



INFORMATION RELEASE

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

01-31.07.2023

8

Almaty -2023



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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«Information Release about past events in the anti-drug
sphere», №8, 2023

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In the period from 1 to 31 July 2023, 17 counter-narcotic events were covered on the basis of information from mass media in CARICC Member States and other countries (*Azerbaijan - 2, Kazakhstan - 3, Kyrgyzstan - 4, Russia - 4, Tajikistan - 1, Turkmenistan - 1. Other countries: USA - 1*).

Published articles reflect information on discussion of media work in combating drug addiction and illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, establishment of new penalties for driving under the influence of drugs (*Azerbaijan*), on the Nomad MMA tournament among children and teenagers dedicated to the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, on introduction of new methods in prevention of illicit trafficking of synthetic drugs, on allocation of more than 53 billion tenge to combat drug addiction (*Kazakhstan*), on the launch of the campaign «Don't Be Silent, Report Where Death is Sold», on a study to identify cannabis and ephedra growing areas, on training on countering drug trafficking with the South Korean police, on a soccer tournament dedicated to International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (*Kyrgyzstan*), on meetings, actions and preventive measures in counternarcotics dedicated to the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, on meeting of the State Counternarcotics Committee (*Russia*), on meeting of the Coordination Council on Drug Abuse Prevention (*Tajikistan*), on meeting of Committee for Prevention of Drug Trafficking (*Turkmenistan*), on creation of a Coalition to Combat Synthetic Drugs (*USA*).

AZERBAIJAN REPUBLIC



MASS MEDIA WORK IN THE FIGHT AGAINST DRUG ADDICTION AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OF NARCOTIC DRUGS DISCUSSED



On 11 July, a regular meeting was held at the Cabinet of Ministers with participation of Ali Ahmedov, Deputy Prime Minister of Azerbaijan, Chairman of the State Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs, to discuss media actions in the context of combating drug addiction and illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs.

This was reported to AZERTAG by the State Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs. The event discussed results of the work done by media in January-June this year to combat drug

addiction, illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors, and tasks facing the media in this area.

Chairman of the State Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and Illicit Drug Trafficking Mr. Ali Ahmedov emphasized in his speech that combating drug addiction and illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs is one of priority tasks in Azerbaijan. Law enforcement agencies have strengthened their efforts to combat illicit drug trafficking, 5 thousand 881 cases of crimes related to illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors were detected in the first six months of this year, more than 4 tons 623 kg of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances were confiscated. Compared to the same period last year, the number of crimes increased by 103 and the amount of confiscated drugs and psychotropic substances increased by 1 ton 204 kilograms.


It was noted that, in addition to administrative measures, increased public support and education played an important role in combating drug addiction and illicit drug trafficking, and that there was a great need for the direct involvement of the media in those activities.

Chairman of the Audiovisual Council of Azerbaijan Mr. Ismet Sattarov talked about results of monitoring media activity in January-June as part of the fight against illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs and drug addiction. Speakers, including Mr. Rovshan Mammadov, Chairman of the Azerbaijan Television and Radio Broadcasting

Closed Joint Stock Company, Mr. Vugar Aliyev, Chairman of the Board of the Azerbaijan State Information Agency (AZERTAG), Mr. Bakhtiyar Sadigov, Editor-in-Chief of the Azerbaijan newspaper, Mr. Ahmed Ismayilov, Executive Director of the Media Development Agency, Mr. Balakishi Gasimov, General Director of the Public Television, Mr. Murad Dadashev, General Director of Khazar TV LLC, Mr. Azer Khalilov, Head of the Azad Azerbaijan TV and Radio Broadcasting Company, spoke of the importance, in the light of the recommendations made, of further increasing media coverage of the harm caused by drug addiction to society and human health.

The meeting resulted in recommendations and decisions related to the preparation of new effective and efficient social videos by the mass media and the wide use of online media and social networks in conducting counternarcotics propaganda, highlighting risk factors in the use of psychoactive substances and their harmful effects on human health, as well as the continuation of the preparation and broadcasting of special programs outlining the essence of the problem, and further strengthening of cooperation between relevant governmental structures and the country's media.

https://azertag.az/ru/xeber/Obsuzhdena_rabota_SMI_v_ramkah_borby_s_narkomaniei_i_nezakonnym_oborotom_narkoticheskikh_sredstv-2690884



NEW PENALTIES FOR DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF DRUGS ESTABLISHED IN AZERBAIJAN



Azerbaijan has established new penalties for driving a vehicle in a state of drug intoxication as a result of the use of narcotic drugs, psychotropic or other substances of strong effect by a person who has the right to drive a vehicle.

