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**NEWS BULLETIN ON PAST EVENTS
IN THE COUNTER-NARCOTICS SPHERE**
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**NUR-SULTAN RESIDENT WAS OFFERED A JOB AS A DRUG MULE ON
SOCIAL MEDIA.**

A resident of Nur-Sultan was offered a job as a drug courier on a social network. The woman was outraged by the offer, and she filed a complaint with one of the Instagram accounts. Head of division of the Anti-Drug Crime Department of the Nur-Sultan City Police Department, Lieutenant Colonel Sergey Ilyinykh, told BNews.kz about the dangers of such actions and who sends messages of this sort.

The woman claims she was offered an opportunity to sell drugs in plain text.

"They explained that the work is contactless (no one needs to meet other people). Delivery of aroma-mixes and smoking mixtures (speed, salt, spice, crystal, etc.). Make a cache, leave a parcel, notify where to pick it up. You take away and deliver it to customers by the same method. It's terrible, they introduce young people to drugs. What is going on? I don't know how to fight it. But they've already become completely bankrupt, they're doing it all in the open. They are employing "dealers". By the way, as a lawyer with education, I know that for illegal production, processing, purchase, storage, transportation for the purpose of sale, transfer of drugs, there is a threat of 5 to 15 years in prison under Article 297 of the Criminal Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan," the post says.

It is worth mentioning that, according to data of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 89 new types of synthetic drugs have been included in the corresponding consolidated table since July 5, 2019. As a result, it is now possible to bring all those responsible to justice for distribution of these drugs in Kazakhstan.

According to Sergei Ilyinykh, the above-mentioned drug criminals have been engaged in such a business since 2013-2014.

"They were slowly gaining momentum because it was a new kind of drugs that entered the black market, and they were not under our jurisdiction. That is, there was no consolidated table, and we were powerless. And they slowly gained ground by 2019. These drugs are replacing traditional drugs: heroin, hashish, marijuana. And all young people are addicted to synthetic drugs. It is twice as scary as heroin. One is instantly addicted to drugs after secondary use," added the head of division.

He pointed out that the so-called businessmen are situated outside Kazakhstan, constantly changing their contacts. Communication with potential employees and clients

usually takes place through popular messengers.

"They're recruiting a group of people who are busy laying down drugs. That is, I sign a so-called contract with them, I drop them a certain amount of money, say, about 25 thousand tenge, my passport data. They have an order where a stash should be located, it's a so-called grenade. There are about 10 doses in the "grenade". I put them around the city, drop screenshots to my master. And for each stash I get money. He, in turn, sends screenshots to another messenger, where they are already directly sold to consumers. He is given money for drugs, he then send them information about where the drugs are. A drug user goes there and takes away the pre-packaged drugs. It's a whole network, hidden, veiled," said Sergei Ilyinykh.

The network, he says, has been in operation for a long time. Today, police are working to dismantle such channels.

"Many complain that Odnoklassniki offers such a job with a high paycheck. They don't use it themselves, but it's a sale, it's already under criminal responsibility. Since introduction of changes in legislation, we have prosecuted seven people for advertising websites that do more than stashing. There are people who work as graphic artists who distribute advertisements where one can find information on drugs. There is also such a network. That is, you do not take drugs, you take a simple marker, or a can of paint, stencil and go, write on walls. We have already brought seven of such people to justice," said Lieutenant Colonel of Police.

He said that the resident of Nur-Sultan, who was offered a similar income, is not the only potential "employee". The problem is not regional, but a republican one.

"This information isn't just about Nur-Sultan, it's all over Kazakhstan. How do we react? We send all the information on such websites to the Ministry of Internal Affairs Counter Narcotics Department. The Interior Ministry sends information to the Ministry of Information and Communications to block such websites," commented the head of division.

Police are now trying to make it clear to the public that any drug-related crime is a serious and criminal offence.

