



INFORMATION RELEASE

ABOUT PAST EVENTS
IN THE ANTI-DRUG SPHERE
(according to the media)

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7

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INFORMATION RELEASE CARICC

Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination
Centre for combating the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs,
psychotropic substances and their precursors

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sphere», №7, 2023

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During the period from 1 to 30 June 2023, 17 counter-narcotic events were covered in mass media in CARICC Member States and other countries (*Azerbaijan Republic -3, Kazakhstan - 6, Kyrgyz Republic - 6, Russia - 5, Republic of Tajikistan - 2, Turkmenistan - 1, Republic of Uzbekistan - 2. Other countries: USA - 1*).

Published articles include information on revoking licenses of drug-using bus drivers, on the amount of drugs seized, and on cooperation in the field of counter-narcotics (*Azerbaijan Republic*), growing number of drug addicts using synthetic drugs, challenges in combating the spread of drugs in the city of Almaty, discussing decriminalization of drug use, dangers of vape devices, and the Youth Against Drugs Forum, on the call of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan to resolutely counter production of synthetic drugs (*Republic of Kazakhstan*), workshops, meetings, campaigns and preventive measures in the field of counternarcotics organized on the occasion of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (*Kyrgyz Republic, Russian Federation, Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Republic of Uzbekistan*), as well as the fentanyl-opioid crisis (*United States of America*).

AZERBAIJAN REPUBLIC

MEDIA.AZ

BUS DRIVERS WHO USE DRUGS WILL HAVE THEIR LICENSES REVOKED IN AZERBAIJAN



For driving a public vehicle under the influence of drugs, drivers will be stripped of the right to operate vehicles for up to two years.

This is reflected in a proposed amendment to the Code of Administrative Offenses.

According to the draft, driving a public vehicle during passenger transportation by a person entitled to drive a public vehicle under the influence of narcotic intoxication will be punishable by administrative arrest for a period of one to two months with limitation of the right to drive a vehicle for up to two years.

<https://media.az/society/1067912590/v-azerbaydzhane-upotrebyayuschih-narkotiki-voditeley-transportnyh-sredstv-obschego-polzovaniya-budut-lishat-prav/>

REPORT

ИНФОРМАЦИОННОЕ АГЕНТСТВО

243 KG OF DRUGS SEIZED IN AZERBAIJAN



General Department for Combating Drugs seized 243 kg of drugs, total value is estimated at 13 million manats.

It was mentioned that officers of the General Department for Combating Drugs of the Ministry of Internal Affairs carried out actions against members of an organized group smuggling drugs from Iran to Azerbaijan, as well as against persons selling drugs in Baku, Sumgayit, Lankaran, Absheron, Beylagan and other districts. 31 persons were detained during the operations carried out in the last 10 days.

A total of 243 kg of narcotic drugs - heroin, opium, hashish, marijuana, psychotropic substance methamphetamine, as well as 5,300 methadone tablets - were seized. Total value of seized drugs is estimated at 13 million manat.

<https://report.az/ru/vnutrennyaya-politika/v-azerbajdzhane-iz-oborota-izyato-243-kg-narkotikov/>



BRITISH AMBASSADOR: WE WORK CLOSELY WITH AZERBAIJAN TO COUNTER DRUG TRAFFICKING



The UK and Azerbaijan cooperate closely in countering drug trafficking. UK Ambassador to Azerbaijan Fergus Auld wrote about this on his official page on social networking site.

«UK and Azerbaijani law enforcement agencies work closely together to combat transportation of drugs across international borders,» he wrote.

Ambassador Fergus Auld recalled that June 26 is celebrated as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Drug Trafficking

https://moscow-baku.ru/news/society/posol_velikobritanii_my_s_azerbaydzhanom_tesno_sotrudnichaem_v_borbe_s_perevozkoy_narkotikov/

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN



DOCTORS DREW A PORTRAIT OF A KAZAKHSTANI DRUG ADDICT



The number of drug addicts using synthetic drugs is growing in Kazakhstan. This was reported by Kuanysh Altynbekov, General Director of the Republican Scientific and Practical Center for Mental Health.

«If at the end of 2022 there were 18,085 patients on dispensary observation, this is only drug users, today there are 18,328 patients. That is, there is some growth. But most importantly, I would like to point out that there is an increase in the use of new psychoactive substances (synthetic drugs). If in 2018 there were only 147 patients using synthetic drugs on

dynamic monitoring, today there are 731. I would like to emphasize that official statistics include those patients who are dynamically registered, who are monitored and assisted by psychiatrists-drug addicts,» Altynbekov said.

It also became known which regions of Kazakhstan have the most registered drug addicts.

