

Unofficial translation

CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY

(based on mass media reports)

05-11.08.2019

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CARICC MEMBER STATES

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

11.08.2019 Officers of the Akmola Region Police Department detained two women suspected of selling drugs during a special operation in Shortandy district. A 61-year-old resident of Shortandy village sold **10.59 g of heroin**. On the same day, her accomplice, a 35-year-old resident of the Akkol district, who was supplying heroin to the suspect for sale, was detained. Electronic scales were found and confiscated at the place of residence of the latter, as well as a package of **59.91 grams of heroin**. A pre-trial investigation into the sale of narcotic drugs is under way.

https://tengrinews.kz/kazakhstan_news/pensionerku-partiey-geroina-zaderjali-akmolinsky-oblasti-376322/

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

12.08.2019 A truck carrying 19 tonnes of fruit was detained by Kyrgyz Interior Ministry officers in Kara-Kul, Jalal-Abad Oblast, during a special operation. Among peaches and pears, police officers found 93 briquettes containing **44.3 kg of heroin**. The consignment of heroin was loaded on a truck in the village of Uch-Korgon in the Kadamjai district of Batken province, which was to be transported to Russia and European countries. The heroin seized was of the highest quality, the so-called "999" grade. Police identified the owner of the truck. A criminal case has been initiated and an investigation has been launched.

https://24.kg/proisshestvija/126180_vdjatal-abadskoy-oblasti-zaderjana-krupnaya-partiya-geroina/

12.08.2019 Officers of SBNON of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic conducted a special operation in Chui oblast aimed at detecting a stable supply chain of especially large consignments of heroin to Kyrgyzstan. As a result, an active member of a drug gang was arrested and **13.5 kg of heroin** were seized from him. Pre-trial proceedings have been initiated in this regard.

https://24.kg/proisshestvija/126205_vchuyskoy-oblasti-izyyato-135-kilogramma-geroina/

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

09.08.2019 Officers of UNK of the Russian Interior Ministry's Main Directorate for the Rostov region detained a resident of the region suspected of illicit production of synthetic drugs for subsequent sale in the Rostov region. The man has equipped a laboratory for manufacturing synthetic drugs in a country house in the Bagaevsky district. During a search, precursors, chemical reagents, laboratory equipment and more than **1.5 kg of synthetic drug** were seized that were stored in two plastic containers. A criminal case has been initiated. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/17878861>

REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

06.08.2019 Police officers in Kokand, Ferghana Oblast, detained a 33-year-old local resident selling **1.69 kg of opium** for \$12,000. A criminal case has been initiated and an investigation is under way. <https://www.mvd.uz/ru/lists/view/7255>

08.08.2019 In the course of the large-scale measure “Cherniy Mak – 2019” (from rus. - “Black Poppy-2019”), on the side of the highway “Tashkent – Almalyk” passing through the mahalla “Namuna” in the Pskent district of Tashkent region, officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Uzbekistan detained a 51-year-old resident of the city of Almalyk, who was found carrying **7.42 kg of marijuana** in a bag. A criminal case has been opened and an investigation is under way. <https://www.mvd.uz/ru/lists/view/7267>

OTHER COUNTRIES

BELARUS

08.08.2019 According to information of the State Committee of forensic examinations of the Republic of Belarus, a new psychoactive substance - **synthetic cannabinoid 5F - CUMYL - PEGACLONE** - was seized in the country for the first time. In Belarus, the substance was included in a list of banned substances in 2018, but had not been detected before. A single dose of 5F-CUMYL-PEGACLONE, a white powder with a yellow hue, was seized while inspecting a car in Bialynichy, Mogilev region. The drug was first detected in 2017 in Budapest, Hungary. <https://www.belnovosti.by/proisshestiya/v-belarus-popal-novyy-sinteticheskiy-narkotik>

