

NEWSLETTER ABOUT PAST EVENTS IN THE ANTI-DRUG SPHERE

(on mass media)

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In the period from November 7 to November 13, 2022, based on information from the media in the space of the CARICC member states and other countries of the world, 5 events in the anti-drug sphere were covered (*Kazakhstan - 1, Kyrgyzstan - 1, Russia - 2, Uzbekistan - 1*).

The published articles reflect information about the identified drug crops and the possibility of marijuana legalization in Kazakhstan (RK), identified drug sites and toughening of responsibility for cocaine trafficking (RF), held bilateral and multilateral meetings in the anti-drug sphere (KR, RU).

ON CARICC MEMBER-STATES

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN



ABOUT DRUG SOWINGS AND THE POSSIBILITY OF LEGALIZATION OF MARIJUANA IN KAZAKHSTAN TALKED TO THE MIA



For two months in Kazakhstan, with the help of aerial reconnaissance, 19 drug crops of hemp were discovered, Bakhytzhan Amirkhanov, head of the Department for Combating Drug Crime of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, said at a briefing at the Central Communications Service.

During 20 overflights, 2 facts of marijuana storage, 19 facts of drug crops were revealed, more than 10 thousand hemp bushes with a total weight of 5.5

tons were destroyed. In the Urdzharsky district of the Abay region, the attackers tried to establish drug crops. 105 kg of finished products and about 2,000 bushes of cultivated hemp were confiscated. Of the 13 people, 8 are natives of the Kyzylorda region, previously convicted of similar crimes," Amirkhanov said.

According to him, drug traffickers annually try to change the places of drug crops. The situation is similar with the distribution of Shui hemp.

The total area of wild-growing hemp in the Zhambyl region is about 148 thousand hectares. Every year, the special unit "Delta Valley" holds events, ambushes to detain criminals. They have off-road vehicles, special equipment. But nevertheless, there are facts when "Shui" drugs are confiscated in other regions of the country," the colonel said.

For example, in the Mangistau region and Astana, 250 kg of this variety of hemp were confiscated from detainees. The cargo was delivered by a logistics company. In total, since the beginning of this year, about 2.5 thousand drug crimes have been identified in Kazakhstan.

Of these, 60%, or 1.5 thousand, are related to sales. A total of 12.7 tons of drugs were seized. Seized by type of drugs: heroin - 33 kg, opium - 68 kg, "synthetics" - 507 kg, hashish - 705 kg, marijuana - over 4 tons, the rest - cannabis and other types of drugs," Amirkhanov said.

He also answered a question about the possible legalization of marijuana in Kazakhstan. *In recent years, individual business structures have been actively lobbying for the large-scale use of drug-containing plants in various fields, including industry and medicine, up to the legalization of marijuana. But this not only contradicts the basic principles of the UN Conventions and national legislation, but, as international experience shows, does not solve the problem of illicit trafficking in cannabis and its derivatives," Amirkhanov said.*

According to him, from 10 to 15 tons of drugs are seized annually in Kazakhstan, more than 200 drug crops and 50 large plantations are destroyed, and numerous cannabis caches are discovered.

"All this testifies to the high organization of this type of drug business," the speaker emphasized.

According to him, modern technologies contribute to the active popularization of drugs. Since the beginning of the year, access to almost 2 thousand sites has been restricted, including 1.5 thousand instant messengers in Telegram.

"We all need to fight this," Amirkhanov summed up.

https://www.kt.kz/rus/crime/o_narkoposevah_i_vozmozhnosti_legalizatsii_marihuany_v_rk_1377942678.html

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC



UNODC-SUPPORTED FORENSIC AND LAW ENFORCEMENT PLATFORM DEVELOPS A REGIONAL NPS RESPONSE AND STRENGTHENS DRUG ANALYSIS AND INVESTIGATIONS IN WEST AND CENTRAL ASIA



On November 8 and 9, 2022, in Astana (Kazakhstan), within the framework of the UNODC Regional Program for Afghanistan and neighboring countries (Regional Program), a regular meeting of the Regional Working Group on Forensics and Illicit Drugs was held. The meeting brought together senior forensic experts and law enforcement officials to share best practices in drug analysis and investigation, as well as to plan regional operations and develop joint regional drug investigations.

The meeting was attended by 28 experts and officials from Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC) and representatives of the Laboratory and Scientific Support Section (LSS) of UNODC.

At the meeting, the participants shared information about the drug situation in 2021-2022 and major seizures of drugs, spoke about the activities of national forensic laboratories and drug examinations carried out, as well as about the technical aspects and problems of forensic medical examination of new psychoactive substances (NPS).

