

*Unofficial translation*

## CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY

(based on mass media reports)

**18.01-24.01.2021**

**№ 3**

### CARICC MEMBER STATES

#### REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

**26.01.2021** An operation conducted by officers of the General Department of Drug Control of MVD and the Southern Regional Department resulted in the seizure of **6 kg 480 g of heroin and 105 g of methamphetamine**. A resident of Yardimli region who illegally possessed the narcotics and psychotropic substances in an apartment rented in Baku was detained. He acquired drugs from a citizen of Iran.

<https://media.az/society/1067808084/v-baku-izyali-bolee-shesti-kg-narkotikov-foto/>

**27.01.2021** Employees of GTK of Azerbaijan detained a citizen of Azerbaijan who arrived by air from Istanbul (Turkey) and attempted to smuggle **320.105 g of cocaine, 1542 pills of MDMA (methylenedioxymethamphetamine) and 87.106 g of MDMB-4en-PINACA** at Baku International Airport. Two other women, citizens of Azerbaijan, suspected of involvement in the crime, were identified. During a search of the house of one of the women they found and seized **8.512 g of methamphetamine, 502 pills of MDMA, 7.337 g of cocaine and 70 pills of pregabalin**. The women were prosecuted as suspects under relevant articles of the Criminal Code, and a preventive measure in the form of arrest was chosen against them. <https://www.salamnews.org/ru/news/read/410322>

#### REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

**18.01.2021** Employees of the Zhambyl region police department UPN detained a 44-year-old resident of Shu district. During a search in his house they found and seized **10.120 kg of marijuana, 210 g of hashish and 17.480 kg of cannabis seeds**. A pre-trial investigation was initiated. <https://24.kz/ru/news/incidents/item/449552-politsejskie-iz-yali-27-kg-narkotikov-u-zhitelya-zhambylskoj-oblasti>

**20.01.2021** Police officers of Kostanay region detained a resident of Nur-Sultan and seized more than **5 kg of hashish**. Hashish is worth 2.5 million tenge. Arrest was chosen in respect of the suspect. A pre-trial investigation is underway.

<https://24.kz/ru/news/social/item/450096-bolee-5-kg-narkotikov-iz-yali-u-zhitelya-stolitsy>

**23.01.2021** Employees of the Zhambyl region police department UPN detained a 57-year-old local resident in the village of Korday for selling drugs and seized **570 g of heroin** from his home. A pre-trial investigation has been initiated.

[https://www.kt.kz/rus/crime/v\\_zhambylskoj\\_oblasti\\_politsejskie\\_iz\\_yali\\_u\\_narkosbytchika\\_1377910700.html](https://www.kt.kz/rus/crime/v_zhambylskoj_oblasti_politsejskie_iz_yali_u_narkosbytchika_1377910700.html)

## KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

**20.01.2021 More than 1 ton of aqueous ammonia solution (concentration 20-21%)** was seized during a special operation conducted by GKNB officers in Osh. The precursor was transported in cargo compartment of a car in 42 boxes. Owner of the shipment was detained. Seized precursor is used in illicit manufacture of amphetamine, amphetamine-type stimulants and other psychotropic substances and is listed on limited international and national special control list. <https://www.for.kg/news-685731-ru.html>

## RUSSIAN FEDERATION

**19.01.2021** Employees of ONK UMVD of Russia in the Lenin district of Moscow region in a forest belt near the village of Kalinovka detained a 19-year-old resident of Chelyabinsk. During a personal search of the woman in her backpack they found and seized **400 g of mephedrone** and a shovel. The girl was packaging and distributing drugs via caches. A criminal case was initiated. The court chose a preventive measure against the suspect in the form of detention. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/22642260>

**19.01.2021** Employees of UNK UMVD of Russia in Smolensk region detained two 25-year-old residents of Moscow at the moment of laying drugs. During a personal search of the men they seized about **100 g of heroin** prepared for further sale through caches. A criminal case was initiated. A measure of detention was chosen in respect of the suspects. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/22642429>