UNITED KINGDOM

06.08.2019 An international investigation has led to one of the largest seizures of heroin in the United Kingdom. NCA intelligence identified a container ship suspected of transporting a large consignment of drugs on its way to Antwerp, Belgium. The vessel moored in Felixstowe. Border guards and the NCA removed a container in which about **398 kg of heroin** were concealed under the cover of many towels and bathrobes. Heroin was seized and the container was returned as part of a “controlled delivery” to the ship that continued to the port of Antwerp. Upon arrival, the container was loaded onto a truck and transported to Rotterdam. On 5 August, when suspects attempted to unload the contents, the Netherlands police arrested the smugglers. The NCA simultaneously arrested a man from Bromsgrove. Street value of the shipment of heroin is estimated at £9 million. The seizure of heroin is a result of a targeted intelligence-led investigation conducted by the NCA with international and British partners. <https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/40m-heroin-seizure-after-international-operation>

VIETNAM

07.08.2019 Police officers on the Tai Nguyen-Cho Moy Expressway, north of Hanoi, stopped a car carrying three men, one from Laos and two from Viet Nam. After examining the vehicle under the floor and inside a door, **39.6 kg of heroin** were found stashed in caches. Drug couriers in the vehicle were arrested.

<https://e.vnexpress.net/news/news/cops-seize-39kg-of-heroin-hidden-in-car-on-vietnam-expressway-3965206.html>

GAMBIA

06.08.2019 The Drug Enforcement Agency of Gambia (DLEAG) in Banjul discovered and seized **48 kg of cocaine** in a sugar container. Two suspects have been arrested: Gambian and Lebanese nationals, who are currently in the custody of DLEAG and are assisting counter-narcotics officers in their investigations. Cocaine is of Brazilian origin and was destined for the Laura Food Company, which has been supplying foodstuffs since 2016. Cocaine packages were inside sugar bags. <http://thepoint.gm/africa/gambia/article/gambian-drug-officials-discover-48-blocks-of-cocaine>

GERMANY

07.08.2019 The General Customs Administration in Hamburg examined a container ship with a suspicious container loaded with tobacco boxes from Rio Grande, Brazil, going to Antwerp, Belgium, as a result of risk analysis of imported goods, which resulted in discovery of about **1.65 tons of cocaine**. The container shipped 64 sports bags with 1,575 packages of high quality pressed cocaine. Market value of the shipment was estimated at about 350 million euros. Investigation is being conducted by the Hamburg Customs Service on behalf of the Hamburg Prosecutor's Office. The seized cocaine was destroyed in strict secrecy and with extensive security measures.

https://www.zoll.de/SharedDocs/Pressemitteilungen/DE/Rauschgift/2019/y99_kokain_hh.html

GREECE

08.08.2019 Financial crime unit and the anti-drug unit seized **3.4 kg of heroin** hidden in African folk art paintings that had been delivered by international mail to the Athens courier office from Mozambique via France. The Greek authorities, to whom French colleagues reported the parcel, arrested the recipient of the parcel, a 27-year-old Nigerian national.

<http://www.ekathimerini.com/243435/article/ekathimerini/news/athens-police-intercept-heroin-package>

EGYPT

10.08.2019 Officers of the Criminal Investigation Police of the General Department of Public Funds of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Egypt arrested 52 drug traffickers in 13 governorates throughout the country as a result of anti-drug measures taken against drug traffickers: Cairo, Menufiya, Matrukh, Beheir, Kalubiya, Ismailia, Alexandria, Suez, Dakhliya, Port Saeeda, Minya, Kenesh and Sharkia. Seized were **20.675 kg of hashish, 1,370 kg of opium, 8,020 kg of Strox¹, 275 g of heroin and 825 g of cannabis**.

<https://www.egypttoday.com/Article/1/73770/Security-forces-seize-more-than-20K-kg-of-hash-ahead>

¹ Strox (name common in Egypt, smoking mixture) - drug is manufactured in local laboratories by adding chemicals frequently used by veterinarians to herbs, such as marjoram. Pesticides are sometimes added to enhance psychoactive effect. Strox is consumed through smoking, causing psychoactive effects, painful seizures, resulting in hallucinations and loss of consciousness.