As a result of the meeting, the countries made proposals for further strengthening regional cooperation in the field of forensic medical examination and countering drug trafficking, expressed interest in joining the UNODC International Joint Exercises (ICE). Participants

stressed the importance and success of the now annual Operation Reflex to counter NPS and synthetic drugs, which is coordinated through CARICC and supported by the UNODC Regional Program. In addition, countries stressed the need for advanced training courses for forensic experts. <https://mvd.gov.kg/news/1461>

RUSSIAN FEDERATION



VOLGOGRAD POLICE OFFICERS DISCOVERED 15 DRUG PROMOTIONAL SITES IN 10 DAYS



In the Volgograd region, the next stage of the all-Russian campaign "Tell me where they sell death" has ended. From October 17 to October 28, 2022, "hot lines" worked: citizens could call and tell about the facts of the sale of "datura", ask questions on the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts.

Law enforcement officers of the region summed up: the hotlines received 141 appeals, according to the results of which 5 crimes and 6 administrative violations were

identified, almost 20 kg of illicit substances were seized from illegal circulation and 15 sites promoting drugs were found.

Within 10 days, as part of interdepartmental cooperation, community work days were held: they removed signs containing advertisements for drugs and psychotropic substances from the facades of buildings and street infrastructure. Total in Volgograd 106 buildings were cleared of information about Internet resources with the propaganda of "dope".

Preventive measures were taken in schools and colleges of the Volgograd region.

<https://riac34.ru/news/150095/>

Legal.Report

MIA OF RUSSIA INTENDS TO STRONGER RESPONSIBILITY FOR COCAINE



The Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia has recognized cocaine as a threat to national security and decided to toughen criminal liability for drug offenses related to this popular drug.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs has developed a draft government decree to improve legislation in the field of drug trafficking. Among other things, it is proposed to reduce the large and especially large amount of cocaine

for the purposes of articles 228, 228.1, 229 and 229.1 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation. Large - from 5 to 1.2 g. Especially large - from 1500 to 900. Recall that illegal acquisition, storage, transportation, manufacture, processing of drugs without the intent to sell (Article 228 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation) on a large scale are punishable by imprisonment for up to 10 years, in especially large - up to 15 years.

In addition, it is envisaged to completely ban the circulation of cocaine in the Russian Federation, placing it in list I of the list of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors. Currently, this drug is included in list II of the list, its circulation is limited and controlled by the state. The state quota for the production, storage and transportation of

cocaine is also significantly reduced in order to meet the needs of forensic units of the internal affairs bodies - from 50 kg to 100 g.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs regards the situation related to illicit trafficking in cocaine as a threat to national security in the medium term, follows from the explanatory note. According to monitoring data on the consumption of psychoactive substances, in some regions of Russia there is a steady increase in the number of detections of cocaine and its metabolites in biological samples of examined persons. Since 2020, this figure has increased by more than 20%. The drug police note that the percentage of cocaine in wholesale lots seized from illegal circulation has increased on the Russian black market. At the same time, the packaging of the drug has changed. For ease of transportation and hiding in caches, it is molded into briquettes weighing from 900 to 1500 g.

The Russian police are also concerned about the global situation. Thus, according to the official data of the International Narcotics Control Board, the volumes of seizures of cocaine have increased in the countries of Central America and the Caribbean, where the main production is concentrated. At the same time, the total potential production of cocaine from plant materials increased by 1.5%, despite a decrease in the area under cultivation of coca bushes. In Europe, cocaine is the second most abused drug, with prevalence in Eastern Europe 5.5 times higher than the global average.

<https://legal.report/mvd-rossii-namereno-uzhestochit-otvetstvennost-za-kokain/>

REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN



ON THE PARTICIPATION OF THE DELEGATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN IN THE EXCHANGE VISIT TO THE CUSTOMS POST OF KAZAKHSTAN IN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE UNODC AND WCO GLOBAL PROGRAM ON THE CONTROL OF CONTAINER TRAFFIC November 8-9, 2022, ALMATY, KAZAKHSTAN



On November 8-9 this year, a delegation of the Republic of Uzbekistan visited Almaty, Kazakhstan, under the UNODC/WCO Global Container Control Programme.

The purpose of the exchange visit was to visit and study the best practices of the Air Cargo Control Group (ACG) of the Zhetysu customs post, as well as to strengthen interregional practical cooperation, including the exchange of information on high-risk air cargo within the framework

of the Interregional Network of Customs Services and Port Control Groups of the CCP.

The event was attended by a representative of the NIACDC and employees of the State Customs Committee.

During the study visit, the work of the customs post in Almaty was highlighted, and issues of interaction and prospects for cooperation between the two countries within the framework of the CCP for Central Asia were discussed.

<https://ncdc.uz/news/ozbekiston-respublikasi-delegasiyasining-bmtning-markaziy-osiyodagi-narkotiklar-va-jinoyatchilik-boyicha-boshkarmasi-va-jbtning-konteyner-harakatini-boshqarish-boyicha-global-dasturi-doirasida-qozogiston-bojxona-postiga-almashinuv-tashrifi-togrisida-8-9-noyabr-2022-olma-ota-qozogiston>