«In Pavlodar and East Kazakhstan regions the rate of drug addicts per 100 thousand population is higher. But this does not say that these regions have the most drug addicts. These figures show that in these regions there is a good detection rate. And there are several reasons for this, perhaps there is more trust in doctors,» said Gulmira Sadvakasova, head of the Center for Information and Analytical Monitoring and a narcology doctor.

Narcologists have also formed a social portrait of a typical Kazakhstani drug addict.

«If we talk about the portrait of a drug addict, it is usually a man (80 percent are male) in the age category over 35 years old. Thus, it is a contingent of middle-aged, male, and in most cases not working, with specialized secondary education. Some of them have criminal records, criminal convictions,» said Gulmira Sadvakasova.

In addition, narcologists say that about 1-1.5 percent of Kazakhstan's teenagers are at risk. This is evidenced by a recent survey among young people. In the course of questioning, they indicated that they had used drugs in

the last 30 days.

We should remind that Kazakhstan intends to introduce a special drug screening for young people. It will take place in the form of questionnaires.

Specialists indicate that new synthetic drugs are very aggressive and get addictive more rapidly.

«Legal and synthetic drugs are actually no different in their action and effects on the central nervous system than those drugs called ‘traditional hard drugs’. They are very similar to traditional drugs that we have known for a long time in terms of their clinical consequences, their effect on the brain, manifestation of intoxication and mental disorders. At the same time, new types of drugs are very aggressive, because replacement of the formula in the molecules leads to the fact that their level of narcogenicity (the speed of forming dependence when using psychoactive substances) is higher,» Sadvakasova explained.

Narcologists explained what signs parents can use to identify the beginning of drug addiction in a child.

«First of all, weight loss. Because the use of synthetic drugs reduces the need for food and sleep. Second, the use of psychoactive substances, including synthetic drugs, definitely affects the mental sphere. Child may have increased anxiety, sleep disturbance, there is a possibility that there will be some hallucinations. He starts to listen, it seems to him that someone is following him, people in the street seem to want to harm him. In other words, hallucinations can be frightening. Quite often we are first to see just such psychotic disorders. That is, a child comes in with psychosis, and then in the process of natural examination it turns out that the psychosis was caused by the use of synthetic drugs. Psychosis passes quickly enough, but addiction remains. Heavy, persistent, with a very pronounced craving for use,» Sadvakasova added.

In case of such symptoms, doctors advise to immediately contact Mental Health Centers, which are available in all regions of Kazakhstan, as well as at polyclinics.

https://tengrinews.kz/kazakhstan_news/vrachi-sostavili-portret-kazahstanskogo-narkomana-503228/



«UNFORTUNATELY, A LUCRATIVE BUSINESS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE» - AKIM DOSAYEV ON COMBATING DRUGS



Almaty Akim Yerbolat Dosayev spoke about challenges in countering drug trafficking.

During a meeting of akim with population of Turksib district, a resident said that there are many places in the district where links to drug advertisements are openly posted. She asked to install video surveillance to punish those responsible.

«The spread of drugs and drug addiction, especially among young people, is one of pressing issues on the agenda. Today, unfortunately, it has become a lucrative business for young people - delivery of

black bags by advertising. We are constantly catching them, imposing administrative fines. This is a common problem for the city, and Turksib district is not an exception,» said the akim.

According to Dosayev, together with district akims and the city police department, a lot of work is being done to combat distribution, plus a «Drug Stop» program has been rolled out with the involvement of various organizations and volunteers who help with this. In addition, non-governmental organizations are helping to paint over all these advertisements.

Akim gave assignment to install 585 additional cameras. He asked residents to communicate addresses where drug distributors work.

https://tengrinews.kz/kazakhstan_news/k-sojalenyu-dohodnyiy-biznes-molodeji-akim-dosaev-borbe-501452/

zakon.kz MAZHILIS IS DISCUSSING DECRIMINALIZATION OF DRUG USE

Mazhilis to discuss possibility of abolishing criminal punishment for drug use.

Mazhilismen believe that those who do not sell banned drugs should only be held administratively liable, Astana TV reports.

Deputies are convinced that this will increase effectiveness of efforts to combat drug trafficking.

«It is proposed to transfer part 1 of Article 296 of the Criminal Code «Illegal handling of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances, their analogs without the purpose of sale» to administrative jurisdiction. At the same time, the exclusion of the attribute «in public places» for non-medical consumption of narcotic drugs will ensure unconditional prohibition of non-medical consumption of drugs».

Snezhanna Imasheva, deputy of the Mazhilis of the Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan, member of the AMANAT faction

The MIA assured that the initiative is not an attempt to simplify police work. First of all, the measure will make it possible to determine real level of drug addiction in the population, according to the ministry.