**19.01.2021** While checking information received from GUNK MVD of Russia, officers of UVD of the city of Sochi together with UFSB of Russia for Krasnodar region dismantled a laboratory producing synthetic narcotic drug. Laboratory equipment, canisters with components for production of drug as well as approximately **690 g of mephedrone** were found and seized upon inspection of a dacha house. Laboratory for synthesis of mephedrone was organized by two 31-year-old residents of the Republic of Chuvashia, who rented the summer house in Sochi. A criminal case was launched against suspects and a preventive measure in the form of detention was chosen. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/22649161>

**20.01.2021** At a stationary checkpoint near the village of Zelenovka in Stavropol district of Samara region traffic police officers stopped and searched a car with a 27-year-old driver and a 26-year-old passenger, residents of St. Petersburg. Inside, on the back seat police found a backpack with **3.769 kg of mephedrone**. A criminal case was initiated. Men were detained and a preventive measure in the form of custody was chosen. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/22661636>

**22.01.2021** Employees of UNK MVD of the Republic of Udmurtia stopped illegal drug sales of a criminal group. Fourteen people aged between 19 and 35, residents of the Udmurt Republic, the Kirov, Nizhny Novgorod and Kaliningrad regions, were detained. Members of the criminal group were selling synthetic and plant-based drugs through a specially set up Internet store by equipping caches in forest belt on the territory of Udmurtia and neighboring regions. However, members of the criminal community - regional and interregional couriers - did not know each other personally, and communicated using measures of secrecy via the Internet. More than **700 g of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances** were seized. Four suspects are under house arrest, other

members of the criminal community are in custody. Investigation has established involvement of four members of the criminal community in legalization of money obtained by criminal means in the amount of more than 1 million rubles. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/22695241>

**26.01.2021** FSB of Russia stopped criminal actions of former head of a division of Moscow department of the Federal Service for Drug Control, who organized drug laboratories in Ivanovo region. Migrant labor was used in the laboratories. Drugs produced were transported by accomplices of organizer of drug production in a car with special signals and insignia of FSB. The detainee led the entire drug business and controlled financial flows. 15 more people were arrested besides organizer of the drug laboratory, including heads of the Moscow, Kabardino-Balkar, Vladimir and other regional cells of the OCG. A total of 14 out of 16 suspects involved in the case are in custody, two are under house arrest. More than **59 kg of drugs, more than 10 tons of drug preparation solution and reagents** were seized. In November 2020 police officers seized more than **1 ton of synthetic drugs** produced in Moscow, Moscow region and Ivanovo region. Illicit substances were sold to other regions of Russia. At that time, investigation stated that distribution was the work of an international criminal group, and drugs were synthesized by citizens of Ukraine. Finished product was transported and packaged by Moldovan and Russian citizens. <https://ria.ru/20210126/moskva-1594621758.html>

## OTHER COUNTRIES

### AFGHANISTAN

**26.01.2021** Employees of Center Narcotics Police in the period from 19 to 25 January 2021 conducted 84 operations resulting in the arrest of 103 people. They seized **1.9256 tons of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including 75.618 kg of heroin, 29.922 kg of hashish, 22.776 kg of methamphetamine, 17.582 kg of opium, 122 MDMA tablets, 1.766 tons of cannabis and 14.4 kg of precursors.** They confiscated currency in the amount of 550 US dollars, 27 cell phones, 15 vehicles and 2 weapons. One drug storage was dismantled<sup>1</sup>.