This is reflected in proposed amendment to the Code of Administrative Offenses of the Republic of Azerbaijan based on the decree signed by President Ilham Aliyev.

For driving a vehicle in a state of drug intoxication as a result of the use of narcotic drugs, psychotropic or other substances of strong effect by a person having the right to drive a vehicle, there shall be imposed a fine in the amount of AZN 600, or restriction of the right to drive a vehicle for a period of 6 months to 1 year.

For repeated commission of the above misdemeanor by a person who has received an administrative penalty, within one year from the date of entry into force of the decision on administrative penalty, a fine of 800 manat with restriction of the right to drive a vehicle for 2 years shall be imposed, taking into account circumstances of a case, with restriction of the right to drive a vehicle for 2 years and administrative arrest for a period of five days to one month (taking into account personality).

For causing slight bodily harm to victim's health or causing material damage to victim as a result of the said misdemeanor, a fine in the amount of AZN 900 shall be imposed - with restriction of the right to drive a vehicle for 2 years, or according to the circumstances of the case - with restriction of the right to drive a vehicle for 2 years, administrative arrest for a period of one to two months (taking into account personality).

Detection of the fact of a person being in a state of drug intoxication as a result of the use of narcotic drugs, psychotropic or other substances that have a strong effect is carried out by means of a technical tool.

<https://1news.az/news/20230717065106989-V-Azerbaidzhane-ustanovleny-novye-shtrafy-za-vozhdenie-v-sostoyanii-narkoticheskogo-opyaneniya>

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN



«NO TO DRUGS». NOMAD MMA OPEN TOURNAMENT WAS HELD IN ALMATY



A special school of higher sportsmanship in Almaty held an open tournament on Nomad MMA among children and teenagers called ESIRTKIGE JOL JOQ, reports Tengrinews.kz with reference to «Kazinform».

Contest was held within the framework of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

Nomad MMA is a Kazakhstani style mixed martial arts sport in which fighters compete in full contact, using striking techniques with hands and feet, as well as wrestling techniques.

The tournament was attended by 154 young fighters aged from 10 to 16 years old, who fought for prizes in 18 weight and age categories. The tournament was attended by young fighters from Almaty, Almaty region and Zhetysu region. Winners of the tournament received prizes and gifts from organizers and partners.

For independence and impartiality of judging at the tournament were specially invited judges of the World Federation WFN (World Federation Nomad MMA), who have extensive experience in evaluating world-class competitions.

«Drug use is an extremely dangerous social disease. Head of State emphasizes that countering production and distribution of drugs should take a nationwide character,» said Gadzhi Gadzhiev, Vice President of the MMA Mixed Martial Arts Federation.

According to him, now it is important to consolidate efforts of society to prevent drug abuse and reduce the number of drug addicts.

«We believe that our tournament will also contribute to popularization of a healthy lifestyle among teenagers and young people,» said Mikail Nadirov, head of the Nomad MMA Federation branch in Almaty.

Tournament was organized by the branch of the Republican Nomad MMA Federation in Almaty. It was also supported by the Almaty Police Department's Drug Crime Prevention Unit.

https://tengrinews.kz/kazakhstan_news/net-narkotikam-almaty-proshel-otkryityy-turnir-nomad-mma-504185/



A survey of youth found that about 47% of college and high school students reported availability of synthetic drug purchases through social media websites.

Within a month, the established working group identified over 400 links and websites promoting synthetic drugs, of which about 100 links have been removed, the rest are at the stage of blocking.

In order to increase efficiency of countering drug trafficking, on 10 July

2023 the prosecutor's office of Zhambyl region presented telegram-bot «NARKO SHEKTEU TARAZ», with participation of akim of the region, deputies of the Parliament, first heads of law enforcement and special bodies. Main goal of the platform is to reduce the number of drug-dependent persons, formation of negative attitude and zero tolerance to drug trafficking and consumption among the population.

Channel functionality provides for the possibility of simplified placement of information in the following areas:

- Detection of websites (links) containing advertisements and offers to purchase narcotic drugs;
- reporting on geocaches (dead drops);
- publishing information on locations where drugs are manufactured and dens where drugs are used.