«First of all, we are talking about non-medical consumption of drugs in public places. Today, the number of such offenses has been halved. At the same time, the number of drug users has not decreased, but they have all gone into shadows, preferring to use drugs at home and in other places that are not public».

Mr. Khaji-Gali Imazhanov, Head of the Department for Combating Drug Crime of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan

Mazhilis deputies presented 8 initiatives to combat synthetic drugs in April.

<https://www.zakon.kz/6396272-v-mazhilise-obsuzhdayut-otmenu-ugolovnoy-otvetstvennosti-za-upotreblenie-narkotikov.html>

zakon.kz TOKAYEV ON VAPES: ONE STEP AWAY FROM DRUGS

President's speech at the second National Kurultay in Turkestan was about the harm of vape devices.

According to the President, vapes have become something of a fashion among teenagers

«Another scourge threatening the health of the nation has become so-called vapes and various types of electronic cigarettes. Unfortunately, their use has become something of a fashion among teenagers. This is facilitated by wide availability and aggressive advertising about their alleged harmlessness».

They are one step away from drugs, President Tokayev said.

«In fact, young people are putting themselves in serious danger, because vapes are harmful in and of themselves, and they are one step away from real drugs. We need to take systematic and urgent measures to combat this dangerous phenomenon, just prohibitions will not help».

He believes police should take vape devices under special scrutiny.

«Police need to improve efficiency of their work in this direction. I will keep this issue under special control. In Kazakhstan, since 2016, there has been no special document regulating counter-narcotics efforts. Therefore, in last year's message I ordered to put together a comprehensive plan».

He also said that the Government will soon pass a legislation.

«In the coming days, the Government will adopt this important document, which will be a framework for systematic work. The issue of formation of legal consciousness, which was raised by an experienced lawyer Serik Akylbay, is also relevant. It is very important to raise legal literacy of young people. Then everyone will be able to protect their rights and will not violate the rights of others. The foundation of our state will be unshakable if law and order reign in our country».

According to President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, there are useless specialists. But real professionals will always be in demand.

<https://www.zakon.kz/6397166-tokaev-o-veypakh-do-narkotikov-odin-shag.html>

zakon.kz PRESIDENT CALLED FOR A DECISIVE ACTION AGAINST PRODUCTION OF SYNTHETIC DRUGS IN KAZAKHSTAN

At a meeting of the MIA board on 30 June, President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev called for decisive measures to combat production of synthetic drugs in the country.

The President addressed law enforcement officials and noted that drug production has moved into Kazakhstan's territory.

«This is a serious phenomenon that threatens the security of our state. Here it is necessary to unite efforts of all competent authorities to tackle it, otherwise we will fail,» warned

President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev.

Head of state ordered to take the most decisive measures to eradicate all centers of production of synthetic drugs in Kazakhstan. This is a very important task, he emphasized.

<https://www.zakon.kz/6398550-prezident-prizval-reshitelno-borotsya-s-proizvodstvom-sinteticheskikh-narkotikov-v-kazakhstane.html>

zakon.kz YOUTH - AGAINST DRUGS: A UNIQUE FORUM WITH SCHOOLCHILDREN WAS HELD IN ALMATY



A forum «Life and Drugs are Incompatible» was organized in Nauryzbay district of Almaty. In the course of the event, district authorities and police officers heard proposals from those whom the country is trying to protect from addiction - adolescents.

The forum, timed to coincide with the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, was held on 26 June at the Center for Innovative Creativity.

The format of the event was playful, but the usual concept was turned upside down. This

time it was not adults teaching children, but children sharing their vision of the problem and even suggesting solutions. Sometimes unexpected. For example, one of the young speakers asked the question: «Wouldn't it be more effective not to ban nasvay, but to legalize it, so that people could see the consequences of its use?».

There were also statements about alcohol, so-called «one-time use», cigarettes. All through the prism of Almaty schoolchildren's vision.

Adult listeners promised to use some of the initiatives in work.

«There are 102 children in our district who are activists in general. If they see suspicious QR codes, advertisements, drawings, they immediately inform us. Now we have recorded 14 ideas of our children, who have proposed measures to fight drug addiction. For example, they suggested to conduct awareness-raising work with children and parents already from the 7th grade. To make videos about drug addicts and show people what addiction is fraught with. They propose to provide children with leisure time so that they do not have time for dangerous hobbies,» said Miras Nysanaliev, Deputy Akim of Nauryzbay district.

According to him, situation in the district is relatively calm. There are 32 people registered for drug addiction. All of them are over 18 years old. 193 residents suffer from alcoholism. Inspectors of the juvenile police department have brought four entrepreneurs to administrative responsibility for selling tobacco products to persons under 21 since the beginning of the year.

According to the Almaty PD, a total of 381 cases of offenses related to drug trafficking were detected in the city.

