2020/setembro/8a-regiao-fiscal/receita-federal-apreende-79-kg-de-cocaina-no-porto-de-santos>  
<https://g1.globo.com/sp/santos-regiao/porto-mar/noticia/2020/09/09/receita-federal-localiza-79-kg-de-cocaina-em-conteiner-no-porto-de-santos-sp.ghtml>

**09.09.2020** Federal Police (PF) arrested several businessmen suspected of affiliation with a criminal organization involved in transportation and international drug trade, in accordance with a request for a warrant contained in a court decision by the 4th Federal Court in Recife that authorized Operation Além Mar (Overseas). Members of the international criminal group first secured drug shipments in the interior of São Paulo for onward transportation by land,

concealing in truck fuel tanks or in company shipments to Pernambuco. Cocaine was transported in tanker trucks, where special secret compartments were created to hide drug shipments. These companies also transported containers from fruit-producing regions (among which drug was hidden) to the ports of Natalá, Rio Grande do Norte (main destination due to lack of "scanners") and Múcuripi. From the northeastern state of Ceara, cocaine was "exported" to Europe and Cape Verde. This criminal organization, designated ORCRIM 3 during Operation "Over the Sea", was composed of businessmen, employees of freight transport companies and drivers<sup>1</sup>. Arrested members of criminal organization are prosecuted for crimes related to international drug trafficking and money-laundering. <http://www.segurancaportuariaemfoco.com.br/2020/09/empresarios-suspeitos-de-envolvimento.html>

**10.09.2020** Federal Revenue Service (IRS) in the port of Santos, Sao Paulo, seized **54 kg of cocaine** during an export cargo inspection. Cocaine was found in a lemon container heading for the port of Hamburg, Germany. The cargo was selected for inspection using objective risk analysis criteria, including image scanning. Drug packs were located behind the back wall of a refrigerated container instead of thermal insulation material. Cocaine shipment was handed over to the Federal Police (PF), which will continue investigation based on information provided by the IRS.

<http://www.segurancaportuariaemfoco.com.br/2020/09/receita-federal-apreende-54-kg-de.html>

<http://receita.economia.gov.br/sobre/acoes-e-programas/acoes-da-receita-federal/noticias/2020/setembro/8a-regiao-fiscal/receita-federal-apreende-54-kg-de-cocaina-no-porto-de-santos>

Video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWauNBx683Y&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWauNBx683Y&feature=emb_logo)

**10.09.2020** Agents of the Federal Police Station of the President-Prudent Federal Police (PF) on the Rodovia Raposo Tavares (SP-270) highway in President Wenceslau intercepted a truck with a trailer carrying **193.7 kg of cocaine**. The truck, loaded with a shipment of bone meal, was driven by a 31-year-old man. Packets of cocaine were found in special caches located in technical cavities in the sides of the trailer. The driver was arrested. <http://imparcial.com.br/2020/noticias/policia-federal-intercepta-transporte-de-193-7-kg-de-cocaina-motorista-foi-presos,37922>

## UNITED KINGDOM

**09.09.2020** Border guard officers in Dover stopped two attempts to smuggle class A drugs into the UK, confiscating **336 kg of cocaine**. Officers stopped a truck registered in Slovenia, which arrived by ferry from Calais with electronic equipment. A search of the vehicle revealed **96 kg of cocaine** hidden in a pallet. Shortly afterwards, a second truck, also registered in Slovenia, was stopped and was found to contain items taken from the first truck to make room for drugs. Both drivers, Bosnian citizens aged 44 and 45, were arrested. They have been charged with attempting to import Class A drugs. In addition, border guards officers stopped a British-registered bus that also arrived by ferry from Calais. During a search of the bus, **240 kg of cocaine** were found hidden in the space behind the bus steps. Two British citizens, a 53-year-old bus driver and a second 50-year-old man, were

<sup>1</sup> See detailed information (names and addresses of carriers and transport companies in Brazil related to international drug trade, including transportation of cocaine consignments by container shipping) on:

