

Unofficial translation

CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY

(based on mass media reports)

25.01-31.01.2021

№ 4

CARICC MEMBER STATES

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

25.01.2021 At the Astara customs post of the Southern Territorial General Directorate of Customs customs officers carried out an inspection of a Renault truck. During the inspection it was found that there were 10 packages with **21.280 kg of opium** hidden inside two batteries, located at the rear of the vehicle. <https://customs.gov.az/az/faydali/xeberler/4475/>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=vywD0ISWY50&feature=emb_logo

28.01.2021 Operation conducted by officers of the Western Regional Department of GUBN MVD of the Republic of Azerbaijan resulted in the detention of a man in the territory of Samukh district, with over **9.2 kg of marijuana** seized from him. In addition, police officers of Sabirabad district during a search in the house of a resident of Galagain village found and seized **3.175 kg of marijuana**. <https://www.salamnews.org/ru/news/read/410499>

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

25.01.2021 GKNB officers in Osh detained two Kyrgyz citizens involved in an international drug distribution channel. Members of the group had established transportation of illegal substances to countries of Central Asia. During a search of a car, about **100 g of hashish** were found under the front passenger seat. A search of the house of one of the detainees also revealed and seized over **500 g of hashish**.
https://24.kg/obschestvo/181095_voshskoy_oblasti_presechen_mejdunarodnyiy_narkokanal/

25.01.2021 As a result of a special operation in Osh, the SBNON of MVD of the Kyrgyz Republic officers detained a man suspected of illegal drug sales and found and seized **3.090 kg of heroin** from him. During a search of his place of residence **950 g of hashish** were also found and confiscated. The man was detained and taken into custody. At present, measures to identify other persons involved in the crime are underway.
<https://knews.kg/2021/02/05/v-oshe-zaderzhali-narkotorgovtsa-s-bolee-3-kg-geroina/>

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

25.01.2021 Officers of UNK UMVD of Russia for the Amur region stopped operation of a drug laboratory equipped in an apartment located in Blagoveshchensk. A 21-year-old local resident was caught red-handed while producing a new batch of synthetic drugs. Seizures included **70 g of mephedrone, chemicals and precursors** as well as laboratory equipment (scales, vacuum pump, ventilator, thermometer, tripod, flasks, medical syringes). A criminal case was initiated on this fact. A measure in the form of detention was chosen in respect of the man. Seized drugs were meant for further contactless sale using the Internet in the Amur region. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/22737500>

25.01.2021 Officers of ONK MU MVD of Russia "Mytishchinskoye" of GU MVD of Russia in Moscow region stopped a car driven by a 27-year-old native of a neighboring country suspected of selling drugs. During a search of the car under the driver's seat was found and seized a roll of about **1.5 kg of heroin**. A criminal case was initiated against the detainee. The court selected a preventive measure for the suspect in the form of detention.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/22730995>

27.01.2021 Officers of UNK GU MVD of Russia in the Kemerovo region caught red-handed two suspects in illegal manufacture and sale of drugs. The drug laboratory was located in a heated tent set up in the woods near the village of Novy Gorodok. Canisters with **reagents and precursors**, equipment, a generator, gas masks, gloves and other items used in manufacture of mephedrone were seized. In addition, a cache of **8 kg of mephedrone** was found in the woods. Organizer of the production was a 24-year-old local resident. He attracted his acquaintance to participate in illicit business. Accomplices were packing drug in a specially rented room of dormitory. A criminal case was initiated. Suspects are in custody.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/22773613>

27.01.2021 Officers of ONK OMVD of Russia in Severodvinsk, Arkhangelsk region, stopped criminal actions of four members of an organized group, who had organized a store in the shadow segment of the Internet, through which they sold illicit substances. The criminals purchased a wholesale shipment of synthetic drugs with a total weight exceeding 1 kg in another region and brought to the Arkhangelsk region, packed up and sold in caches. More than **0.5 kg of drugs of plant and synthetic origin** prepared for sale were seized. The online store was blocked. A criminal case was initiated on this fact. A preventive measure in the form of detention was chosen in respect of the suspects. Investigation is underway.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/22784004>