The software features provide a procedure for inputting received data on illegal links promoting or advertising drugs into the CyberSurveillance system for their further blocking.

Criminal information is expected to be investigated by law enforcement agencies.

The software provides «feedback» on messages of authors through designed response templates.

The meeting resulted in the endorsement by its participants of a joint Plan on implementation and launching of pilot project and improvement of interaction efficiency.

The Regional Prosecutor's Office calls on citizens to actively exercise their civic position and zero tolerance in combating drug addiction.

<https://www.zakon.kz/sobytiia/6399566-vnedryayutsya-novye-metody-v-voprosakh-profilaktiki-nezakonnogo-oborota-sinteticheskikh-narkotikov.html>



The Government of Kazakhstan by its resolution of 29 June 2023 approved the « Comprehensive Plan to Combat Drug Addiction and Drug Trafficking in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2023-2025» reports Zakon.kz.

About drug situation in Kazakhstan

Main types of drugs consumed in the country include:

- opiates, including those transiting from Afghanistan through the country along the so-called Northern route, which

is used extensively by organized crime in neighboring states;

- synthetic drugs produced in Kazakhstan;
- growing and cultivated cannabis and its derivatives;
- medicines containing psychoactive drugs, so-called «pharmacy» drug addiction.

Moreover, existence of stable import channels, clandestine drug production facilities (including «phyto-laboratories» for growing cannabis), use by drug dealers of modern technical achievements (Darknet, messengers, cryptocurrency wallets, etc.), and insufficient study of modern synthetic drugs and clinics of manifestation contribute to distribution of drugs.

What is planned to tackle drug proliferation

In order to strengthen efforts to combat new manifestations of drug trafficking, the Mazhilis is currently considering a draft law that provides for stricter liability for illicit trafficking in precursors (only smuggling is criminalized), other substances and equipment used for manufacture of drugs (in this case, sale is a mandatory element).

It is also planned to study judicial practice in cases of drug crimes, especially newly introduced drug crimes, in order to elaborate explanations and proposals for improving corresponding legislation.

In order to interdict distribution of «synthetics», it is important to include measures to:

enhancing control of precursors, other substances and equipment used for manufacture of drugs, primarily in border and customs inspection areas, and considering further use in industry or disposal;

limiting the use of Internet technologies in drug trafficking, including through expansion in Kazakhstan of representative offices of foreign online platforms and instant messaging services, whose operations in this case will be subject to the norms of current legislation of the Republic of Kazakhstan, and provider, banking and postal services.

In addition, functions of the Ministry of Internal Affairs in the area of combating cybercrime should be broadly expanded in terms of:

addressing conditions conducive to distribution of drugs in entertainment venues and other facilities within relevant risk zone, expanding list and regulating measures aimed at preventing sale and (or) non-medical use of drugs;

introduction of screening for substance use among decreed groups of the population, taking into account gradual expansion, based on the need to establish the real number of drug users rather than their personal data.

Priority measures to stabilize drug distribution situation are as follows:

equipping border crossing points with inspection equipment to detect drugs, precursors and drug laboratory equipment transported by heavy trucks under the guise of inventory and legal chemical products;

strengthening logistical and technical base of forensic examination bodies for accelerated examination of new synthetic drugs, and blood samples and other biomaterials to be collected by health authorities as part of medical examination of citizens;

introduction of screening to detect drug addiction at early stages, contributing to generation of reliable records of drug users, effective analysis of drug situation and development of adequate drug abuse prevention measures;

modernization and launching of treatment and rehabilitation centers, increasing demand for finished products of treatment and labor workshops, and monitoring the delivery of medical and social assistance to drug addicts from psychoactive substances in private drug centers;

increasing effectiveness of detection and interdiction of cannabis harvesting, cannabis distribution channels and dismantling of clandestine drug laboratories in remote areas using modern technical means.

For implementation of measures of the Comprehensive Plan to Combat Drug Addiction and Drug Trafficking in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2023-2025 it is envisaged to allocate 53.1 billion tenge from the budget, including about 367 million tenge of funds of the Republican State Enterprise «Center of Forensic Expertise» of the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Kazakhstan..

Expected results of the Programme implementation

Reducing latency of drug users by increasing the number of persons registered for the first time as users of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances of synthetic origin (source: 1-N KPSSU report) for 2023 - 5%, 2024 - 10%, 2025 - 15%.