«More than 148 kg of substances were seized. Seven drug laboratories were dismantled. 45 dead drop operators were detained. 253 Internet resources engaged in distribution and advertising of drugs have been blocked. Preventive measures are also taken to paint over advertisements on walls,» said Dauren Kobeev, senior operative of the Department for Combating Drug Crime of the Almaty Department of Internal Affairs.

Tomiris Zair, Miss Almaty 2022, also visited the forum. By her own admission, she was amazed at the level of awareness of the new generation.

«I couldn't help but attend this event. I am a resident of this city. I am very concerned about this topic and I am glad that it is being discussed at the proper level. I liked that schoolchildren shared their vision of how to solve the problem».

At the conclusion of the meeting, participants mentioned that the past forum was only one of the points of the comprehensive plan to combat drug addiction.

<https://www.zakon.kz/6398093-molodezh--protiv-narkotikov-unikalnyy-forum-so-shkolnikami-proveli-v-almaty.html>

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC



MORE THAN 2 TONS OF DRUGS HAVE BEEN SEIZED IN KYRGYZSTAN SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR



The Service for Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic summarized results of actions for the first 5 months of 2023.

Prior to the meeting, staff of the Service saw off a number of heads of the Service’s divisions for a well-deserved retirement.

The event was opened by Police Colonel Ulanbek Sultanov, Head of the Service, who in his speech thanked Aidar Shigaev and Ryspek Oskonbaev for their labor, long years of service and their contribution to the fight against drug trafficking.

In farewell, they wished the leadership of the SBNON of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic and the entire staff of the Service further success in their work.

Next, a reporting meeting for the 5 months of 2023 was held in a hybrid format.

In the first 5 months of 2023, the internal affairs agencies uncovered 604 drug crimes and seized more than 2 tons of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors. Over 160 drug prevention measures were carried out during the reporting period.

During the meeting, the leadership of the Service set a number of tasks to stop drug smuggling of synthetic origin, as well as to strengthen detection and dismantling of drug laboratories, as well as components for manufacture of narcotic drugs.

Several heads of regional departments and a number of employees of the Service were disciplined for poor organization of work.

<https://mvd.gov.kg/rus/news/2036>



ULAN SULTANOV, HEAD OF SBNON OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS, MET WITH ALEKSANDER KWASNIEWSKI, HEAD OF THE EASTERN AND CENTRAL EUROPEAN AND CENTRAL ASIAN COMMISSION ON DRUG POLICY



Ulanbek Sultanov, Head of the Service for Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking, met with a delegation from the Commission on Drug Policy of Eastern, Central Europe and Central Asia (ECECADC) headed by its Chairman, Aleksander Kwasniewski.

During the meeting, which took place at the premises of the Service, Ulanbek Sultanov and Aleksander Kwasniewski exchanged information on current drug situation in Kyrgyzstan and European countries, discussed issues of improving legislation in the field of drug control.

Parties agreed to hold meetings on a regular basis for timely exchange of information, experience and law enforcement practice on drug control issues.

<https://mvd.gov.kg/rus/news/2070>



SBNON OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC HELD A CAMPAIGN TO COMBAT STREET ADVERTISING OF DRUGS



In the context of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Drug Trafficking:

SBNON, together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kyrgyzstan, organized a campaign throughout the Kyrgyz Republic to draw public attention to the problem of drug addiction. The aim of the action is to reduce number of drug advertisements, which are widely spread throughout the cities and towns of the country.

The campaign was organized by governmental international and non-governmental organizations working in the field of counteraction to drug addiction and protection of public health.

The event attracted participants from various social groups including youth, students, activists and volunteers.

The aim of the action was to activate public awareness and draw attention to the problem of drug addiction, its negative impact on society, health and well-being of people.

The painting over of drug advertisements was a symbolic action to remove drug propaganda from the public space and create awareness about the harms of drugs.

As part of the campaign, special groups were organized to paint over drug advertisements in different parts of cities and towns. The campaign participants used special paints and materials to completely or partially paint over drug advertisements, depending on their size and location.

Organizers of the campaign expressed their gratitude to all participants and volunteers who contributed to the success of the event. <https://mvd.gov.kg/rus/news/2084>



SBNON OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC CARRY OUT PREVENTIVE AWARENESS-RAISING MEASURES IN NIGHTCLUBS IN THE CAPITAL CITY



During the month dedicated to the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on 26 June, on the territory of Bishkek, the Service for Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking (SBNON) of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, on the territory of the Oktyabrsky district of Bishkek, in night entertainment and drinking establishments, conducted operational and preventive measures with the use of service search dogs of SBNON of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

The purpose of the event is to prevent crimes committed in public places, as well as to establish cases of drug use among nightlife visitors.