28.01.2021 GSU GU MVD of Russia in Volgograd region completed investigation of a criminal case against 9 members of a criminal association for illegal sale of drugs. Suspects aged 30 to 55 residing in Volgograd, Lipetsk, Astrakhan, Vladimir and Moscow regions united into a criminal community and in 2018-2019 carried out sale of drugs in the territory of Moscow, Vladimir, Kursk, Chelyabinsk, Voronezh, Volgograd, Orenburg, Astrakhan regions and the Republic of Tatarstan. Having set up a laboratory in a village in the Vladimir region, two members of the criminal network manufactured synthetic drugs, four worked as couriers, and the others were engaged in storage, packaging in small shipments as well as contactless sale of drugs to wholesale buyers and drug addicts through the Internet. They seized **5.3 kg of mephedrone, 9.7 kg of N-methylephedrone and 1 kg of amphetamine**. At present, the criminal case against 7 members of the criminal community has been sent to court; criminal case against the remaining two members of the criminal community has been sent to court at the end of 2020.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/22792682>

28.01.2021 Officers of UMVD of Russia for the urban district of Krasnogorsk, Moscow region, detained a 27-year-old native of a neighboring republic in a forest belt. More than **1 kg of mephedrone** was found and seized from the suspect during a personal search. A criminal case was initiated against the suspect. The court chose a measure against the detainee in the form of detention. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/22795552>

28.01.2021 Officers of UNK GU MVD of Russia in Novosibirsk region shut down a channel of sale of pregabalin in different regions of Russia through a large online store. The criminal group consisted of three residents of the Novosibirsk region aged 24-25 who ensured operation of a large inter-regional warehouse of potent substances, purchase via the Internet, transportation and shipment of potent substances to other regions of Russia. Accomplices used a system of electronic payments in cryptocurrency. After receiving remittances from clients, they cashed out by converting it. In September 2020, police officers in Novosibirsk region detained members of the criminal group. A total of **81 kg of pregabalin** were seized. Cost of the seized shipment is more than 60 million rubles. Criminal cases were initiated against the group members. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/22793360>

29.01.2021 Officers of the 2nd regiment of traffic police (southern) of GIBDD GU MVD of Russia in the Moscow region at a stationary post on 124 km road M-5 "Ural" stopped a car driven by a 36-year-old native of a republic of Central Asia, who was carrying about **1 kg of hashish** in the trunk. A criminal case was initiated on this fact. A preventive measure in the form of detention was chosen for the suspect. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/22809669>

OTHER COUNTRIES

AFGHANISTAN

01.02.2021 From 26 January to 1 February 2021 officers of Counter Narcotics Police conducted 77 operations and detained 87 people. They seized **6.544 tons of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including 86.909 kg of heroin, 872.885 kg of hashish, 91.9 kg of methamphetamine, 232.313 kg of opium, 5447 MDMA tablets, 5.375 tons of precursors.** They confiscated currency in the amount of 14213 US dollars, 22 cell phones, 12 vehicles, 8 weapons. One drug storage facility was dismantled¹.

UNITED KINGDOM

17.01.2021 A large operation involving the National Crime Agency (NCA) resulted in the seizure of **4.224 tons of cocaine** destined for Europe. Working with European partners in a 2020 investigation, NCA identified a Venezuelan fishing vessel carrying drugs. A French naval vessel operating from Martinique intercepted the boat in international waters east of Barbados. The boat and eight crew members on board were detained and turned over to administrative and judicial authorities. NCA International Network officers shared intelligence and coordinated deployment of security and military forces, working closely with international partners through the Maritime Analysis and Operations Center (MAOC-N) in Lisbon. <https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/4-2-tonnes-of-europe-bound-cocaine-seized-in-joint-operation-involving-the-nca>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6eryGwxwa6s&feature=emb_logo
<https://www.today24.news/en/2021/01/record-seizure-of-4-2-tonnes-of-cocaine-off-barbados.html>
<https://ultimasnoticias.com.ve/noticias/sucesos/incautaron-mas-de-4-kg-de-cocaina-en-embarcacion-venezolana/>

28.01.2021 Detectives from the Royal Gibraltar Police Crime and Protective Services Division, led by the RGP Drug Squad, in a joint operation with RGP and HM Custom's Marine

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

Units, inspected a ship in Gibraltar's West Anchorage with a team of divers and found a rectangular metal object attached to its hull below the waterline. Inside the item were packages of **cocaine** weighing about **25 kg**. Drug value is estimated at up to 2 million pounds sterling. <http://www.police.gi/news/15-2m-cocaine-shipment-intercepted-in-gibraltar-425>
<https://www.chronicle.gi/police-and-customs-seize-cocaine-worth-2m-from-hull-of-cargo-ship/>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZN1i_KHlqo&feature=emb_logo