### BRAZIL

**18.01.2021** Federal Revenue Service (IRS) customs at the Port of Santos found and seized **853 kg of cocaine** in a container among a shipment of concentrated soy protein that was destined for the Port of Rotterdam, Netherlands. The cocaine shipment was handed over to the Federal Police (PF), who will continue their investigation. In 2020, the IRS seized more than 20.5 tons of cocaine in the port of Santos. In 2021 to date, there have been two seizures totaling 1523 kg of cocaine. In most cases, drug was found inside containers destined for Europe. According to customs, cocaine shipments were found in cargoes such as scrap, oil, lemons, flour, paper, meat products, sugar, coffee, equipment, guava and plant proteins. <https://g1.globo.com/sp/santos-regiao/porto-mar/noticia/2021/01/18/receita-federal-localiza-853-kg-de-cocaina-em-carga-de-proteina-de-soja-no-porto-de-santos-sp.ghtml>

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



**20.01.2021** Federal Revenue Service (IRS) customs seized **460 kg of cocaine** at the port of Santos on the coast of Sao Paulo, hidden inside a container in bean bags from Rio de Janeiro. Drug, which was destined for the port of Tangier-Med in Morocco, was discovered by customs officials during a routine inspection. Cocaine shipment was turned over to the Federal Police, who will continue their investigation based on information provided by tax authorities. <https://g1.globo.com/sp/santos-regiao/porto-mar/noticia/2021/01/20/receita-federal-localiza-460-kg-de-cocaina-escondidos-em-sacas-de-feijao-no-porto-de-santos-sp.ghtml>  
Video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ELzEE5PTzDQ&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ELzEE5PTzDQ&feature=emb_logo)

## UNITED KINGDOM

**22.01.2021** UK Border Force officers detected and seized **946 kg of cocaine** in a shipment of bananas at Southampton port. Drugs were in a shipping container on a commercial vessel bound for Antwerp, Belgium. It was estimated that the shipment was worth 76 million pounds sterling. Cocaine is believed to have been placed in the shipment in Colombia. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-hampshire-55767132>

## IRAN

**24.01.2021** Semnan province police officers in a joint operation with Kerman province police in the south of the country seized **536 kg of opium**.  
<https://www.farsnews.ir/en/news/13991105000271/Over-Half-A-Tn-f-Opim-Seized-in-Nrthern-Province>

## SPAIN

**19.01.2021** The Spanish National Police uncovered a large-scale international network specializing in smuggling drugs from Paraguay and Brazil. During investigation of the network, 12 people were arrested. **2065 kg of cocaine** found in a 40-ton charcoal shipment at the port of Algeciras in southern Spain were seized. In early 2020, police identified members of an organization based in the provinces of Mercia and Seville who, under the guise of a legitimate business of importing containers of charcoal from South America to the port of Barcelona, organized drug smuggling to Europe. However, due to storage and distribution problems with COVID-19, the group switched shipments to the port of Algeciras in April 2020. The network structure included two organized groups with key members in Brazil and Paraguay that coordinated cocaine shipments, while others in Seville set up businesses that imported charcoal, rice, molasses, and medical supplies. Money laundering was carried out through a man known to police in Valencia who used cryptocurrency in his laundering schemes. While investigating the case, agents searched 16 homes and businesses as well as nearly 200 containers shipped to Spain from Brazil and Paraguay. All 12 members of the criminal organization have been charged, six of whom are in custody and six have been released with conditions. Their names were not disclosed.

<https://edition.cnn.com/2021/01/19/europe/spain-cocaine-seizure-paraguay-scli-intl/index.html>  
<https://www.guardiacivil.es/es/prensa/noticias/7720.html>

**21.01.2021** The Civil Guard dismantled a criminal organization involved in smuggling hashish using recreational and semi-rigid speedboats for later distribution to other European countries during Operation Vinculada. Criminals used double bottoms in vehicles and boats to conceal and transport drugs. The operation was carried out in the provinces of Malaga, Cadiz, Almeria, Huelva, Seville, Ceuta and Melilla. 45 people from Spain and Morocco are

