

*Unofficial translation***CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY**

(based on mass media reports)

28.12.2020-10.01.2021**№ 1****CARICC MEMBER STATES****REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

07.01.2021 Employees of MVD of the Republic of Azerbaijan detained a resident of Ganja, two residents of Yevlakh region, a resident of Ashagi Guzdek settlement of Absheron region and one foreign citizen on suspicion of drug trafficking. **106.5 kg of narcotics and psychotropic substances, including 50.5 kg of heroin, over 50 kg of marijuana and about 4 kg of methamphetamine** were detected and seized. Criminal cases were opened on all cases. <https://www.salamnews.org/ru/news/read/408242>

08.01.2021 Employees of GUBN MVD of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Garadagh, Masalli and Yasamal districts of Azerbaijan detained three residents of Baku on suspicion of illicit drug trafficking and found and seized **37.646 kg of drugs, including 25.146 kg of opium, over 7 kg of heroin and 5.5 kg of marijuana**. Criminal cases have been instituted. <https://salamnews.org/ru/news/read/408439>

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

01.01.2021 Employees of UPN of Zhambyl region Police detained a 45-year-old resident of Moyinkum district, in whose house during a search was found and seized **4.535 kg of marijuana**. A pre-trial investigation is underway. <https://toppress.kz/article/tri-meshka-narkotikov-izyali-policeiskie-u-muzhchini-v-zhambilskoi-oblasti>

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

29.12.2020 Employees of UNK UMVD of Russia in the Arkhangelsk region detained a 39-year-old man and a 37-year-old woman in Velsk where **2.030 kg of drugs of synthetic origin** were found and seized. The man had taken drug from a cache in the Kursk region and was going to distribute it in the Arkhangelsk region through other caches. The suspects were taken into custody. Criminal proceedings were initiated and an investigation is underway. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/22415942>

29.12.2020 FSB of Russia jointly with the Drug Enforcement Administration of the US Department of Justice conducted a multistage international special operation to stop illegal actions of a transnational criminal community specializing in smuggling cocaine from South America into the territory of the Russian Federation and other European states. As part of the first phase of the joint operation, in May 2020, a drug courier was detained red-handed while attempting to sell drugs in St. Petersburg and **1 kg of cocaine** was found and seized. In cooperation with foreign partners, active members of the organized criminal group - citizens of several states - were identified and their role in illegal cocaine operations was

identified. In June 2020, participants and an organizer of the group were caught red-handed while attempting to sell drugs on a particularly large scale in Moscow; **34 kg of cocaine** were seized. During the final stage of the operation, in November 2020, a cache was discovered on the territory of Moscow region, during examination of which at least **295 kg of cocaine** was found. The total weight of **cocaine** seized amounted to **at least 330 kg**, illegal operations of the participants of cross-border drug group were stopped, criminal cases were initiated against them and a measure of restraint in the form of detention was chosen. The amount of profit from illegal sale of seized drug could have amounted to 1 billion rubles. <http://www.fsb.ru/fsb/press/message/single.htm%21id%3D10439153%40fsbMessage.html>
<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/russia-us-seize-330-kilos-of-cocaine-drug-sting-moscow-says/>

06.01.2021 Employees of UNK together with investigators GSU GU MVD of Russia in the Irkutsk region, stopped a group of drug traffickers involved in illicit sale of heroin in the region. Seven members of the group were identified, including its organizer - a 23-year-old resident of Irkutsk. Searches of the residence of the accused in Irkutsk, Shelekhov and the village of Smolenshchina of the Irkutsk region resulted in seizure of **100 g of heroin**. Criminal proceedings were instituted. Six suspects are in custody. Against one more, a preventive measure was chosen in the form of written undertaking not to leave premises and appropriate behavior. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/22435377>

08.01.2021 Employees of the department of transport of MVD of Russia in the North-West Federal District in St. Petersburg detained a resident of Volkhov, Leningrad region, who illegally possessed about **35 kg of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances - methylephedrone, amphetamine, methamphetamine, cocaine, mephedrone and hashish**. A criminal case was initiated. A measure of restraint in the form of detention was selected in respect of the suspect. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/22435995>

REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

05.01.2021 SGB of Uzbekistan foiled a major drug smuggling channel from Tajikistan. Two traffickers were detained in Tashkent while selling **1.2 kg of opium**. One of the detainees, with the help of his fellow drug traffickers from Tajikistan, established a channel to supply drugs to Uzbekistan and, together with an accomplice, was involved in selling drugs. In another raid, SGB agents stopped an Orlando vehicle in Tashkent, where passengers were carrying **273 g of hashish**. These narcotic substances were purchased from a resident of Tajikistan. Criminal proceedings were initiated. <https://podrobno.uz/cat/proisshestiya/sgb-presekla-kanal-kontrabandy-narkotikov-iz-tadzhikistana/>

OTHER COUNTRIES

AFGHANISTAN

06.01.2021 Employees of Counter Narcotics Police carried out 71 operations in the period from 31 December 2020 to 5 January 2021, 100 people were detained as a result of investigations. **1.0556 tons of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances were seized, including 47.815 kg of heroin, 968.046 kg of hashish, 1.235 kg of methamphetamine, 35.174 kg of opium, 4505 MDMA tablets, 720 g of precursors**. They confiscated currency in the amount of \$954, 5 cell phones, 10 vehicles and 3 weapons. One drug storage facility was shut down.

11.01.2021 Employees of Counter Narcotics Police in the period from 5 to 11 January 2021 conducted 90 operations, 113 persons were detained. **121.5286 tons of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances were seized, including 15.036 kg of heroin, 100.237 tons of hashish, 5.497 kg of methamphetamine, 22.1675 kg of opium, 298 MDMA tablets and 22.250 tons of marijuana.** Currency in the amount of 7124 US dollars, 16 cell phones, 1 radio, 16 vehicles and 14 weapons were confiscated. Seven drug laboratories were dismantled¹.

BELARUS

29.12.2020 Customs authorities of the Republic of Belarus stopped import of a large consignment of psychotropic substances from Serbia into the territory of the EAEU. **182 kg of MDMA, amphetamine and methamphetamine** were detected and seized. A truck MAN, driven by a 42-year-old Serbian citizen, was coming from Serbia through the checkpoint "Kozlovichi". Brest customs officers together with border guards inspected the truck with an X-ray. As a result, 89 plastic bags with banned substances and pills were found in an industrial fan. Total value of the consignment reached more than 3.5 million U.S. dollars. A criminal case was initiated. A preventive measure in the form of detention was chosen against the driver. <https://www.customs.gov.by/en/news1-en/view/belarusian-customs-officers-stopped-the-import-of-another-large-batch-of-psychotropic-substances-from-16318-2020/>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aAbMQyBqe4&feature=emb_logo

BELGIUM

14.12.2020 1.2 tons of cocaine were found in Liège. Drugs were found in bags of cement at the port of discharge on the banks of the Maas, near Liège. Federal police are investigating. The shipment presumably came from Brazil, having passed through the port of Antwerp, and was subsequently discovered by accident near a river terminal by company employees. Shipment is worth 100 million euros. <https://bopato.com/belgiumeng/1-2-tons-of-cocaine-found-in-liege/>
https://www.rtbf.be/info/societe/detail_1-2-tonne-de-cocaine-decouverte-a-liege?id=10665514

09.01.2021 Customs intercepted **75 kg of cocaine** at the port of Zeebrugge. Drugs were concealed inside a container. A judicial investigation is underway. <https://www.focus-wtv.be/nieuws/drugsvangst-van-meer-dan-4-miljoen-euro-zeebrugge>

BRAZIL

04.01.2021 Federal Internal Revenue Service (IRS) customs at the port of Santos seized **670 kg of cocaine**. Drug was found in a shipment of guavas that was to be exported to Antwerp, Belgium. The shipment was selected for inspection using objective risk analysis criteria, including inspection by image scanning. Cocaine shipment was referred to the Federal Police, who will continue their investigation based on information provided by customs. <https://www.gov.br/receitafederal/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/janeiro/receita-federal-apreende-670-kg-de-cocaina-em-carga-de-goiabada-no-porto-de-santos>
<http://www.segurancaportuariaemfoco.com.br/2021/01/receita-federal-apreende-cocaina-em.html>

¹ Data provided by liaison officer of the Ministry of Interior Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan at CARICC.



Video: <https://g1.globo.com/sp/santos-regiao/video/receita-federal-encontra-670kg-de-cocaina-em-carga-de-goiabada-no-porto-de-santos-9153066.ghtml>

GAMBIA

09.01.2021 Gambian authorities seized **2.9 tons of cocaine** in a shipment of salt from Ecuador. According to the Gambia Drug Law Enforcement Agency (DLEAG), drug is valued at about \$88.5 million (€72.4 million). Officers found 118 bags of white powder labeled "industrial salt" on a cargo ship in the port of Banjul. The container arrived from the port of Guayaquil, Ecuador. A 37-year-old French owner of the cargo is wanted.