GAMBIA

27.01.2021 In a 7 January 2021 seizure case involving **2.9 tons of cocaine**² at the port of Banjul by officers of the Gambia Drug Law Enforcement Agency (DELTA), drugs were found to have arrived in four containers with a shipment of technical salt from Ecuador. Three containers were transported by the shipping company Maersk Line. Cargo passed through a port in Spain before arriving at the port of Banjul on 1 January 2021. Boston-based trader Maersk Line Vessel handled the delivery to Banjul. Another container of cocaine was moved by the MSC Anishar, which unloaded in the port of Antwerp, Belgium, and then proceeded to Las Palmas, Spain. The fourth container arrived in the port of Banjul on 27 December 2020. All four containers were shipped from Ecuador by Ecuador SA and handed over to Bollore Transport and logistics. The consignment on the bill of lading was given to the consignee, Circuit Long Trading limited, a company affiliated with a 44-year-old Gambian, Sheriff Njie. The containers were owned by a man named Banta Keita. The company listed on the bags allegedly containing industrial salt is registered as ECUABARISTA, a limited liability company in Ecuador. ECUABARISTA is a coffee and tea producer. The company has only two employees. Banta Keita has three passports - French, Gambian and Malian. The Malian passport is issued in the name of Lasana Kante. French police also suspect Banta of drug trafficking. <https://www.freedomnewspaper.com/2021/01/27/new-information-emerges-on-banta-keitas-three-tons-cocaine-case/>

IRAN

25.01.2021 Hormozgan police seized **1.169 tons of opium, 4.120 kg of heroin, 503 g of hashish and 4.58 kg of other drugs** during operations in Bender Abbas, Minab and Hajiabad cities. 11 cars with drugs were seized, 21 smugglers were detained. <https://en.mehrnews.com/news/168987/Over-1-ton-of-narcotics-busted-in-Iran-s-Hormozgan>

YEMEN

25.01.2021 Police in two operations in the capital Sanaa seized **200 kg of hashish** imported from Marib province. <http://en.yagency.net/207051/>

CHINA

25.01.2021 Customs at Hong Kong International Airport seized about **1.4 kg of heroin** worth about 1.7 million dollars. <https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202101/29/P2021012900787.htm>

² Addition to previously posted information. See CARICC weekly summary № 1 for 2021

NIGERIA

27.01.2021 National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) at the Murtala Mohammed Ikeja International Airport in Lagos has detained a 33-year-old female passenger, who arrived in Nigeria on a flight from Sao Paulo, Brazil, via Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, attempting to smuggle **26.850 kg of cocaine** in her luggage. Cocaine was found inside 16 blankets contained in two travel bags. In addition, on 25 January 2021, at the same airport, NDLEA officers intercepted luggage arriving in Nigeria from São Paulo, Brazil, that held **8.4 kg of cocaine**. The passenger who was supposed to receive the bag was arrested.

<https://www.thisdaylive.com/index.php/2021/01/31/ndlea-seizes-cocaine-heroin-worth-n30bn-at-lagos-airport-in-one-week/>

OMAN

30.01.2021 The guided-missile cruiser USS Philippine Sea on mission in the waters of the Middle East as part of Combined Task Force 150 intercepted a ship carrying **275 kg of heroin** in the Gulf of Oman. <https://www.thechronicleherald.ca/news/local/canadian-sailor-at-the-helm-of-massive-heroin-bust-548082/>

PAKISTAN

26.01.2021 Pakistan's Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) seized **1063 kg of opium, 715 kg of morphine, 58.022 kg of heroin, 200.1 kg of hashish, 1.4 kg of crystal methamphetamine and 120 liters of acetic anhydride** in 14 counternarcotics operations across the country. Eight people were arrested and five vehicles were confiscated. Seized narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors are valued at 757.78 million U.S. dollars. <https://pakobserver.net/anf-seized-2037kg-drugs-worth-rs757m-arrest-eight/>

28.01.2021 Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) stopped a vehicle on the Sahyanwala Expressway and during a search of the vehicle found a contraband shipment of drugs - **9 kg of heroin and 42 kg of hashish** - in hidden compartments. Two drug suppliers, residents of Rawalpindi and Nankana, were arrested. The case is under investigation.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/two-drug-pushers-nabbed-contraband-seized-1153936.html>

PANAMA

25.01.2021 Units of the National Police Intelligence Directorate, in cooperation with the Ministry of State and the Customs Directorate, intercepted a container with **596 kg of cocaine** in crates of bananas at a Pacific port in Panama. The container came from Ecuador and transited through Panama to Croatia.

<https://www.telemetro.com/nacionales/2021/01/25/panama-contabiliza-nuevos-casos-covid-19/3678994.html>
<https://twitter.com/MinSegPma/status/1353863947590504449>

29.01.2021 National Police Intelligence Directorate, in conjunction with the Ministry of State and the National Customs Directorate, discovered and seized approximately **325 kg of cocaine** inside a container that had arrived from South America at a Pacific port in Panama. Drug was destined for Guatemala.