arrested on suspicion of committing crimes related to drug trafficking as part of a criminal organization, illegal possession of weapons and money laundering. During investigations in Melilla, Ceuta and Huelva, three cars with drugs were seized and the drivers were arrested. In addition, in Almeria, investigators seized a recreational boat in which a large consignment of hashish was concealed, resulting in the arrest of the entire crew. Police operations seized **1600 kg of hashish and 1 kg of cocaine**. The Civil Guard seized 5 high-speed boats, 4 recreational boats (2 of them with double bottoms), worth more than 1.3 million euros. Twelve searches were conducted in the provinces of Malaga and Cadiz, resulting in the seizure of 45000 euros in cash, 4200 liters of gasoline, 8 cars, 2 trucks, 3 semi-trailers, 3 jet skis and 2 firearms. During a search of an industrial building located at the Málaga range, where work was carried out to equip double bottoms in various parts of vehicles and boats, several people were arrested. Agents of the Málaga Civil Guard Command and OCON-SUR, supported by the Rapid Response Team (GAR), a helicopter unit (UHEL) and the Marine Service of the Civil Guard of Algeciras and Cadiz participated in the operation.

Video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NDq\\_OyKnwVI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NDq_OyKnwVI)

## COLOMBIA

**20.01.2021** Drug police officers in Bogotá, near El Dorado airport, intercepted a truck with a suspicious compartment in the structure when they inspected it. The compartment was a metal pallet used to load goods on airplanes, which concealed **159 kg of cocaine hydrochloride**. Drug was to be shipped on cargo flights through El Dorado International Airport to the Netherlands. Seized shipment is worth about 26 billion pesos (7.6 million USD). Driver of the truck was detained and turned over to the Attorney General's Office for criminal prosecution for the crime of drug trafficking, manufacturing or possession. <https://www.eltiempo.com/justicia/conflicto-y-narcotrafico/policia-incauta-159-kilos-de-cocaina-en-bogota-avaluada-en-7-6-millones-de-dolares-561590>

Video: <https://noticias.canal1.com.co/bogota/frustran-envio-cocaina-el-dorado-destino-europa/>

## COSTA RICA

**22.01.2021** Drug Control Police (PCD) officers from the Department of Public Safety found and seized **110 kg of cocaine** in a container of pineapple juice as legal cargo, on a ship en route to San Jose, Spain. The drug shipment was found behind the back of container. <https://laregion.cr/noticias-costa-rica/pcd-decomisa-cocaina-en-contenedor-con-jugo-de-pina/>  
<https://www.diarioextra.com/Noticia/detalle/439810/ocultan-droga-en-cargamento-de-jugo-de-pi-a>

## PANAMA

**24.01.2021** National Aviation Service agents during an anti-narcotics operation found and seized approximately **240 kg of cocaine** aboard a ship in an empty shipping container. The container came from Ecuador and was to be shipped to China. [https://www.tvn-2.com/nacionales/Decomisan-paquetes-contenedor-destino-China\\_0\\_5769922960.html](https://www.tvn-2.com/nacionales/Decomisan-paquetes-contenedor-destino-China_0_5769922960.html)

Video: <https://twitter.com/SENANPanama/status/1353343684868235267>

<https://twitter.com/MinSegPma/status/1353355103189819392>

## PUERTO RICO

**23.01.2021** U.S. Border Patrol agents, backed by the U.S. Coast Guard, intercepted a 21-foot "yola" type vessel near Villa Montana in Isabela, with **71 kg of cocaine** found on

board and seized. Two citizens of the Dominican Republic were arrested. Cocaine seized is valued at 1.9 million U.S. dollars. The Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) is investigating and prosecuting smugglers. A week earlier, Ramie County Border Patrol agents and local law enforcement seized **283.5 kg of cocaine** from vehicles near Aguadilla.

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/us-border-patrol-seizes-cocaine-worth-19-million-and-arrest-2-aliens>

## USA

**22.01.2021** Border Patrol (USBP) agents on Interstate 15 near Interstate 76, located in North County San Diego, California, arrested a woman who was transporting **5.72 kg of fentanyl and 5.53 kg of cocaine** in a Ford Escape. Drugs were found during an inspection of the vehicle inside the center console. Drugs are valued at 332500 dollars. The woman and drugs were turned over to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Vehicle was seized by U.S. Border Patrol. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/usbp-seizes-cocaine-fentanyl>