<http://www.segurancaportuariaemfoco.com.br/2020/09/empresarios-suspeitos-de-envolvimento.html>

arrested. Investigations in both cases were referred to the National Crime Agency (NCA).  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/border-force-stop-15-million-of-cocaine-hitting-streets>

## VIETNAM

**10.09.2020** Drug investigation officers in Ho Chi Minh City, in cooperation with the Ministry of Public Security, dismantled a network that was smuggling drugs from Cambodia to Vietnam. They seized **30 kg of crystal methamphetamine (ice), 9.2 kg of ketamine, 20,000 ecstasy tablets and 5.27 kg of heroin**. Drugs were hidden in fruit crates. Investigation resulted in the arrest of three members of a criminal group aged 35, 36 and 43, who organized drug shipments from Cambodia to Vietnam.

<https://sggpnews.org.vn/law/police-in-hcmc-seize-nearly-47-kg-of-drug-while-busting-drug-smuggling-ring-88378.html>

## GERMANY

**11.09.2020** Paderborn police seized over **12 kg of cocaine** in Borchten. Cocaine shipment has a market value of 1.2 million euros. Packages of drug were hidden inside teak logs from South America. The woodworking company "Borchten" bought teak at an auction about three months ago. Wood was sold at auction by a shipping company in Antwerp, where logs were stored for about two years. It was supposed to be delivered to an interior decoration company in Antwerp. Since the latter went bankrupt, timber was stored and auctioned with a significant delay. In June, two thousand logs were delivered to Borchten by truck and unloaded at the company's warehouse. Packages of cocaine were found while processing the logs and sawing. Businessman immediately contacted the police. From the whole consignment of wood 50 logs were found which had cavities (120 x 15 cm) to conceal drugs. Only 12 packages with cocaine placed in such cavities were found. Initially, about 50 packs were hidden in each log. Estimated market value of drugs could have been 200 million euros. The Paderborn County Police Department sent a request for legal assistance to the Belgian police. <https://www.westfalen-blatt.de/OWL/Kreis-Paderborn/Paderborn/4270023-Paderborner-Polizei-schlaegt-in-Borchten-zu-Rauschgift-in-Baumstaemmen-geschmuggelt-mit-Video-Groesster-Kokain-Fund-aller-Zeiten-im-Hochstift>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C9OwMUohwfQ>

## INDIA

**09.09.2020** Border Security Force (BSF) shot and killed two Pakistanis attempting to infiltrate India from Pakistan across the international border in the Sri Ganganagar sector of Rajasthan in a shooting near the Hyalivaliwala border post. The BSF seized two pistols, ammunition, **8 kg of heroin**, a night vision device and Pakistani currency from the smugglers at the scene.

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/2-pak-intruders-killed-along-international-border-in-rajasthan-heroin-found-2293027>

**11.09.2020** Delhi police arrested five members of an international drug cartel, including its leader, and confiscated **23 kg of heroin**. Among arrested members were residents of Bihar and Assam, aged 25 to 30. The drug cartel was smuggling heroin to India from Myanmar via Manipur, using caches equipped in technical cavities in cars. The international drug cartel operated in the states of Manipur, Assam, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Delhi.

<https://www.newkerala.com/news/2020/161774.htm>

**12.09.2020** Manipur police officers in the Samuro area of the western district of Imphal arrested two women, and seized **3.412 kg of heroin**. Investigation identified two other people involved in drug trafficking, who were also arrested in Imphal.

<https://www.latestly.com/agency-news/india-news-2-women-held-with-heroin-powder-in-imphal-west-2022961.html>

## IRAN

**11.09.2020** From 5 to 11 September, the Iranian Anti-Narcotics Police seized **17.376 tons of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including 83 kg of heroin, 13.826 tons of opium, 2.321 tons of morphine, 313 kg of methamphetamine, 721 kg of hashish, 112 kg of other narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances**<sup>2</sup>.