Increase the share of minors removed from dynamic monitoring with long-term remission from the total number of minors diagnosed with drug addiction on dynamic monitoring (source: data from the Ministry of Health) by 2023 - 15%, 2024 - 18%, 2025 - 20%.

Updating lists of drugs and precursors subject to control in the Republic of Kazakhstan by adding new types of substances found in illicit markets (source: Resolution of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan of 03.07.2019 № 470) for 2023 - 5%, 2024 - 5%, 2025 - 5%.

Decreased availability of synthetic drugs by increasing seizures f (source: 1-N KPSSU report) for 2023 - 10%, 2024 - 15%, 2025 - 20%.

Increase the share of persons covered by medical and social rehabilitation program from the total number of drug addicts who underwent voluntary treatment (source: data of the Ministry of Health) by 2023 - 26%, 2024 - 28%, 2025 - 30%.

Reduction of timeframes for forensic examination of synthetic drugs (source: Ministry of Justice data): 2023 - up to 10 days, 2024 - up to 5 days, 2025 - up to 3 days.

Curbing trafficking in precursors, other substances and equipment used for drug manufacture, with an increase in their seizures (source: 1-N KPSSU report): 2023 - 5 times, 2024 - 10 times, 2025 - 15 times.

Identification and blocking of drug selling websites with their share in the total structure of illegal Internet content (source: IS «Kibernadzor»): 2023 - 25%, 2024 - 27%, 2025 - 30%.

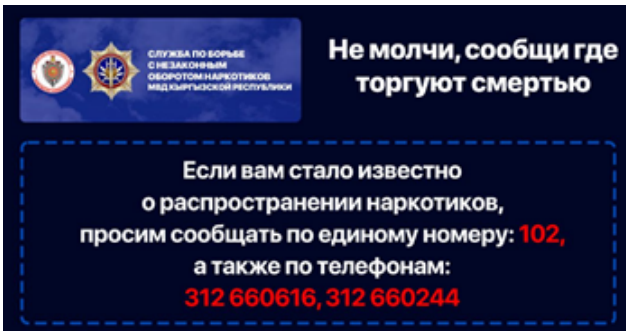
The resolution is effective as of 29 June 2023.

<https://www.zakon.kz/pravo/6399599-bolee-53-mlrd-tenge-vydelyat-na-borbu-s-narkomaniey-v-kazakhstane.html>

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC



THE CAMPAIGN «DON'T BE SILENT, REPORT WHERE DEATH IS SOLD» LAUNCHED IN KYRGYZSTAN



The Counter Narcotics Service launched the campaign «Don't be silent, report where death is sold». This was reported by press service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

It is specified that goals of the event are to attract public to the problems related to drug distribution and to obtain information from population about various offenses and crimes in the sphere of drug trafficking.

The Service urges citizens not to stand idly by and to take

active part in preventing drug distribution.

It is possible to report about potential cases of drug distribution on the condition of anonymity to special numbers: 102, 0312660616, 0312660244, and also to write a message in social networks to the following accounts: @mvd_official_kg, @sbnon_kg.

https://24.kg/obschestvo/269810_vkyrgyzizstane_zapustili_aksiyu_nemolchi_soobschi_gde_torguyut_smertyu/



A STUDY TO IDENTIFY CANNABIS AND EPHEDRA GROWING AREAS WAS CONDUCTED BY THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS



Counter Narcotics Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kyrgyzstan and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Programme Office in Bishkek conducted a regular study in Issyk-Kul region to identify areas of growth and illegal cultivation of cannabis and ephedra. This is reported by the Russian Embassy in the Kyrgyz Republic.

According to it, during monitoring with the help of unmanned aerial vehicles transferred to the Kyrgyz side in July 2022 at the expense of a voluntary contribution of the Russian Federation to the UNODC fund, images of the terrain on an area of more than 250 hectares were taken, which will be used in further work.

Diplomatic mission notes that in total in 2018 - 2023 the Russian side provided \$1.45 million for implementation of UNODC projects to capacity building of the Counter Narcotics Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kyrgyzstan.

https://24.kg/obschestvo/270205_issledovanie_povyiyavleniyu_mest_proizrastaniya_konopli_iefedryi_proveli_vmvd/



POLICE OFFICERS SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED TRAINING ON COUNTERING DRUG TRAFFICKING WITH THE SOUTH KOREAN POLICE



Police officers successfully completed training on countering drug trafficking, including on the Internet, under the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) Program.