In addition to night drinking and entertainment establishments, police officers checked places where young people congregate in Asanbai Park and adjacent areas of the park in order to prevent and avoid crimes and offenses among young people and guests of the capital city.

In addition, police officers held preventive talks with the administration of nightclubs in Oktyabrsky district.

The operational and preventive measures were attended by officers of the SBNON of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the SBNON Canine Center and the Investigation Service of the Department of Internal Affairs of the Oktyabrsky District of Bishkek City.

SBNON of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic notes that such actions in recreational institutions are expected to be held on a regular basis.

<https://mvd.gov.kg/rus/news/2085>



IN OSH, OFFICERS OF SBNON OF MIA OF KR HELD A CAMPAIGN «WE ARE AGAINST DRUGS!»



Officers of SBNON of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic in the park named after T. Satylganov as part of the month dedicated to 26 June «International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking» organized and conducted an action under the slogan «We are against drugs!»..

The action was attended by CSM Osh, Youth Committee of Osh City Hall, representatives of the center of psychiatry and narcology of Osh, public fund «Parents against drugs», as well as young people resting in the park..

The purpose of the action is to attract young people to an active life without drugs, to promote a healthy lifestyle, to awaken a sense of responsibility, to urge respect for each other.

Deputy Head of the SBNON of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, police colonel Khazhimatov M.A. in his speech called for a healthy lifestyle, always be able to say «No drugs» and of course always need to develop skills to make the right decision.

Every good decision made is a contribution to the future of the country. Representative of narcology department told how trends in the use of narcotic, psychotropic and synthetic substances are changing today.

Campaign was accompanied by musical numbers, national games, quiz, questions and answers related to the prevention of drug use, about careful attitude to health.

The staff of CSM organized a gymnastic session with the use of light exercises to find the meridian point. In turn, the Committee on Youth Affairs with an appeal to young people to strive for a healthy life organized a quiz, where there were questions related to the history of Kyrgyzstan and distinguished were awarded with specially prepared valuable gifts.

<https://mvd.gov.kg/rus/news/2088>



AKYLBEK ZHAPAROV MET WITH THE HEAD OF THE DRUG POLICY COMMISSION OF ECEACD

Akylbek Zhaparov received the Chairman of the Commission on Drug Policy of Eastern and Central Europe and Central Asia (ECEACD) Aleksander Kwasniewski. This is reported by the press service of the Cabinet of Ministers.

«The parties discussed issues of further cooperation in the field of drug control. The head of the Cabinet of Ministers noted that Kyrgyzstan carries out balanced activities in the field of drug control, based on international obligations and national strategic documents, including within the framework of the Anti-Narcotics Program of the Cabinet of Ministers and the action plan for its implementation», - stated in the message.

Aleksander Kwasniewski emphasized that Kyrgyzstan has been quite effective in reducing the demand for illegal drugs, reducing their illicit supply and reducing the harm from drug use.

At the end of the meeting, the parties reached an agreement to increase cooperation in all areas of mutual interest.

https://24.kg/vlast/268623_akyilbek_japarov_vstretilsya_sglavoy_komissii_ponarkopolitike_ECEACD/

RUSSIAN FEDERATION



POLICE OFFICERS IN THE TVER REGION CONTINUE TO HOLD COUNTERNARCOTIC LECTURES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



Within the framework of counternarcotics month and in order to raise legal awareness of young people and prevent the spread of drug addiction among the younger generation, officers of the Drug Control Department of the regional Department of Internal Affairs, together with representatives of the public, met with students of the Tver College of Service and Tourism and the M.P. Musorgsky Tver College of Music.

Police officers discussed with students what methods criminals can use to involve young people in illicit activities and how to stop such attempts. Police officers also warned young men and women against participating in illegal activities and «easy money» that may be offered on the Internet.

Police officers explained to young people measures of administrative and criminal liability for consumption, possession, distribution and sale of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

Students took an active part in discussion of this problem and asked questions, to which they received qualified answers from organizers of the meeting.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/38867421>



CAMPAIGN «VACATIONS WITH THE PUBLIC COUNCIL» STARTED WITH COUNTER-NARCOTIC EVENT IN THE NOVGOROD REGION

As part of the «Vacations with the Public Council» campaign, Vladimir Shevlyagin, Chairman of the Public Council of the Valdai District Department of Internal Affairs, and Natalia Petrova, an officer of the Drug Trafficking Control Department of the regional Department of Internal Affairs, met with first and second year students of the Valdai Agrotechnical Technical College.

During the work of the counternarcotics platform, Natalia Petrova told the teenagers how drug use affects the young body and what adverse consequences drug addiction leads to. Children discussed in detail such aspects as the process of formation of dependence on psychoactive drugs, ways of involving young people in drug business, including through the Internet, learned how to act when faced with a drug threat in real life.