## SPAIN

**12.09.2020** Civil Guard seized about **1 ton of cocaine** on the Croatian flag vessel "MAJIC" in international waters, about 88 nautical miles west of La Palma Island. Three crew members, Croatian citizens, were arrested. The seizure operation "MAJIC" was carried out based on an international investigation conducted by the Civil Guard in cooperation with competent authorities of Croatia, UK (NCA), USA (DEA), customs services of the Netherlands and France, as well as Europol agency. The investigation began in February 2019, when the Central Narcotics Task Force of the Central Operations Unit received information about the vessel MAJIC, which is being used for international drug trade from the Caribbean region on a large scale. However, sanitary controls related to the COVID-19 pandemic in various ports in South America disrupted plans of the organization responsible for regular cocaine shipments from South America to Spain, which was forced to accept drug shipments off the African coast of the Gulf of Guinea. <https://www.guardiacivil.es/es/prensa/noticias/7590.html>  
 Video: <https://www.20minutos.es/noticia/4378206/0/guardia-civil-constata-nueva-ruta-maritima-cocaina/?autoref=true>

## CHINA

**07.09.2020** Police in Zunyi city, Guizhou province, stopped 12 criminal groups involved in drug trafficking. More than 80 people suspected of drug trafficking have been detained. **68 kg of heroin** were seized. [http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-09/07/c\\_139349568.htm](http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-09/07/c_139349568.htm)

## COLOMBIA

**10.09.2020** Officers from the Seccionales de Investigación Criminal (SIJIN) in an air-conditioning workshop located in the San José district, southeast of Barranquilla, seized **551 kg of cocaine**, which were disguised inside 21 gas cylinders and 8 metal parts (pinions) for heavy equipment. Cocaine consignment was destined for delivery to Central American countries, the final destination being European markets. Drugs in the workshop were guarded by members of the "Los Costenos" gang. During the operation, a 24-year-old man from a criminal group was detained. Based on markings on the packages in the form of

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



three different logos, it is being checked whether the cocaine consignment belongs to a drug cartel.

<https://www.elheraldo.co/judicial/en-video-incautan-551-kilos-de-cocaina-en-un-taller-del-barrio-san-jose-758017>

Video: <https://zonacero.com/videos/asi-hallaron-en-pinones-de-hierro-mas-de-media-tonelada-de-cocaina-en-san-jose-155465>

<https://diariolalibertad.com/sitio/2020/09/policia-nacional-logra-la-incautacion-de-mas-de-media-tonelada-de-cocaina/>

## MALTA

**09.09.2020** Police arrested five people suspected of involvement in international criminal organizations related to drug trafficking. Among those arrested were two Zurrieq residents - a 30-year-old man and a woman, two men from Mosta, aged 29 and 36, and a 22-year-old Russian woman living in Mosta. **2 kg of cocaine** were seized. During search, bags of **heroin (weight not specified)** were also found in a house in Mosta. Police investigation is under way.

[https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/court\\_and\\_police/104638/five\\_arrested\\_over\\_the\\_after\\_police\\_find\\_two\\_kilos\\_of\\_cocaine#.X18R3JdR2M9](https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/court_and_police/104638/five_arrested_over_the_after_police_find_two_kilos_of_cocaine#.X18R3JdR2M9)

## MOZAMBIQUE

**10.09.2020** Law enforcement authorities seized **3 kg of cocaine** in the central port of Beira. Drug was on board the Liberian-registered MP The Brown, which came from the South African port of Durban, with some goods destined for unloading in Beira and other cargo destined for further transportation to Kenya. Drugs were found in a refrigerated container with medicines for Kenya. The refrigeration system of the container was out of order and maintenance was performed at the port of Beira. As a result of troubleshooting by technicians, three packs of cocaine were found in a cooling system engine compartment. Mozambique Customs and the National Criminal Investigation Service are currently conducting a joint investigation. <https://allafrica.com/stories/202009110140.html>

## THE NETHERLANDS

**09.09.2020** During inspection of a sea vessel in the port of Rotterdam Customs found **600 kg of cocaine**. Drugs were found in a container with a shipment of sport shoes arriving from Caicedo, Dominican Republic. The cargo of sports shoes was going through the port of Antwerp to a company in Switzerland. Investigation is conducted by the HARC team, a joint force of Customs, FIOD, the Seaport Police and the Rotterdam State Prosecutor's Office, and is ongoing. Seized drug shipment has been destroyed.