<https://www.chronicle.gm/over-two-tons-of-cocaine-seized-in-the-gambia/>

<https://www.infobae.com/america/agencias/2021/01/09/gambia-se-incauta-de-casi-3-toneladas-de-cocaina-en-cargamento-de-sal-de-ecuador/>

GUATEMALA

29.12.2020 Agents of the General Directorate of Drug Information Analysis (SGAIA) of the National Civil Police (PNC) at La Aurora International Airport (AILA), together with officers of the Ministry of State (MP), seized **418 kg of cocaine hydrochloride**. Drug was hidden inside 16 bags of powdered paint that had been stored in COMBEX-IM warehouses near the airport.

<https://mingob.gob.gt/localizan-418-kilogramos-de-clorhidrato-de-cocaina-en-bodegas-de-combex-im/>

<https://twitter.com/MPguatemala/status/1344061868235763713>

GEORGIA

29.12.2020 Georgian MVD officers arrested a man in the village of Muganlo, located in the eastern part of the Sagarejo municipality, on charges of illegal acquisition and possession of **1 kg of heroin**. An investigation was opened into the matter. <https://civil.ge/archives/389338>

INDIA

30.12.2020 In a joint operation between the second battalion of the Border Security Force (BSF) and the CIA, **5 kg of heroin**, a pistol, two magazines and two live ammunition were found in the Santokh Singh Wala area of the Jalalabad subdivision of Fazilka district. CIA detained a man suspected of drug trafficking in Ferozepur.

<https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/punjab/5-kg-heroin-seized-in-fazilka-district-191660>

30.12.2020 Police in Bangalore intercepted a Tempo Traveler van in which traffickers were transporting **214 kg of marijuana**. Four people were arrested.

<https://www.timesnownews.com/bengaluru/article/major-drug-haul-in-bengaluru-214-kilograms-of-ganja-seized-ahead-of-new-years-celebrations-karnataka-marijuana/700998>

IRAN

09.01.2021 From 26 December 2020 to 8 January 2021, the Anti-Narcotics Police of Iran seized **36.486 tons of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including 242 kg of heroin, 33.040 tons of opium, 118 kg of methamphetamine, 369 kg of**

morphine, 2.515 tons of hashish, 202 kg of other narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances².

SPAIN

29.12.2020 Tax agency intercepted a boat in Atlantic Ocean waters north of the Canary Islands with about **15 tons of hashish**. Five crew members of a Belize-flagged tugboat, which left the Netherlands in November and may have made a previous shipment to Central Africa, were arrested. Among the detainees are three men of Moroccan origin and two Bangladeshi nationals. The operation, called Nautilus, was carried out with the assistance of analysts from the Maritime Intelligence Directorate of Customs Surveillance of the Directorate of Taxes in Galicia.

<https://www.hacienda.gob.es/Documentacion/Publico/GabineteMinistro/Notas%20Prensa/2020/AEAT/29-12-20%20NP%20AEAT%20Operaci%c3%b3n%20Gigante.pdf>

<https://www.lavozdegalicia.es/noticia/galicia/2020/12/29/aduanas-galicia-incauta-15000-kilos-hachis-remolcador-frente-marruecos/00031609255820670745135.htm>

08.01.2021 In joint actions the Civil Guard and National Police seized **827,000 ecstasy pills, 76 kg of amphetamine, 217 liters of liquid amphetamine, 39.5 kg of crystal methamphetamine, 2,000 doses of LSD, 310 kg of hashish, 89 kg of marijuana and 1.65 kg of pink cocaine**. The operation arrested 11 suspects, including a Dutch leader of an international criminal organization operating in Spain producing and distributing synthetic drugs. Eight suspects are in custody. The organization, which included members from the Netherlands, Spain, Romania, Colombia and Italy, operated out of Barcelona. Drugs were produced in Barcelona, Malaga and Ibiza, where drug laboratories were dismantled. Eleven people were charged with drug trafficking, participation in a criminal organization and illegal possession of weapons. In addition to drugs, two pistols, mortar ammunition and machetes were seized. In addition, Spanish authorities confiscated three boats, nine vehicles and €267,000 in cash. During a raid on a drug laboratory in Barcelona where amphetamines, methamphetamines and MDMA were being manufactured, a member of a criminal organization resisted armedly against tactical unit agents who raided it. The criminal organization supplied drugs to Andalusia, the Balearic Islands, Valencia and Catalonia, where it had distribution networks. <https://www.crimesite.nl/grootste-vangst-synthetische-drugs-ooit-in-spanje-nederlands-kopstuk-vast/>