Vladimir Shevlyagin, in turn, noted that it is impossible to remain indifferent to the problem of drug addiction, and then told students in detail about criminal and administrative responsibility in the field of drug trafficking, adding that for some crimes in this area the legislation of the Russian Federation provides for long terms of imprisonment, including life imprisonment.

In addition, Vladimir Anatolyevich told the students about the joint work of police officers and community members to protect public order on the streets of Valdai and urged those present to demonstrate an active civic position.

At the end of the meeting, speakers wished students to pass transfer exams successfully, and also recommended to lead a healthy lifestyle during the summer vacation, to devote time to sports and to comply with laws of the Russian Federation.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/38973552>



POLICE OFFICERS IN MAGADAN REGION MEET WITH CHILDREN ON THE EVE OF INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING



On the eve of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, which is celebrated worldwide on 26 June, police officers of the Department of Internal Affairs of Russia in the Magadan region visit day camps.

At school No. 15, Inna Myts, deputy head of the Drug Control Department of the regional Department of Internal Affairs, and Elena Maul, methodologist of the educational creative culture association, gave a preventive talk to children..

Participants of the event were shown a movie about what a narcotic substance is and how it harms a person.

Elena Viktorovna explained to the children that drug use causes mental and physical disorders - distortion of worldview,

personality changes, severe diseases of organs and body systems.

Inna Nikolaevna told about criminal liability for illegal acquisition, storage, transportation and sale of narcotic drugs, emphasizing that there are no safe drugs, as well as about administrative liability for smoking and drinking alcohol in public places.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--plai/news/item/39302466>



TODAY IS THE INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING

The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was established in 1987 by decision of the UN General Assembly. It is celebrated worldwide on 26 June.

Illicit production, distribution and non-medical use of drugs is an acute problem of the modern world, the urgency of which is not diminishing. It affects numerous aspects of the life of the global community, jeopardizing its future and shaping a wide range of negative phenomena.

Combating challenges of the criminal drug business, reducing illicit trafficking and availability of drugs for illicit consumption are priority tasks of the state counternarcotics policy. This year, law enforcement agencies of the Russian Federation have carried out extensive work in this area.

In the first 5 months of 2023, 50,100 drug offenses were solved. 33.7 thousand citizens of the country, foreign countries and stateless persons involved in illegal trafficking of controlled substances in the territory of the Russian Federation were detained. 2,156 persons who committed crimes while under the influence of drugs were detected.

At the same time, it should be noted that the stability of drug situation in the country is largely achieved not only through law enforcement measures, but also through implementation of a range of preventive measures. Employees of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia, in cooperation with prevention agencies and with the potential of youth volunteer organizations, are implementing the interdepartmental comprehensive preventive operation «Children of Russia» and the nationwide campaigns «Report Where Death is Dealt» and «Conscript».

Every year in June, counternarcotics events are held throughout Russia with participation of representatives of executive authorities, public associations, counternarcotics youth and volunteer organizations. Conferences and round tables, creative competitions, as well as various cultural and sporting events are held at venues and stadiums, in parks and clubs, in educational institutions and children's camps. These events are among the drug prevention activities organized by GUNK of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia throughout the calendar

year. Their main audience is young people, on whom the healthy and prosperous future of our country depends. In 2022 alone, about 392,500 preventive measures were carried out, covering more than 2 million people.

Statistics show positive results of work in this direction. According to the Russian Ministry of Health, in 2022 the total number of underage drug users decreased by 5.1%. At the same time, the number of adolescents diagnosed for the first time in their lives decreased by 10.5%.

The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is another opportunity to remind that every citizen of the country can contribute to the common cause. There are counter-narcotics volunteer movements in Russia's regions, which anyone can join, and police officers are open to help citizens not only during preventive activities.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/39390786>



ON THE INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ADDICTION, POLICE OFFICERS ORGANIZED A THEMATIC PLATFORM FOR YOUNG RESIDENTS OF THE ZABAIKALSKY KRAI



On the International Day Against Drug Addiction, employees of the Drug Control Department in Chita and the regional department, together with the Zabaikalsky Krai Narcological Dispensary, volunteers from the Iskra Center and the Anti-Dealer public movement, organized a thematic platform for young residents of the city. The main goals of the event were to prevent the spread of drug addiction, substance abuse, smoking and alcoholization among minors and young people, and to raise awareness among teenagers and their parents about the consequences of consuming harmful and illegal substances.

As part of the event program, specialists organized a zumba master class for children, and Konstantin Petrov, a member of the Public Council of the Department of Internal Affairs of Russia in the Zabaikalsky Krai, conducted a sports exercise and showed health-promoting exercises.