<https://www.om.nl/actueel/nieuws/2020/09/09/douane-vindt-600-kilo-cocaine-tussen-sportschoenen>

**11.09.2020** The Dutch naval vessel Zr.MS Groningen on the famous drug smuggling route in the Caribbean, in the waters near Aruba, intercepted a fast boat with **445 kg of cocaine** and firearms on board. Three people aboard the boat, shipment of cocaine and weapons were transferred to the U.S. Coast Guard ship Isaac Mayo.

<https://nltimes.nl/2020/09/11/dutch-ship-captures-445-kilos-cocaine-capuchin-monkey-near-aruba>

## PAKISTAN

**08.09.2020** Police at the intersection of Sabri Chowk and Hussaini detained three people accused of drug trafficking, and seized **10 kg of opium and 19 kg of heroin**. Criminal cases under the Narcotics Act have been registered. <https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/drugs-worth-rs-7-millions-seized-three-smugg-1023437.html>

## PANAMA

**11.09.2020** Agents of the National Police Directorate seized approximately **87 kg of cocaine** in three bags in a container located inside Panama's Pacific port. The container arrived from Nicaragua in transit through Panama, the final destination of the container being Canada. The shipment was estimated to cost 4.350 million US dollars. <http://www.policia.gob.pa/18969-confiscan-droga-dentro-de-contenedor-con-ruta-canada.html>  
<https://twitter.com/MinSegPma/status/1304432301917511685>

## PUERTO RICO

**08.09.2020** United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in San Juan seized **61.25 kg of cocaine**. During inspection of containers coming from Causedo, Dominican Republic, aboard the ship "AS Patria," CBP's anti-smuggling team inspected a refrigerated container. 52 packs of cocaine were found inside the container. Seized drugs were estimated to cost 1.5 million USD. The shipment was transferred to the Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) for further investigation. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-seizes-135-pounds-cocaine-concealed-inside-refrigerated-container>

## USA

**08.09.2020** Border patrol agents from El Centro Sector, California, stopped three separate drug smuggling attempts:

1) On September 5, a 20-year-old U.S. citizen was detained at a checkpoint on Highway 86 while attempting to import **14.76 kg of methamphetamine** hidden inside an Infinity crossover. The driver, the vehicle and seized shipment were handed over to the Drug Enforcement Administration;

2) On September 6, during a patrol at the Calexico station, a border patrol found two packages containing **530 g of methamphetamine**. Drugs were handed over to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA);

3) On September 6, operator of remote video surveillance system at the Calexico station noticed an intruder trying to move **520 g of methamphetamine**. The subject left the zone before patrol arrived at the scene.

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/border-patrol-stops-three-meth-smuggling-attempts-over-weekend>

**09.09.2020** U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials at the port of Nogales, Tucson, Arizona, detained a 43-year-old Mexican citizen in an attempt to smuggle into the United States in his truck. They found and seized **40.37 kg of fentanyl in tablets, 14.97 kg of heroin and 230 g of cocaine** hidden inside a shipment of floor tiles. Drug value exceeded 1.4 million dollars. Drugs and the car were seized and the driver handed over to the U.S. Homeland Security Investigations.