<https://www.telemetro.com/nacionales/2021/01/29/decomisan-325-paquetes-presunta-droga/3692741.html>
<https://twitter.com/ProtegerServir/status/1355244716707762177>

<https://twitter.com/MinSegPma/status/1355248612649873409>

SAUDI ARABIA

04.02.2021 Saudi Customs seize more than **14.4 million Captagon tablets** at King Abdul Aziz port in Dammam. Captagon pills were discovered during X-ray scans conducted as part of customs procedures inside wooden panels. In addition, Saudi Arabian customs prevented a series of drug smuggling attempts throughout the kingdom. Arrested 121 people in connection with attempts to smuggle drugs and psychotropic substances across the country's land and sea borders. Operations seized **488 kg of hashish and 34.5 tons of khat** in Jazan, **184 kg of khat** in Asir, **293 kg of hashish** in Najran and **971.6 thousand tablets of captagon** in Jouf. <https://www.arabnews.com/node/1800601/saudi-arabia>

SINGAPORE

29.01.2021 Officers of the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) arrested two suspects in drug trafficking offenses in an operation. They seized **3.055 kg of heroin, 58 g of crystal methamphetamine and ecstasy**. CNB officers also seized 1650 Singapore dollars in cash and 100 nitrazepam pills. Seized drugs were worth more than 220000 Singapore dollars. Two Singaporeans aged 35 and 60 were arrested. Investigations into the suspects are underway. <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/cnb-2-arrested-drugs-3kg-heroin-ice-ecstasy-seized-14068814>

USA

27.01.2021 Border patrol agents in El Centro, California, stopped two attempts to smuggle drugs:

1) a 28-year-old U.S. citizen was detained at a checkpoint on Highway 111 attempting to smuggle **2.39 kg of fentanyl** in a Chrysler PT Cruiser. Drug was found by agents during inspection in an oil pan. The driver was arrested. Seized shipment was valued at 59750 dollars. The driver, vehicle and drugs were turned over to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration;

2) A 36-year-old U.S. citizen was detained at a checkpoint on Highway 86 attempting to smuggle **1.12 kg of methamphetamine** in a Kia Rio. Methamphetamine was in a woman's purse behind the driver's seat. A Derringer 38 pistol was also found in the front seat passenger's backpack. Estimated value of methamphetamine is 5602 dollars. The driver and passenger have been turned over to relevant authorities for further investigation.

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/agents-stop-two-drug-smuggling-attempts-separate-checkpoints-0>

28.01.2021 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at the Brownsville and Matamoros International Bridge, Texas, detained a 27-year-old U.S. citizen from Brownsville attempting to smuggle **12.41 kg of cocaine** in a Dodge. Seized drugs are valued at over 211000 dollars. CBP officers seized drugs along with the vehicle, arrested the driver, and turned her over to Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) special agents for further investigation. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/brownsville-cbp-officers-seize-211k-worth-cocaine-brownsville-and>



TURKEY

29.01.2021 An operation conducted by teams from the Istanbul Customs Directorate, Smuggling and Intelligence Directorate of the Ministry of Commerce at Istanbul's Ambarli Port found and seized **88 kg of cocaine** in two containers. The containers arrived from South America with a load of bananas. In the first case, packages with **60 kg of cocaine** were found in a secret compartment behind the inner wall of the container. In the second container, **28.7 kg of cocaine** was found concealed in two separate compartments of the cooling system. The facts are still under investigation by the Prosecutor General's Office of Büyükçekmece. <https://www.ticaret.gov.tr/haberler/gumruk-muhafaza-ekiplerince-ambarli-limaninda-iki-konteynere-gizlenmis-88-kilogr>

<https://www.denizbulten.com/haber-gemide-88-kilogram-kokain-bulundu-33471.html>

<https://www.sicakhavadis.com/genel/ambarli-limaninda-88-kilogram-kokain-ele-gecirildi-h122522.html>

<https://www.ankaramasasi.com/haber/551966/muz-yuklu-konteynerlere-gizlenmis-88-kilogram-kokain-ele-gecirildi>

<https://pusuhaber.net/ambarli-limaninda-uyusturucu-operasyonu/>

Video: <https://beyazgazete.com/video/webtv/guncel-1/ambarli-limaninda-uyusturucu-operasyonu-88-kilogram-kokain-ele-gecirilen-operasyon-ani-kamerada-908138.html>