Police officers handed out preventive leaflets, after which they urged young Zabaikals to lead a healthy lifestyle. At the end of the event, the children left thematic drawings on the asphalt as a memento of the event.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/39429326>

REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

**START OF CULTURAL, ENTERTAINMENT AND SPORTS EVENTS UNDER THE TITLE «COUNTERNARCOTICS CARAVAN-2023»**

In order to prevent and reduce drug abuse, promote healthy lifestyles and implement the «National Strategy on Drug Control in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2021-2030» The Drug Control Agency under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan started a series of cultural, entertainment and sporting events under the title «Counternarcotics Caravan-2023».

As in previous years, this event is planned in honor of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, it is scheduled to be held from 2 to 26 June 2023 in the cities of Khorog in Gorno-Badakhshan

Autonomous Region, Kulyab and Bokhtar in Khatlon Region, Khujand in Sughd Region and Tursunzade, with the final part of the event to be held on 26 June in the capital city of Dushanbe.

For this purpose, on 5 June 2023 in the hall of the executive body of state power of Khorog city the mentioned event was launched, it was attended by the leadership of the regional and city executive bodies of state power, representatives of law enforcement agencies, employees of various organizations and institutions, athletes and active youth of Khorog city and other regions of GBAO. The event started with an introductory speech by the Vice-Chairman of the region, then representatives of the Agency and the Committee for Youth Work and Sports explained the purpose of the event.

As part of the event, results of volleyball competition held among the youth of secondary general education institutions of Khorog city were summarized, the winners were determined and awarded with memorable gifts on behalf of the leadership of the Agency.

Cultural and entertainment part of the event included a concert program by artists of the Khorog City Culture Department, which inspired the participants.

The working trip «Counternarcotics Caravan-2023» under the slogan «Youth against Drugs» continues according to the developed Plan of joint activities.

<https://akn.tj/ru/2023/06/06/the-start-of-cultural-entertainment-and-sports-events-under-the-title-anti-border-convoy-2023/>



A ROUND TABLE DEDICATED TO THE INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING WAS HELD IN DUSHANBE



On 23 June this year in the Republican Center for Immunoprophylaxis of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Tajikistan held a round table dedicated to 26 June - International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the press service of the Ministry reports.

The event was attended by representatives of relevant ministries and structures, experts, development partners, representatives of public organizations, representatives of the media.

It was noted that efforts of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, led by President Emomali Rahmon, in the global war on drugs and in assisting and facilitating nationwide organizations to prevent this menace of the century were indeed very fruitful and significant.

The Republic of Tajikistan, along with other countries, is persistently fighting drug addiction, and this work is primarily aimed at the health and safety of society.

Participants of the event noted that addiction is the enemy of a healthy lifestyle, and prevention of this plague of the century is achieved, first of all, by increasing medical education of the people and fruitful cooperation with relevant structures and development partners.

<https://avesta.tj/2023/06/24/v-dushanbe-sostoyalsya-kruglyj-stol-posvyashhennyj-mezhdunarodnomu-dnyu-borby-s-narkotikami/>

TURKMENISTAN



TURKMENISTAN TO HELP AFGHANISTAN TREAT DRUG ADDICTS



Ambassador Khoja Ovezov of Turkmenistan to Afghanistan met with Lt. Col. Abdul Haq Akhund, Deputy Minister of Counter Narcotics, in Kabul, Afghan news agency Bakhtar reported..

Ambassador Ovezov welcomed the Afghan side's efforts in countering narcotics and said Turkmenistan is ready to assist Afghanistan in treating drug addicts and in «other issues».

Mr. Akhnud shared his work plans with the Turkmen ambassador, but the publication does not give details.

<https://www.hronikatm.com/2023/06/af-drug-addicts-treatment-help/>

REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

газета.uz MORE THAN 2 TONS OF DRUGS BURNT IN TASHKENT

More than 2 tons of drugs were burned in Tashkent on International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. Law enforcers seized 952 kg of drugs during the whole 2022 and the period since the beginning of this year.

In connection with the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, celebrated on 26 June, an annual action was organized in Tashkent's Yangikhayot district to destroy drugs seized by law enforcement agencies, the press service of the Customs Committee reported.

In 2022 and since the beginning of this year, a total of 952 kg of narcotic drugs have been seized (in 706 cases), as well as 440,000 potent drugs and more than 7,000 psychotropic substances, including 245 kg of heroin, 300 kg of hashish, 143 kg of opium, 228 kg of synthetic drugs, 31 kg of marijuana, 67,000 tramadol tablets, among the drugs seized as evidence.

To date, border customs checkpoints have been equipped with 23 inspection systems, 15 human scanners, 202 X-ray machines and other necessary means to detect smuggling of psychotropic substances.