Video: <https://twitter.com/policia/status/1347504352211120128>

ITALY

09.01.2021 Officers of the Financial Police, in cooperation with the Customs Directorate, found and seized 7 kg of cocaine in a container of exotic fruit at the port of Catania. Drug was in a temporary storage of fruit containers from Ecuador. Packages of cocaine were concealed in refrigeration system of the container. <https://www.lasiciliaweb.it/2021/01/09/catania-coca-al-posto-della-frutta-esotica/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2ZGjarbekmw>

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

THE NETHERLANDS

06.01.2021 Customs intercepted a shipment of **cocaine weighing 740 kg** during an inspection at the port of Rotterdam. The shipment was worth more than 55 million euros. Drugs were concealed in a container from Brazil with a cargo of soybeans. Investigation is being conducted by the HARC team in partnership with customs, FIOD, seaport police and the public prosecutor's office in Rotterdam. Seized cocaine was destroyed.

<https://www.om.nl/actueel/nieuws/2021/01/06/douane-onderschept-740-kilo-cocaine>

UAE

01.01.2021 Dubai Customs at the Port of Hamriya, during a drug interdiction operation, found and seized **30.15 kg of crystal methamphetamine and 46.16 kg of hashish** inside a container. The shipment is worth 47.5 million dirhams.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/world/dubai-customs-seyaj-intercepts-76-kg-of-me-1130411.html>

PAKISTAN

29.12.2020 Hassanabdala police foiled an attempt to smuggle **7.50 kg of heroin** worth Rs. 1 million from Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to Punjab and arrested two smugglers who are members of an interprovincial smuggling gang. Police intercepted a Honda car near the village of Halikdad and during a search found heroin concealed in parts of a vehicle. A case has been registered against the suspect under the Narcotics Act and investigation has been launched. <https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/police-foil-smuggling-bid-2-arrest-1127546.html>

PANAMA

04.01.2021 Units of the National Police Intelligence Directorate, National Police and the Colón and Guna Yala Drug Prosecutor's Offices seized about **1.5 tons of cocaine** in the port of Colón province. The shipment had a value of \$89.9 million. The container arrived from Guatemala and transited to Belgium via the port of Colon in Panama. Its final destination was Estonia. The case is under jurisdiction of the Colón and Guna Yala Drug Prosecutor's Office. <https://www.panamaamerica.com.pa/provincias/incautan-mas-1400-paquetes-cocaina-en-un-puerto-colon-1178968>

<https://twitter.com/MinSegPma/status/1346234870213836803>

06.01.2021 Narcotics Prosecutor's Office and National Police seized **488 kg of cocaine** at the port of Balboa, Ancona county. Drug was concealed inside a container arriving from Guatemala and bound for its final destination in Spain. <https://www.midiario.com/policiales/ya-van-dos-contenedores-cargados-de-droga-detectados-en-puertos-de-colon-y-balboa/>

<https://twitter.com/ProtegerServir/status/1346935103705001984>

USA

28.12.2020 Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Office of Field Operations (OFO) officers at the Juarez-Lincoln Bridge in Laredo, Texas, detained a 19-year-old U.S. citizen attempting to smuggle **58.44 kg of methamphetamine** into the United States from Mexico in a Kia Optima. The shipment is worth more than \$2.5 million. CBP officers seized drugs and vehicle. Case was referred to U.S. Homeland Security Investigations (ICE-HSI)

Special Agents for further investigation. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/laredo-cbp-officers-seize-over-25-million-hard-narcotics>

28.12.2020 The U.S. Department of Justice's Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) reports drug overdoses in Arizona related to a newly discovered fentanyl-like drug. The fentanyl analogue, known as **para-fluorofentanyl (pFF)**. The fentanyl analogue has a modified chemical structure and has effects similar to those of fentanyl. This analogue can be mixed with other illicit substances such as heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, and fentanyl. According to the DEA, clinical studies show that pFF can be much stronger than fentanyl. pFF is produced in clandestine laboratories run by Mexican drug trafficking organizations. In December 2020, Chief Medicolegal Death Investigator of the Maricopa County Office of the Medical Examiner reported eleven suspected overdose deaths that tested positive for pFF. <https://www.abc15.com/news/dea-warns-of-newly-encountered-fentanyl-like-drug-in-arizona>