<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/nogales-cbp-officers-intercept-narcotics-concealed-boxes-floor-tile-0>

**10.09.2020** A Montenegrin electrician became the third crew member of the international cargo ship "MSC Gayane", who admitted his involvement in smuggling the record **20 tons of cocaine** seized by the U.S. federal authorities in the port of Philadelphia in June 2019. Alexander Kavaya, 27, pleaded guilty to conspiracy with three other crew members aboard MSC Gayane who were recruited by drug smugglers in Montenegro before the ship set off. On 17 June 2019, following discovery of 20 tons of cocaine aboard MSC Gayane, seven of his crew were arrested. Other crew members said they had been paid at least 50,000 euros (approximately 55,000 U.S. dollars) to participate in the smuggling. Using ship's crane, they loaded cocaine bags from small boats onto the deck of MSC Gayane and then distributed it to seven shipping containers of wine, vegetable extract, Chilean dried nuts, scrap metal and other legal goods destined for Europe, Africa and Asia. Drugs were sent to Rotterdam, the Netherlands, but were intercepted in Philadelphia. Two other crew members, Nenad Ilic, 40, and Vladimir Penda, 27, both from Montenegro, also pleaded guilty to conspiracy to smuggle drugs. Other previously arrested crew members include Ivan Durasevic, 30, and Bosko Markovic, 38, both from Montenegro, as well as Fonofava Tiasaga from Samoa, 29, and Laauli Pulu, 34. All seven remain in custody at the Federal Detention Facility in the city center. Kavaya, Penda and Ilic are sentenced to the mandatory minimum penalty of 10 years in prison. <https://www.inquirer.com/news/msc-gayane-cocaine-20-ton-philly-aleksandar-kavaja-montenegro-balkans-20200910.html>

**10.09.2020** U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials at the port of entry in Andrade, California, detained a woman, a 25-year-old U.S. citizen, while attempting to smuggle into the United States in a Jeep Wrangler, concealing **39.92 kg of methamphetamine and 2.72 kg of fentanyl** in the driver's back panel and gas tank, totalling \$304,000. The woman was handed over to Homeland Security Investigations agents for investigation. Drugs and the car were seized. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/woman-arrested-andrade-port-entry-attempting-smuggle-meth-and-fentanyl>

**10.09.2020** Bertholf Coast Guard team plans to unload more than **11.793 tons (26,000 pounds) of cocaine and marijuana** to San Diego, California. Cocaine is valued at 390 million dollars. Drugs were confiscated following interception of ships carrying drugs in international waters in the eastern Pacific off the coast of Mexico, Central and South America since late May. So far in 2020, the U.S. Coast Guard has made more than 171 arrests, seized about **128 tons (282,000 pounds) of cocaine and 25.8 tons (57,000 pounds) of marijuana**, and detained 391 people suspected of smuggling drugs in drug transit zones in the East Pacific and Caribbean. <https://www.cbs8.com/article/news/local/coast-guard-offloading-large-amount-of-cocaine-and-marijuana-representing-13-interdictions-in-the-eastern-pacific/509-d6fe7d3c-e1cf-40c1-b925-9cdda3ff4c3e>

## THAILAND

**12.09.2020** Members of the 237th Border Police Company near Hat Sai Phe village in tambon Nong Thao seized **270 kg of marijuana** on the banks of the Mekong River. Drugs were taken across the river to the Thai side of the border in boats. About **2 tons of marijuana** were seized in this border province in September. <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/1984559/>

## TUNISIA

**11.09.2020** Customs officers prevented an attempt to smuggle **1.049 kg of heroin** at Tunis-Carthage International Airport. Heroin consignment was found in the luggage and underwear of a Tunisian passenger, who arrived from Istanbul (Turkey). After search, the suspect was transferred to special units to continue investigation.

<https://allafrica.com/stories/202009110840.html>

## TURKEY

**07.09.2020** Police seized more than **105 kg of heroin** during national raids. In the Tusba district of Van province, police found and seized **56.4 kg of heroin** in the trunk of an abandoned car. A search for suspects is currently under way. In addition, counter-narcotics officers on the Adana-Aksaray highway stopped a car that was carrying **49.8 kg of heroin** in the trunk. The driver and three other suspects in connection with heroin shipment were arrested. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/turkish-police-seize-over-105-kg-of-heroin/1965454>