INDONESIA

09.08.2019 National Narcotics Agency (BNN) stopped an attempt to smuggle **240 kg of cannabis** concealed in compressor cylinders and nitrogen cylinders into Kramat Jati, East Jakarta. Six people involved in smuggling have been arrested and may be sentenced to death if found guilty in court. <https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2019/08/09/six-nabbed-with-240-kg-of-marijuana-face-death-penalty-bnn.html>

SPAIN

10.08.2019 National Police officers and customs officials stopped an attempt to smuggle cocaine through the port of Malaga. Eight people were arrested during the Aladeen investigation operation, and five of those arrested were Malaga port workers. **8 kg of cocaine** were seized. The shipment of the preparation was "symbolic" in order to verify a plan to use the port of Malaga as an alternative route for importing drugs into Spain. The drugs were found inside a container from Puerto de Salvador, Brazil, and registered at the port of Valencia, with the port of Malaga as the final destination. The investigation also revealed that one of the suspects was growing cannabis for sale and distribution in the Cartagena area. A truckload of **37 kg of cannabis** was intercepted at the French border. <https://www.euroweeklynnews.com/2019/08/10/attempt-to-get-cocaine-through-malaga-port-thwarted/>

IRAN

05.08.2019 A special operation by the Semnan provincial police resulted in seizure of **285 kg of opium** imported from Sistan and Balochistan Province of Iran. One smuggler was arrested. <https://en.mehrnews.com/news/148485/Police-seize-285kg-of-opium-in-Iran-s-Semnan>

07.08.2019 Police in Sistan and Balochistan province seized **1,531 tons of drugs, including 1,416 kg of opium, 20 kg of heroin, 49 kg of hashish and 45 kg of other illicit drugs**, following a comprehensive reconnaissance operation in Saravan. During the operation, two smugglers were arrested, two AK-47 rifles and a large number of cartridges seized. <https://en.mehrnews.com/news/148608/Police-seize-1-5-tons-of-drugs-in-Iran-s-Saravan>

COSTA RICA

09.08.2019 As a result of joint efforts by the Public Security Ministry (MSP), Drug Enforcement Police, Coast Guard, Air Surveillance Service and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), **1,002 kilograms of cocaine** were seized and transported on a fishing vessel called the Princeso Claudio. The captain of the vessel was also a 45-year-old Costa Rican national on board with a crew of four. The vessel was intercepted by the Costa Rican Coast Guard 53 nautical miles off the coast of Puntarenas. Since the beginning of August, Costa Rican authorities have seized **2,147 kg of cocaine** and arrested 13 people. MSP also provided information that helped the Mexican and Guatemalan police seize about 550 kg of cocaine in their countries from planes that were travelling through Costa Rica. <https://ticotimes.net/2019/08/09/1000-kilos-of-cocaine-seized-off-coast-of-puntarenas>

COLOMBIA

05.08.2019 A 42-year-old Colombian national was detained at Eldorado International Airport in Bogota while attempting to smuggle **780 grams of liquid cocaine** into Madrid. A container of liquid cocaine was surgically placed under the skin on a woman's left thigh. The suspect confessed that she had been hired by a criminal group as a drug courier to transport cocaine to Spain. Street value of the drugs was estimated at about \$37,000. The suspect was immediately taken to Engativas Hospital, where she underwent an emergency operation to remove the drug bag. The surgeon told the police that woman sowed stitches herself. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-7328469/Woman-busted-nearly-kilo-liquid-cocaine-IMPLANTED-leg-Bogot-airport.html>

MEXICO

11.08.2019 Marines discovered a small boat in Pacific waters, about 139 km northeast of the port of Chiapas, near the Mexican border with Guatemala. The operation involved the use of an airplane, a helicopter and two ocean patrol vessels. During arrest, smugglers threw 38 bags of cocaine into the sea. A total of **1.2 tons of cocaine** were seized. Seven people were arrested. The seizure was the second such operation in southern Mexico in less than a week. On 5 August, the army intercepted a plane carrying **450 kg of cocaine** in a coastal city in the state of Chiapas. <https://en.trend.az/world/other/3103470.html>

NICARAGUA

05.08.2019 National police officers in the municipality of El Viejo, Chinandega department, located on the border with El Salvador, found 12 **cocaine bags weighing 640 kg** in caches on a ranch on a farm in the region. Police arrested two people. <https://www.plenglish.com/index.php?o=rn&id=45221&SEO=nicaraguan-police-seize-more-than-half-a-ton-of-cocaine>