28.12.2020 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at the port of entry in Highgate Springs, Vermont, seized **635 kg of marijuana**. Drugs were found while inspecting cargo inside a shipment of furniture arriving from Quebec, Canada. Marijuana is estimated to be worth 3 million dollars. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-vermont-seizes-over-1400-pounds-marijuana>

31.12.2020 A 44-year-old Houston woman was arrested by the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Office of Field Operations (OFO) at Hidalgo International Bridge, Texas, while attempting to smuggle **61.92 kg of methamphetamine and 3.52 kg of heroin** into the United States from Mexico in a Chevy Silverado pickup truck. Drugs were concealed in the vehicle's tires. Drugs were estimated to be worth 2.9 million dollars. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-field-operations-detects-nearly-3-million-hard-narcotics-seizes>

THAILAND

30.12.2020 During a police raid, Narcotics Bureau officers found and seized **500 kg of crystal methamphetamine and 1.2 million methamphetamine pills** in a house located in Khon Kaen province. Drugs were concealed in 154 telephone booths and were destined for southern provinces of Thailand. Six of the eleven people arrested in the six cases, with a total of **500 kg of crystal methamphetamine, 1.79 million methamphetamine pills, 1.5 kg of cocaine, 1 kg of ketamine and 200 ecstasy pills** seized. Suspects were members of a major drug smuggling gang. Two of the smugglers were killed in the operation. Four vehicles stolen in Malaysia were also recovered. <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2043471/500kg-crystal-meth-concealed-in-phone-booth-call-boxes>

TAIWAN

04.12.2020 A joint task force consisting of the Criminal Investigation Department, Kaohsiung City Maritime Affairs Field Office, and Kaohsiung City Customs Department found 22 bags with **ketamine** inside a container with bags of rock salt exported from Pakistan at Kaohsiung Port, with a total weight of **185 kg**. Recipients of the shipment were in a warehouse in the Renvu area, where investigators found about **1 ton of raw materials** for

drug production. Five people were arrested. The criminal group was preparing to import a shipment of drugs from Thailand. After forwarding this information to the Criminal Bureau office in Thailand on 15 December, Thai police seized **300 kg of ketamine and 228 kg of heroin** at a warehouse in Bangkok and at a residence located in Nonthaburi, awaiting shipment to Taiwan. Two people were arrested in Thailand.

<https://taiwanenglishnews.com/ketamine-smuggled-from-pakistan-in-rock-salt-shipment-leads-to-major-drug-supplier-bust/>

TURKEY

01.01.2021 Police teams, following a car stop in Baykan district, Siirt province, arrested two men who were transporting **21.2 kg of methamphetamine** mixed with liquid in the trunk. <https://www.middleeastmonitor.com/20210101-turkey-police-seize-meth-in-anti-drug-operation/>

UKRAINE

05.01.2021 SBU seized **1035 kg of heroin** in Lviv during a special operation. Drug was smuggled into Ukraine from Pakistan in December 2020 through the Yuzhny Sea Commercial Port in Odessa. Subsequently, the consignment of heroin under the guise of food products was transported to Western Ukraine for further delivery to European Union countries under the guise of diplomatic cargo. During searches in the warehouses in Lviv, where a shipment of heroin was stored, four Turkish citizens were detained. Seized consignment was valued at 2.3 billion hryvnias (approx. 81 million U.S. dollars). Pre-trial investigation into the case is underway.

https://www.gp.gov.ua/ua/news?_m=publications&_t=rec&id=286519

<https://ssu.gov.ua/novyny/sbu-blokuvala-kontrabandu-rekordnoi-partii-heroinu-do-krain-yevrosoiuzu-video>

Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TbVU3tHorHg&feature=emb_logo

SRI LANKA

31.12.2020 A fishing trawler used to transport narcotics was seized during a special Navy operation conducted in the offshore area near Dodanduwa. Four men between the ages of 22 and 29 were detained. **5.945 kg of crystal methamphetamine, 2.047 kg of heroin and cannabis** were seized. Suspects, drugs and fishing trawler were handed over to the Hikkaduwa Police Narcotics Bureau for further prosecution. <https://news.navy.lk/oparation-news/2021/01/01/202101011045/>