**09.09.2020** Gendarmerie forces in Diyarbakir province, in the south-east of Turkey, seized **5.081 tons of marijuana and 14.1 million cannabis plants** during an anti-drug and anti-terrorist operation. Drugs were seized in the Lice area as part of Operation Yildirim-7. Turkish authorities regularly seize drug shipments owned or controlled by the Kurdistan Workers Party, which is listed as a terrorist organization by Turkey, USA and the European Union. <https://www.yenisafak.com/en/news/turkey-seizes-over-5-tons-of-marijuana-in-se-3548795>

## UKRAINE

**09.09.2020** Operatives of the Ukrainian State Border Service in the "Southern Sea Port" in Odessa stopped a record shipment of cocaine. **Cocaine** consignment weighing about **112 kg** (100 packs) was transported in a container with a cargo of bananas, which arrived by ship from Ecuador. Seized drugs in the shadow market cost more than \$17 million. Further proceedings are under way. The operation was carried out by employees of the State Border Service together with employees of the Odessa Customs GTS, USBU in the Odessa region, Port Control Unit (GSR) and under procedural guidance of the Prosecutor's Office of the Odessa region. <https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/%20video%20-rekordnu-partiyu-kokainu-vikrili-prikordonniki-u-pivdennomu/>

<https://ssu.gov.ua/novyny/sbu-poperedyla-kontrabandu-112-kilohramiv-kokainu-z-pivdennoi-ameryky>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=72&v=3IYaxR52ZGk&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=72&v=3IYaxR52ZGk&feature=emb_logo)

## PHILIPPINES

**09.09.2020** Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) reported that in an operation conducted by members of regional special law enforcement teams in the metropolitan area, the Calabarzon Regional Office, the Makati City Police Station and the Armed Forces of the Philippines Intelligence Service (ISAFP) in Makati, located in Barangay Pio del Pilar, a man was detained and about **2 kg of crystalline methamphetamine** were seized. The substance was packaged in a bag with Chinese characters.

<https://newsinfo.inquirer.net/1333537/2-kilograms-of-shabu-seized-in-makati-buy-bust-ops-pdea>

## FRANCE

**08.09.2020** A port worker from Le Havre was found after his abduction near the airport with signs of beating and a bullet wound in the leg. The Le Havre branch of the Regional Judicial Police Service (SRPJ) is investigating. The man was abducted by a group of individuals and then placed in the trunk of a car, according to police in the "normal context of cocaine trafficking abductions". Docker, resigned just two months ago. His car was found on the Tancarville canal in Honfreville-l'Orsne. In the past two years, about 15 Le Havre dockers have been kidnapped for links to international criminal groups involved in cocaine trafficking through the port of Le Havre. [https://actu.fr/normandie/le-havre\\_76351/un-docker-du-havre-enleve-retrouve-avec-une-balle-dans-la-jambe-en-urgence-absolue\\_35969860.html](https://actu.fr/normandie/le-havre_76351/un-docker-du-havre-enleve-retrouve-avec-une-balle-dans-la-jambe-en-urgence-absolue_35969860.html)

## ECUADOR

**12.09.2020** During operation in the port of Guayaquil, police found fake seals on a container with a shipment of bananas, which were sent to Greece. After examining the container with the help of a dog, 55 rectangular packages were found, 35 of which contained **cocaine** with a total weight of **36.505 kg**, and 20 packages contained a powdered substance that is not a narcotic drug. <https://www.ecuavisa.com/articulo/noticias/internacionales/643511-hallan-cocaina-cajas-banano-guayaquil>

## RSA

**10.09.2020** In an operation in Richards Bay with the Mpumalanga Crime intelligence, the Hawks Police Crime Unit stopped a truck in Chukhluw that was carrying **342.5 kg of heroin**. Three men, including the truck driver, were detained. Drug was found in a special cache behind a fake wall in a truck travelling from Mozambique through Swaziland to KwaZulu-Natal. <https://www.iol.co.za/dailynews/news/pics-hawks-seize-r87m-in-heroin-hidden-in-truck-enroute-to-kzn-6909a835-427b-449e-922a-8fbff422319e>