**22.01.2021** U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at the port of entry in Brownsville, Texas, foiled attempted drug smuggling in two separate operations:

1) **On 20 January**, a 21-year-old U.S. citizen was detained on Veterans International Bridge attempting to smuggle **5.94 kg of methamphetamine and 5.6 kg of heroin** in a Nissan Altima. Value of methamphetamine is 261.9 thousand dollars, heroin - 377.2 thousand dollars;

2) **On 21 January**, a 23-year-old U.S. citizen was detained at the Brownsville and Matamoros International Bridge attempting to smuggle **22.22 kg of cocaine** in a Dodge Journey. Cocaine is valued at 377.7 U.S. dollars. Drugs and vehicles were seized and both drivers were arrested and turned over to Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) special agents for further investigation. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/brownsville-cbp-officers-seize-976k-narcotics-two-seizures>

**23.01.2021** U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at the port of entry in Brownsville, Texas, stopped attempts to smuggle drugs, totaling 529,000 dollars, in three separate operations:

1) **On 22 January**, a 27-year-old Mexican national was apprehended at the Brownsville and Matamoros International Bridge attempting to smuggle **9.24 kg of cocaine** in a Chevrolet;

2) **On 22 January**, a 30-year-old Mexican national was detained at the Veterans International Bridge while attempting to smuggle **16.24 kg of cocaine** in a Ford;

3) **On 23 January**, a 43-year-old Mexican national was apprehended at the Brownsville and Matamoros International Bridge attempting to smuggle **3.7 kg of cocaine** in a Toyota. CBP officers seized drugs along with the vehicles, arrested drivers, and turned them over to Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) special agents for further investigation.

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/brownsville-cbp-officers-seize-529k-narcotics-three-seizures>

**23.01.2021** U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and Office of Field Operations (OFO) agents at Hidalgo International Bridge, Texas, arrested a 21-year-old U.S. citizen attempting to smuggle **51.66 kg of methamphetamine** from Mexico into the United

States in a pickup truck. Methamphetamine is valued at 2.278 million dollars. Drugs and vehicle were seized, the woman was arrested and turned over to Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) agents while they continue their investigation.

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-field-operations-hidalgo-international-bridge-arrests-woman-22>

**23.01.2021** U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), Office of Field Operations (OFO) officers at the port of entry in Laredo, Texas, stopped separate attempts to smuggle drugs, totaling 6.473 million dollars:

1) **On 19 January**, a truck driver was detained on the Columbia-Solidarity Bridge attempting to smuggle **48.08 kg of cocaine and 123.8 kg of methamphetamine** from Mexico into the United States in a tractor-trailer Freightliner;

2) **On 21 January**, a driver was detained at the World Trade Bridge site attempting to smuggle **3.2 kg of fentanyl** from Mexico into the United States in a truck. CBP officers seized drugs and two trailers. The cases were referred to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement-Homeland Security Investigations (ICE-HSI) special agents for further investigation.

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/laredo-cbp-officers-seize-hard-narcotics-worth-over-64-million>

**25.01.2021** Border Patrol agents in Sector El Centro, California, seized shipments of methamphetamine, fentanyl and heroin in two separate smuggling attempts:

1) agents at the Highway 86 checkpoint detained a female passenger while checking a van, a 20-year-old Mexican national, who was carrying **1.15 kg of fentanyl and 1.26 kg of heroin**. Drug packages were secured to the woman's body under her clothing. The female drug courier and drugs were turned over to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). The vehicle, driver and remaining passengers were not stopped;

2) agents at the Highway 86 checkpoint found a suitcase with **23.41 kg of methamphetamine** in the luggage compartment while inspecting a commercial passenger bus. Owner of the luggage has not been identified. Estimated value of the shipment is more than 116,000 dollars. Drugs were seized and turned over to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/border-patrol-seizes-methamphetamine-fentanyl-heroin-two-separate>

## TURKEY

**21.01.2021** Police at Istanbul International Airport seized **24.5 kg of cocaine** based on information about a large drug shipment being prepared from South America. Cocaine shipment was found in flower boxes arriving from Colombia.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/police-seize-245-kg-of-cocaine-at-istanbul-airport/2118248>