The National Canine Center of the Customs Committee trains cynologists and service dogs to combat illicit smuggling of narcotics, potent and psychotropic substances.

More than 2 tons 51 kg of drugs were destroyed by burning at the 26 June event.

<https://www.gazeta.uz/ru/2023/06/26/drugs/>

NOVA24 UZ SYNTHETIC DRUGS INCREASING IN POPULARITY IN UZBEKISTAN

Hashish, opium, and heroin remain the most widely available.

1,279 drug crimes were solved in Uzbekistan in 2022.

A total of 917 kg of narcotic drugs, including heroin, opium and hashish, were seized.

In addition, 373,000 potent and psychotropic drugs were stopped from being illicitly trafficked.

The State Security Service noted an increase in seizures of synthetic drugs. Over 32 kg of mephedrone, amphetamine, Alpha-PVP and MDMA were prevented from trafficking in 2022.

Under international cooperation with the FSB of Russia, the GKNB of Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, nine active measures and special operations were conducted, as a result of which 11 drug lords were detained and 166.4 kg of drugs were seized.

Earlier it was reported that a shipment of juice with methamphetamine was going to be smuggled into Tashkent. Customs officers suspected the presence of drugs and revealed the scheme.

It should be reminded that schoolchildren will be taught a negative attitude to drugs. New methods will be introduced into educational process to work with children's psyche.

<https://nova24.uz/uzbekistan/v-uzbekistane-uvelichilas-populyarnost-sinteticheskikh-narkotikov/>

USA



USA TAKES ACTION TO TACKLE FENTANYL-OPIOID CRISIS



Opioids remain the deadliest group of drugs worldwide, accounting for two-thirds of deaths directly related to drug use, according to a 2022 report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

The UN estimates that the number of people using opioids in 2020 was double the number in 2010.

USA was the first to be hit by the fentanyl crisis
Fentanyl overdose deaths reach record high in the United States and Canada

But it's not just a problem in North America. «We

know this problem is going to spread to other parts of the world,» Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said after a meeting with Western Hemisphere mayors to discuss ways to address the synthetic opioid crisis, held on April 28 at the Summit of America's Cities in Denver.

«Criminal groups that manufacture and distribute synthetic opioids like fentanyl are attempting to create markets in other countries and regions,» the secretary of state said.

There is another reason why fentanyl can be considered an international problem: chemicals used to produce fentanyl sold in one country are often produced in some other country. Coordinated action by different countries is needed to address such a threat.

That's why the U.S. government is working closely with authorities in other countries, as well as public health experts, physicians, businesses, and law enforcement officials to address this issue.

For example, during the Summit of the Americas, the United States Department of State and the Denver Office of Forensic Science signed an agreement to enhance forensic capabilities in the Americas for timely detection of synthetic drugs and other trends in drug production and use. Collaboration is designed to enhance action against fentanyl use throughout the United States and abroad.

Coordinated global efforts

The United States leads a coordinated global effort, working with international partners to disrupt the illicit trade in synthetic drugs. These efforts are designed to accomplish the following objectives:

- Preventing illicit drug production;
- Detecting threats arising from drug production and use;
- Countering illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs;
- Combating financing of illicit activities;
- Preventing negative impacts on public safety and public health.

These efforts are yielding results.

In May, the Government of the United States organized a three-week event involving judicial, law enforcement and security officials from 56 countries to exchange experiences to develop ideas for combating the trade in illicit synthetic drugs. Participants included representatives from Botswana, Ecuador, Morocco, Norway and Thailand.

Also in May, the U.S. Department of Justice announced results of a coordinated international counternarcotics operation that was conducted simultaneously in the United States, Europe and South America. During the

operation, 288 arrests were made and a record amount of fentanyl sold on the darknet was seized.

The U.S. government has also imposed sanctions and/or filed charges in connection with fentanyl trafficking activities, including against the Mexican drug cartel Sinaloa. The Department of Justice calls the cartel «the largest, most violent and effective criminal organization involved in fentanyl trafficking worldwide».

«Cooperation between countries around the world ... is critical,» Blinken said after his meeting with mayors.

<https://share.america.gov/ru/%D1%81%D1%88%D0%B0-%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%B8%D0%BD%D0%B8%D0%BC%D0%B0%D1%8E%D1%82-%D0%BC%D0%B5%D1%80%D1%8B-%D1%87%D1%82%D0%BE%D0%B1%D1%8B-%D0%BF%D1%80%D0%B5%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%BE%D0%BB%D0%B5%D1%82%D1%8C-%D1%84/>





**CENTRAL ASIAN REGIONAL INFORMATION AND COORDINATION
CENTRE FOR COMBATING THE ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OF NARCOTIC DRUGS,
PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND THEIR PRECURSORS**

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