THE NETHERLANDS

09.08.2019 Customs officers found a shipment of **cocaine weighing 1,500 kg** in a container during an inspection at the port of Rotterdam on 16 July. The container arrived from Suriname and was loaded with logs destined for the company in Bangladesh. Cocaine was concealed between the logs. The HARC team, a joint venture between Customs, FIOD, the seaport police and the Rotterdam prosecutor's office, continues to investigate the incident. The drugs have been destroyed. <https://www.om.nl/actueel/nieuwsberichten/@106485/douane-vindt-1500/>

NEW ZEALAND

09.08.2019 More than **200 kg of methamphetamine** were seized by law enforcement officers during a special operation in Auckland to disrupt operations of members of an international criminal organization operating in New Zealand. Estimated value of the drugs seized is about \$93 million. During searches of a residential complex in central Auckland, police officers found a closet full of cardboard boxes containing plastic containers filled with drugs. Two British citizens, men aged 60 and 49, were detained. <https://tass.ru/proisshestiya/6747667>

PANAMA

08.08.2019 Customs officers discovered and seized 300 packages of **cocaine totalling approximately 300 kg** as a result of an operation conducted at Port Colon, while checking a container from Nicaragua bound for Rotterdam, Netherlands.
http://www.telemetro.com/nacionales/Colon-incautan-paquetes-dirigian-Holanda_0_1270973642.html

10.08.2019 Aeronaval Group, represented by tactical diving units, discovered and seized about **125 kg of cocaine** at the intake of a merchant vessel at the PSA port of Rodman in Panama City. Cocaine was in three bags on a Cyprus-flagged vessel that had arrived from Buenaventura, Colombia, with its final destination Puerto Lazaro, Cardenas, Mexico.
<http://www.aeronaval.gob.pa/default.asp?aid=noticias&n=articulos-noticias-2019-20190810.html>
 Video: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=289091875273478>

USA

07.08.2019 Border Patrol agents at the checkpoint on Interstate Highway 8 in Campo, California, found **3.46 kilograms of opium and 2.98 kilograms of fentanyl** in powder and tablet forms in a fake battery compartment of a Nissan Sentra. Two U.S. citizens have been arrested - a 41-year-old male driver and his next passenger, a 26-year-old woman. The drugs have been handed over to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the vehicle has been confiscated by U.S. Border Patrol.
<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/border-patrol-sniffs-out-heroin-fentanyl-inside-false-car-battery>

08.08.2019 Border patrol agents at the border checkpoint on Highway 86 in Salton City, California, seized about **1.36 kg of heroin and fentanyl**. A 19-year-old male drug courier was carrying drugs in a private taxi. The suspected U.S. citizen has been referred to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) for further investigation.
https://www.desertsun.com/story/news/crime_courts/2019/08/09/border-patrol-seizes-nearly-3-pounds-heroin-fentanyl-near-salton-city/1974252001/

08.05.2019 Deputies with the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office, California, Marijuana Control Division, discovered and destroyed about **40,000 cannabis plants** and seized more than **1,043.26 kg of cannabis** in a four-day multilateral operation aimed at identifying illicit cannabis cultivation sites. In addition, methamphetamine, opium and 8 firearms were seized. Several suspects have been identified and two arrested.
<https://lostcoastoutpost.com/2019/aug/9/countywide-met-investigations/>

THAILAND

07.08.2019 In the Muang district of Ubon Ratchathani, a college student found and voluntarily handed over a bag of **58,000 methamphetamine pills** to the police at a roadside location in front of his home. Police are currently checking surveillance cameras around the house and along the access route to it.
<https://www.nationthailand.com/news/30374394>

TURKEY

06.08.2019 Turkish security forces in the eastern part of Erzincan province stopped a car registered in Germany and driven by a 34-year-old holding German and Greek citizenship. As a result of the search of the vehicle belonging to the suspect, 92 packages with **42.5 kg of heroin** were found in the trunk and seized.

<https://www.dailysabah.com/investigations/2019/08/06/police-seize-massive-haul-of-heroin-in-eastern-turkeys-erzincan>