

*Unofficial translation*

**NEWS BULLETIN ON PAST EVENTS  
 IN COUNTER-NARCOTICS**  
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**CARICC MEMBER STATES**

**REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN**



**DRUG DEALERS IN KAZAKHSTAN USE RUSSIAN PHONE NUMBERS – MIA**

NUR-SULTAN, November 1 - Sputnik. Drug dealers go online and use numbers of Russian mobile operators. This was announced by Mr. Tlegen Matkenov, head of department to combat drug-related crime of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kazakhstan.

"Requests have been sent to the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs for 230 Russian cellular phone numbers used in Kazakhstan to distribute drugs," Matkenov said.

Law enforcers and the Ministry of Finance in Kazakhstan jointly inspect 1400 subscribers of electronic payment systems.

We have detected 32 chat rooms in the Telegram messenger with a client base for 10 thousand people. Operational work is being carried out in respect of administrators. Five websites through which synthetic drugs were distributed were hacked. As a result, they have completely lost functionality and customer database", - said the speaker.

To date, 262 criminal offences related to trafficking in synthetic substances - 72 crimes - have been identified. 85 citizens of Kazakhstan were detained, about 9 kilograms of such substances were seized. It is about 25 thousand single doses, which cost more than 80 million tenge.

"The following legislative initiatives have been developed as part of the Head of State's directive: part three of Article 297 (Drug Trafficking) and part two of Article 299 (Incitement to use drugs) of the Criminal Code should be supplemented with a qualifying feature: "through electronic information resources". They will be criminalized by imprisonment for up to 15 and 8 years, respectively," said Matkenov.

Amendments have been made to the draft law "On amendments and completions to some legislative acts on improvement of criminal and criminal procedural legislation", which has been introduced to the Majilis.

According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, 1878 drug-related crimes, 1118 facts of sale and 323 facts of storing drugs on a large scale were revealed during the first 10 months of this year.



"Five organized criminal groups have been dismantled. Five leaders and 32 members are being held criminally liable," said the head of the department for combating drug-related crime.

A total of 19.4 tons of drugs were seized, including 19 kg of heroin, 370 kg of hashish and 9 kg of synthetic drugs.

Global trend in the world drug situation is substitution of cannabis and heroin with synthetic drugs.

"With regard to modern methods of drug distribution, sellers use full potential of Internet technologies. These are websites and electronic social networks, as well as electronic payment systems. Since the beginning of the year, the Interior Ministry has identified and blocked about 5,000 websites. With participation of the public and NGOs, 1,200 graffiti drawings containing links to resources that sell drugs have been removed," Matkenov said.

According to the Interior Ministry, drug situation in the country is significantly affected by cannabis raw material base in the Shu Valley and crops in Kyzylorda region.

To prevent its spread, a large-scale operation "Көкнәр" is carried out annually during growing season from 1 June to 31 October. During the period of the operation, 898 drug-related crimes, 411 cases of sale and 156 cases of storing drugs on a large scale were detected. More than 17.5 tons of drugs of various origins were seized.

<https://ru.sputniknews.kz/society/20191101/11918403/narkotiki-borba-kazakhstan-rossiyskie-telefonnye-nomera.html>



## **IMPLEMENTATION OF ONGOING UNODC PROJECTS IN KAZAKHSTAN DISCUSSED AT MFA**

Mukhtar Tileuberdi, Minister of Foreign Affairs, met with Ashita Mittal, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Representative for Central Asia.

The parties discussed implementation of ongoing UNODC projects in Kazakhstan, as well as prospects of further enhancing cooperation and agreed to launch new joint projects in counter-terrorism and crime prevention. They also touched upon functioning of the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for Combating Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors (CARICC) in Almaty.

On October 30, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held a roundtable discussion on "Prospects for development of criminal policy to counter extremism and terrorism in the Republic of Kazakhstan. During the event, an analytical review of implementation of 19 UN counter-terrorism conventions in Kazakhstan was provided and results of research on analysis of extremist and terrorist crimes in Kazakhstan were presented.

In addition, during the visit of A. Mittal to the Republic of Kazakhstan, meetings of the UNODC delegation with representatives of state authorities on strengthening the criminal justice system in Kazakhstan are planned, as well as visits to penitentiary institutions in Karaganda region from 31 October to 1 November 2019.

<https://24.kz/ru/news/policy/item/351430-realizatsiyu-tekushchikh-proektov-unp-oon-v-kazakhstane-obsudili-v-mid-rk>