It should be reminded that a week-long training with participation of specialists from the National Police of the Republic of Korea started in Bishkek at the end of June this year.

At the closing ceremony, Mr. Ulanbek Sultanov, Head of the CNS of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, noted that the knowledge gained during the training would be used by officers in countering drug trafficking and expressed the

importance of sharing experience and international cooperation on the issues of drug trafficking control in the context of increasing drug trafficking using information and communication technologies.

Mr. Yuk Chong Myung, head of delegation from the National Police of the Republic of Korea, presented certificates to officers and wished them success in their hard work.

The event was also attended by Mr. Lee Jongsu, Head of the KOICA Representative Office in the Kyrgyz Republic, who noted that KOICA plans to continue implementing practical projects in the Kyrgyz Republic to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (2030).

<https://mvd.gov.kg/rus/news/2135>



CNS OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS IN OSH HELD A SOCCER TOURNAMENT DEDICATED TO THE INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST DRUG ABUSE AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING

In the context of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the CNS MIA organized a soccer game for teenagers at the A. Momunov Football Academy in Osh.

Purpose of this event is to call the younger generation to a healthy lifestyle.

Sports event began with the singing of the anthem of the Kyrgyz Republic, then with a welcoming speech was made by Deputy Head of the CNS of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Colonel of Police Marat Khazhimatov, who urged young people to courageous feats, the most important wealth is the health of everyone.

Healthy youth is the future of the country. Soccer is one of popular sports that plays an important role in shaping and protecting the rights and well-being of all children.

He also urged to refrain from bad habits. «I would like to wish everyone longevity and a bright future. I would like to address all children and their parents and urge them to lead a correct, healthy lifestyle.

In turn, leadership of the Football Academy thanked the CNS MIA KR for organizing and conducting such a sporting event and wished the service positive results in their work.

The Academy also assured, it is always ready to help the Service in educating young generation.

At the end of the tournament participants in nominations of the best player, goalkeeper, scorer, defender, coach and referee were rewarded with valuable gifts.

And also those who took 1,2,3,4 places were rewarded with cups, cash prizes, valuable gifts with the logo of the OSCE and CNS of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic.

<https://mvd.gov.kg/rus/news/2093>

RUSSIAN FEDERATION



POLICE OFFICERS AND PUBLIC ACTIVISTS ORGANIZED COUNTERNARCOTICS EVENTS WITH YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE SAMARA REGION



Police officers and community leaders in the Samara region regularly hold counternarcotic talks with young people.

Officers of the regional Drug Control Department in cooperation with a specialist from the Samara Regional Center for Public Health and Medical Prevention met with teenagers resting in the children's recreation center «Salut-2». During the event children were told about the harm of using narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, discussed consequences of drug addiction, and were informed about criminal and administrative responsibility for offenses and crimes in the field of illicit drug trafficking. At the end of the event teenagers were shown a documentary film «Addict»,

prepared by the ANK Apparatus of the Samara region in cooperation with the Department of Information Policy of the Samara Region Governor's Administration with participation of Drug Control Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the Samara region, stakeholders and organizations.

A senior operative of the Drug Control Department of the local internal affairs body gave a preventive talk to schoolchildren at a school camp in the village of Alkino in Pokhvistnevsky District. He noted that in adolescence the body is particularly susceptible to harmful effects, and use of narcotic substances can cause irreparable damage to health. Having told about the responsibility for drug trafficking, the police officer drew special attention of schoolchildren to safe behavior on the Internet, urging them to exclude communication with strangers who, under the pretext of quick money, may involve them in a criminal scheme to distribute drugs. At the end of the conversation, the police officer answered all questions asked and also handed out anti-drug leaflets.

Pokhvistnevsk police officers together with community members also talked to young people in Druzhba Park. The talks were aimed at preventing drug addiction among teenagers, forming an anti-drug worldview among young people and explaining the rules of safe summer recreation. Organizers of the event stressed that consequences of taking alcohol and drugs at a young age may require medical intervention and may even lead to death. The children's attention was drawn to the fact that addictions do not make teenagers more mature. They have a negative impact on communication with friends, family and relatives, on how their lives will turn out in the future.