<https://www.gursesgazetesi.com/gundem/aturk-havalimaninda-gul-kolilerinden-24-kilo-kokain-cikti-h54937.html>

## UKRAINE

**21.01.2021** Employees of the Office for Combating Drug Crimes in Zaporizhzhia region of the Department for Combating Drug Crimes of the National Police (UBN DBN NPU) detained two female residents of Zaporizhzhia region aged 16 and 18 who were engaged in drug trafficking. They obtained drugs by mail, packed up and sent to customers in other regions

of Ukraine. Drug dealers used a telegram channel to distribute drugs. About **1 kg of alpha-PVP, cannabis and ecstasy pills were seized, with a total weight of more than 6 kg** as well as cell phones, packaging materials and electronic scales. Value of seized drugs is more than 7 million hryvnias. Criminal proceedings have been initiated.

<https://zp.npu.gov.ua/news/novini/u-dvox-meshkanok-zaporizkoji-oblasti-pravooxoronczi-viluchili-narkotikiv-ta-psixotropiv-na-ponad-sim-miljoniv-griven/?fbclid=IwAR2IRRYFrzJnTb0Ou1GquatWmxbhYrF6CFEhhCnKZ5Sq56Pthz-kCCXwk-g>

**22.01.2021** A multi-stage special operation by employees of the Directorate General for Combating Corruption and Organized Crime together with investigative department of the Security Service of Ukraine in the Lviv region stopped criminal actions of a branch of the so-called criminal group "Dvadtsyativski" («Двадцятивські»). Criminals set up a **methamphetamine** drug laboratory on the territory of Kryvyi Rih. To ensure continued operation of the laboratory, the group's leaders established a channel for smuggling the **precursor pseudoephedrine** from a neighboring country. In Ukraine criminals transported the precursor by hiding it in foodstuffs. Then part of manufactured methamphetamine was sold in Dnepropetrovsk, Lviv, Nikolayev, Kirovograd and other regions of Ukraine and smuggled abroad for further sale in the European market. The drug laboratory operated for at least a year and produced more than 10 kg of methamphetamine worth over 8 million hryvnias per month. As part of initiated criminal proceedings, SBU officers uncovered channels for smuggling of drugs and precursors through Ukraine and documented multiple cases of drug sales by the group members. During the final stage of the special operation in Dnipropetrovsk and Lviv regions, law enforcers conducted 20 searches at residences of active members of the group as well as at places of drug production and storage. They seized about **3 kg of methamphetamine and 4.4 kg of pseudoephedrine**. Also there were found two firearms, laboratory equipment and accessories for manufacture of methamphetamine, cash of more than 200 thousand hryvnia and more than 9 thousand dollars, two devices for covert information gathering, black accounting, cell phones, bank cards, packages with drugs in bulk and other evidence of criminal actions. Four have now been reported about suspicion of selling drugs and precursors. OCG leaders were detained.

<https://ssu.gov.ua/novyny/na-dnipropetrovshchyni-sbu-prypnyla-diialnist-potuzhnoho-narkouhropovannia-video?fbclid=IwAR2umdUye3y-UM9ltGmzaO0yQmiPNIU2of-07O3cGpJVOhy3ArnnMjuD-wI>

## ECUADOR

**18.01.2021** Personnel of the National Ports and Airports Investigation Unit (UNIPA), in coordination with the National Canine Unit (UNAC) and the Special Anti-Narcotics Mobile Team (GEMA), carried out operations at the port terminal in Guayaquil to inspect export cargo prior to shipment. The operation resulted in the discovery and seizure of two shipments of **cocaine, 176.850 kg and 221.112 kg**, which were destined for Guatemala and China. Cocaine amounted to **397.962 kg**. <https://www.policia.gob.ec/en-guayaquil-operativos-policiales-permitieron-incautar-397-9-kilos-de-cocaina-con-destino-a-guatemala-y-china/>