"It's a criminal act, people should understand that it's not unpunished. They are used to it, they have their own marketers there who name drugs. They have invented the name "Legalka" (rus.- legal), they attract people saying that it is a legal kind of drugs, that it is not in the consolidated table, that police are inactive. They say that if one is caught with drugs, you will get nothing for it. (...) Any drug crime is a particularly serious crime, like murder. People do not know about it. If the public will help us to identify such stashers, graphists, we will tie their hands," Ilyinykh concluded.

https://bnews.kz/news/zhitelnitse_nur-sultana_v_sotssetyakh_predlozhili_porobotat_narkokurerom/

OTHER COUNTRIES

SINGAPORE



SOLUTIONS TO THE GROWING SYNTHETIC DRUG TRADE ARE ADVANCED AT SINGAPORE REGIONAL MEETING

Singapore, 27 August 2019 - Following recent reports of the explosive growth of synthetic drug production and trafficking in East and Southeast Asia, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Synthetics Monitoring: Analyses, Reporting and Trends (SMART) Programme and the Central Narcotics Bureau of Singapore convened a meeting of criminal intelligence analysts, forensic specialists and customs officials from ASEAN member states, Australia, Canada, China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the United States and the World Customs Organization's Regional Intelligence Liaison Office Asia Pacific, to discuss latest developments and strategies.

Synthetic drugs have rapidly become the most profitable illicit business in the region as organized crime groups have innovated their business model and engineered an expansion of the methamphetamine market, which is now valued at up to USD\$ 61.4 billion annually according to the recent UNODC report Transnational Organized Crime in Southeast Asia: Evolution, Growth and Impact. At the same time, the growing diversity of synthetic drugs, including ketamine and synthetic opioids found across East and Southeast Asia are concerning for public security and health authorities. Countries are increasingly voicing concerns that the diversity of synthetic drugs emerging in the region is making it difficult for law enforcement and public health officials to implement effective responses.

"The many governments and experts here appreciate that the scale of synthetic drug production and trafficking in East and Southeast Asia, and the variety of substances entering the market, is something never seen before", said Martin Raithelhuber, SMART Programme Manager. "We see a consensus emerging that this is now a top policy priority for the region, and we have momentum to discuss and develop workable solutions."

"While the use of new psychoactive substances hasn't reached the levels of methamphetamine, there are an increasing number available in the illicit drug market of this region, and they often mimic other drugs and users may not know what they are taking," said Mufi Djusnir, Head of Indonesia's Narcotics Laboratory Intelligence Centre. "Whether it is methamphetamine or other synthetic drugs, precursor chemicals are needed by traffickers, and they don't have any problem sourcing them. Addressing diversion from chemical and pharmaceutical industries, is a top priority and we are glad the UNODC regional precursor programme agreed last year is moving forward."

Regional and international experts at the meeting echoed the view that reducing the supply of precursor chemicals required to manufacture synthetic drugs would be one of the most effective measures to address synthetic drug challenges in the region. "Growing synthetic drug production would not be possible without a matching surge in precursor chemical trafficking," emphasized Inshik Sim, SMART Regional Analyst. "The fact is that governments continue to report very few seizures of precursor chemicals, and we know that reducing their availability will undermine illicit production and the business model of producers. We have the right group here to discuss the situation and share the latest

information and experiences, as well as plans to address the problem."

Several countries have raised concerns about detection and forensic capacities which limit their ability to identify and seize new synthetic drugs and precursor chemicals. "The situation faced by frontline and border officers is quite complex, and they often do not have the understanding, training or equipment to know what the substances are or if they are dangerous," remarked Zaw Lin Oo, Head of Project Management Department, the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) of the Myanmar Police Force (MPF). "This meeting is important not only so we can share information and intelligence, but so we can express our concerns, understand the situation, and consider solutions."

Delegates agreed to address precursor chemical and pharmaceutical diversion in a coordinated way moving forward, and that UNODC's regional precursor and SMART programmes would be central to these efforts. A timeline for a coming regional analysis of synthetic drugs and a law enforcement task force were also announced.

<http://www.unodc.org/unodc/ru/frontpage/2019/August/solutions-to-the-growing-synthetic-drug-trade-are-advanced-at-singapore-regional-meeting.html>

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