At the end of the conversations, police officers and representative of the Public Council Tatiana Luptsova reminded about the rules of safe rest and behavior in public places, about the curfew for minors, and also urged schoolchildren to lead a healthy lifestyle, confidently go to their goals, self-improvement and actively demonstrate their anti-drug position.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/39928685>



POLICE OFFICERS IN KALMYKIA HELD A PREVENTIVE EVENT WITH CHILDREN FROM THE LUHANSK PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC



In the town of Gorodovikovsk, employees of the Drug Control Department of the regional agency held an informative and entertaining event with children who came to the Republic of Kalmykia from the town of Anthracite, LPR for summer vacation.

The event was held at the Kalmyk Cadet Corps of the Republic of Kalmykia named after B.B. Gorodovikov. At the beginning of the event, Police Lieutenant Colonel Victoria Badmaeva prepared a story about the work of police officers, including officers of the Drug Control Department, for the young residents of the LPR.

During the meeting, police officers showed a presentation to the children, spoke about responsibility for the use and distribution of narcotic substances and the preventive work being done in this area.

Then the schoolchildren learned about features of the work and life of the special-purpose unit «Grom». Students of the «Young Paratrooper - Grom» teenage club demonstrated to the guests of Kalmykia demonstrations, weapons and hand-to-hand combat techniques. Afterwards, quizzes and various contests were organized for the children.

At the end of the meeting, children thanked guests for interesting meeting, and police officers, in turn, wished schoolchildren a good and safe vacation.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--plai/news/item/40083713>



POLICE OFFICERS IN TUVA PARTICIPATED IN THE HEART OF ASIA YOUTH FORUM

On July 25 to 27, 2023, the interregional youth forum «Heart of Asia» was held on the territory of the Durgen Canyon in the Tandinsky district of the Republic of Tyva. As part of the forum's activities, on July 25, 2023, the Drug Control Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Tyva Republic held a meeting with young people aged 18 to 35 living in the territory of the Tyva Republic.

The «Heart of Asia» Forum gathered activists of volunteer organizations, students of Tuvan communities of Russian cities, authors of the best volunteer practices and volunteer initiatives in the region.

The Forum included 7 platforms: «Patriotic Education», «Safety», «Prevention», «Family, Family Values», «Historical Memory», «Health», «Care for Nature».

Police Lieutenant Sayzana Namdan, an operative of the Drug Control Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Tyva Republic, spoke at the «Prevention» platform, which has educational and preventive value for young people.

Police officer emphasized to young people the risks and consequences of drug use, measures of responsibility for committing drug offences, and held discussions and debates aimed at improving legal literacy and promoting healthy lifestyles among young people.

The meeting was held in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere, which facilitated more open communication and mutual understanding. Young people listened with interest and asked a lot of questions, showing a keen interest in the problems of drug addiction and drug crime.

The meeting of officers from the Drug Control Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Tyva with young people at the forum was an important platform for the exchange of knowledge and ideas in the fight against drug trafficking. She emphasized the need for joint efforts by government agencies, the public and young people to prevent the spread of drug abuse and create a healthy future for all.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--plai/news/item/40350511>



VLADIMIR KOLOKOLTSEV HELD A MEETING OF THE STATE COUNTER-NARCOTICS COMMITTEE



«A meeting of the State Counter-Narcotics Committee was held today under the chairmanship of Police General Vladimir Kolokoltsev, Minister of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation,» said Irina Volk, official spokesperson for the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia.

Its agenda included four items, the first of which dealt with measures to improve effectiveness of anti-drug propaganda in the modern digital environment.

Mr. Kolokoltsev stated that serious work is being done in this area - at the end of last year it was possible to close access to 83 thousand

websites and individual Internet pages containing information on distribution of drugs.

Also, he said, there is constant monitoring of advertisements on the subject.

Speaking about main tasks in this direction, Mr. Kolokoltsev pointed out the need to minimize negative impact of pro-drug content, primarily on the younger generation, which is the most vulnerable category.

According to the minister, the sanctions currently in place for those who distribute banned substances are not sufficient, suggesting that further work is needed to improve legislation.

Along with prohibition measures, Mr. Kolokoltsev believes, it is necessary to work on increasing the content aimed at rejecting drugs and strengthening traditional values.

Also, meeting participants discussed implementation of instructions of the operative meeting of the Security Council of the Russian Federation of 2 November last year and paid attention to issues of import substitution to meet the needs of all participants in the process of countering illicit drug trafficking.

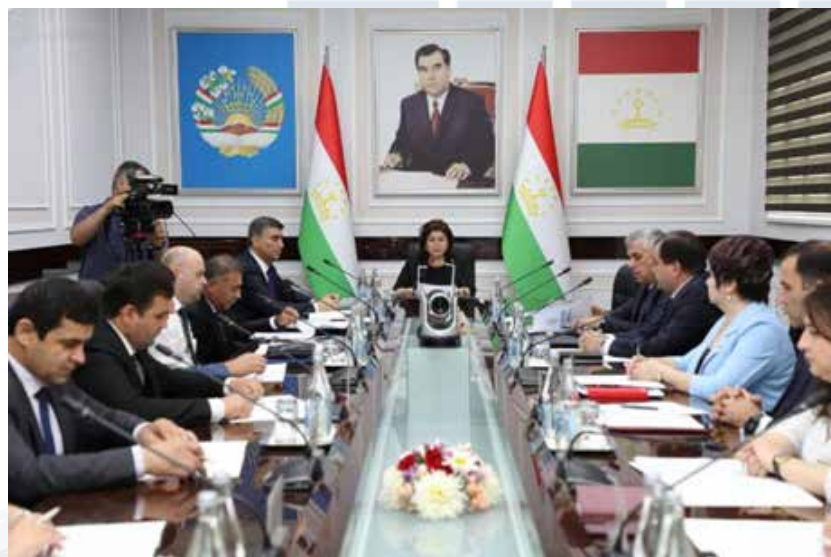
In addition, results of monitoring drug situation in the country were analyzed at the event. As Mr. Kolokoltsev emphasized, results of last year show that it remained stable on the whole.

<https://versia.ru/vladimir-kolokolcev-provel-zasedanie-gosudarstvennogo-antinarkoticheskogo-komiteta>

REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN



REGULAR MEETING OF THE COORDINATION COUNCIL FOR DRUG ABUSE PREVENTION



On July 14 this year, the Drug Control Agency under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan hosted a meeting of the Coordination Council on Drug Abuse Prevention, chaired by Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan Sattoriyon Matlubakhon Amonzoda, where a number of important issues were discussed.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Chairman of the Council - Director of the Drug Control Agency under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, Major General of Justice Habibullo Vokhidzoda, members of the coordination council -

representatives of relevant departments of the Executive Office of the President of the Republic of Tajikistan and leadership of relevant ministries and agencies, as well as members of the Coordination Secretariat of the Council and representatives of the media.

At the beginning of the meeting, the Chairman of the Coordination Council - Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Tajikistan M.A.Sattoriyon made a speech on implementation of instructions and assignments of the Founder of Peace and National Unity - Leader of the Nation, President of the Republic of Tajikistan Honorable Emomali Rahmon, on implementation of paragraphs of the resolution of the Coordination Council on Drug Abuse Prevention and ways to ensure implementation of the «National Drug Control Strategy in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2021-2030» and «Plan for its implementation for the period of 2021-2030».

The meeting heard reports from the deputy chairmen of Dushanbe and GBAO on ensuring fulfillment of requirements of the «National Strategy on Drug Control in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2021-2030».

Also, Deputy Minister of Education and Science of the Republic of Tajikistan presented information on «implementation of the provisions of the National Strategy on Drug Control in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2021-2030 in the field of drug prevention among minors».

After discussion of the items on the agenda, recommendations were given to relevant ministries and agencies that by implementing at the appropriate level necessary measures to ensure and fulfill requirements of the «National Strategy on Drug Control in the Republic of Tajikistan for 2021-2030» in the field of combating illicit drug trafficking, legal control of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursors, and drug abuse prevention, they will make their worthy contribution to reducing drug addiction.

Furthermore, relevant resolutions were adopted on the agenda items considered and on further action of the Coordination Council.

<https://akn.tj/ru/2023/07/14/zhalasai-navbatii-sh%d1%9eroi-khamokhangsozi-oid-ba-peshgirii-suiiste%ca%bbmoli-mavodi-nashjador/>

TURKMENISTAN

**A MEETING ON PREVENTING DRUG TRAFFICKING WAS HELD IN ASHGABAT**

A meeting of the Steering Committee of the Seventh Phase of the Central Asia Drug Action Programme was held in Ashgabat on 5 July. This is reported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan.

Representatives of CA countries, EU delegation in CA, representatives of European institutions and EU programs took part in the meeting. Participants of the event discussed

actions related to drug prevention, reviewing achievements and successes in this area.

A supplementary session entitled «Turkmenistan's Experience in Combating Smoking and Alcohol Consumption» was held on 6 July on protection and improvement of citizens' lives, measures taken and programs implemented in this area, and popularization (primarily among young people) of principles of healthy lifestyle.

<https://arzuw.news/v-ashhabade-sostojalos-zasedanie-po-predotvrashheniju-rasprostraneniya-narkotikov>

U.S. BUILDS COALITION TO COMBAT SYNTHETIC DRUGS



WASHINGTON. KAZINFORM - The U.S. Department of State held a virtual meeting of foreign ministers on creation of a Global Coalition to Combat Threats Associated with Synthetic Drugs. The event was attended by Mr. Murat Nurtleu, Deputy Prime Minister - Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, reports correspondent of «Kazinform».

In his opening remarks, Mr. A. Blinken, US Secretary of State, noted that the problem of synthetic drugs is acutely felt in the USA. Last year, almost 110,000 Americans died of overdoses, two-thirds of which were related to synthetic drugs. In addition, this problem

causes huge economic damage to the country, the cost of tackling it is almost 1.5 trillion US dollars.

The U.S. Secretary of State emphasized that no country can solve this problem alone. Therefore, when one government restricts the use of precursor chemicals (necessary for production of drugs) or closes a transit route, traffickers use other states as a way to circumvent these measures.

In this connection, the U.S. is establishing a Global Coalition that will focus on three key areas: preventing illicit synthetic drug manufacture and trafficking, identifying emerging threats, and developing public health measures to prevent and reduce drug use.

Furthermore, members of the Global Coalition will seek to improve information-sharing among governments in the private sector, improve chemical labeling and customer base protocols, which involves preventing diversion of precursors for illicit use of narcotic substances.

Mr. Blinken pointed out that cooperation with governments and international organizations alone is not enough. Coalition members need to cooperate with the private sector, including chemical manufacturers, shipping companies, social media platforms (where synthetic drugs are advertised) and civil society, including community organizations.

Mr. M. Nurtleu, Deputy Prime Minister - Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, noted that Kazakhstan highly appreciates leading role of the United States and its initiative to create a Global Coalition to Combat Threats Associated with Synthetic Drugs. Kazakhstan has always been in favor of uniting efforts of countries around the world in countering illicit manufacture and trafficking of drugs.

The Kazakh official said that over the past three years, the amount of synthetic drugs seized from the black market has increased tenfold. In 2022, Kazakhstan's law enforcement agencies investigated about 3,000 drug crimes, of which 60% were related to sale. 70 clandestine laboratories were dismantled, 16 tons of drugs were confiscated, including 582 kg of synthetic drugs.

Following the assignment of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan Kassym-Jomart Tokayev on 5 July this year, the Kazakh government approved the Comprehensive Plan to Combat Drug Addiction and Drug Trafficking for 2023-2025. It also allocated 178 million U.S. dollars to train young people, modernize rehabilitation institutions and combat drug trafficking. Modernization of border checkpoints has been carried out. The Parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan proposed 11 initiatives, such as a public awareness campaign, research initiatives and police training.

Mr. Nurtleu drew attention to efforts of the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC), which is the only multilateral body in the region specializing in combating drug trafficking. 82 operations have been implemented since its inception in 2009, during which more than 5.7 tons of drugs and 62 tons of precursors have been seized.

Deputy Prime Minister expressed gratitude to the U.S. for its consistent support to CARICC and noted that successful partnership with the U.S. plays a crucial role in countering drug trafficking. Kazakhstan is thankful for technical assistance, supply of vehicles and specialized equipment.

Kazakhstan remains undeterred in its commitment to combat synthetic drugs through domestic measures, engagement with the U.S. and cooperation with the international community. Kazakhstan stands ready to continue working closely with all Global Coalition partners.

It should be highlighted that the event was attended by over forty foreign ministers from Europe, Southeast Asia, the Middle East and Latin America.

The meeting resulted in the establishment of three expert working groups on key areas of the Global Coalition's work. In September this year, a meeting is planned to be held in the context of the UN General Assembly, where expert groups will report on progress made and propose further areas of cooperation among the Global Coalition members.

https://www.inform.kz/ru/ssha-sozdayut-koaliciyu-po-bor-be-s-sinteticheskimi-narkotikami_a4088119





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

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