

Unofficial translation

CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY

(based on mass media reports)

19-25.08.2019

№ 34

CARICC MEMBER STATES

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

20.08.2019 Department of National Security of the Republic of Kazakhstan for Kostanay region has identified and stopped illegal actions of a citizen of the Republic of Kazakhstan, D.Y., involved in illicit trafficking of psychotropic substances through the Internet shop "XXXoxoclub.biz", through which the sale of synthetic drugs was carried out in Kostanay region. D.Y. was the creator and administrator of the Internet resource and established an international channel for the flow of synthetic drugs (psychotropic substances) from the Russian Federation to the Republic of Kazakhstan. In the course of investigation, **5 g of the analogue of the psychotropic substance pyrovaleron** was seized. On 7 August 2019, the court of Kostanai found D. Y. guilty of committing alleged crimes and sentenced him to 5 years in prison, serving his sentence in a medium security penal correctional system. <https://24.kz/ru/news/incidents/item/335552-nezakonnyj-oborot-narkotikov-presek-knb-rk>

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

19.08.2019 ONK MU of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia "Orenburg" detained a 29-year-old resident of the Republic of Bashkortostan suspected of illegal sale of synthetic drugs in the Orenburg region. The man prepared and equipped wholesale caches of synthetic drugs in a forest belt for further sale to drug addicts. A total of **599 g of narcotic substances of synthetic origin** were seized. A criminal proceeding has been launched against the suspect. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/17977351>

19.08.2019 Russian OMVD officers in Norilsk, Krasnoyarsk region, seized more than **1 kg of synthetic drugs** in a post office building, which were sent by postal parcel. The owner of the parcel, a 23-year-old resident of Norilsk, was identified and detained. A criminal case was initiated against the detainee. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/17977292>

20.08.2019 Russian UFSB officers in Ivanovo region stopped a large interregional drug supply channel in the Central and North-Western Federal Districts. A criminal case has been initiated. A resident of Moscow born in 1994, who was engaged in wholesale sale of drugs through an online store, was brought to criminal responsibility. The suspect was arrested during a seizure of **6 kg of synthetic drugs**, which he had illegally purchased and planned to sell in the regions of the Central and North-West Federal Districts, from a cache. A total of 14 kg of different types of drugs have been seized as a result of investigation. <https://tass.com/society/1074272>

21.08.2019 A 25-year-old local resident suspected of illegal possession of drugs for the purpose of further sale was detained by officers of the Moscow Region Department of the Russian UNK GU near a house in Aprelevka, Naro-Fominsk district. During a search of the

suspect's place of residence, 99 briquettes with **hashish weighing more than 9 kg** were found and confiscated. This fact is under investigation.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18007688>

REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

14.08.2019 In the city of Ferghana, in the course of the large-scale event "Black Poppy 2019", officers of internal affairs authorities of the Ferghana region detained a 53-year-old local resident, who had **2 kg 311 g of marijuana** in his bag. A criminal case has been initiated and investigation is under way. <https://www.mvd.uz/ru/lists/view/7331>

OTHER COUNTRIES

BELGIUM

21.08.2019 Federal police officers at the port of Antwerp intercepted a container in which **1.2 tons of cocaine** had been concealed. The police decided not to confiscate the drugs immediately, but to carry out a "controlled delivery". Following a truck that arrived to pick up the container at the port, three men aged 20 and one man aged 60 were detained on 19 August. The detainees will be tried on charges of drug trafficking and membership in a criminal organisation. The consignment of cocaine has been seized in a small municipality in Antwerp. <https://nieuws.vtm.be/binnenland/4-verdachten-opgepakt-niel-na-smokkel-van-12-ton-cocaine>

BULGARIA

23.08.2019 Police officers in the village of Gergini, Gabrovo, in the premises of a 63-year-old local resident found and seized **1 kg of cocaine and almost 5 kg of heroin**. The man had previously been sentenced to five years' imprisonment in Turkey for drug trafficking. The operation began a few days ago when a Turkish national and two women from Stolipinovo were arrested and found to carry **300 g of heroin** and a small amount of cocaine. The detainee and the Turkish citizen met during their stay in Turkey. <http://www.focus-fen.net/news/2019/08/23/441329/plovdiv-1kg-of-cocaine-and-almost-5kg-of-heroin-seized-by-police-from-63-year-old-man-at-his-house-in-gergini.html>

BRAZIL

14.08.2019 Customs team (IRS) at the port of Paranagua seized **866 kg of cocaine** concealed in an export shipment of timber, which was destined for the port of Antwerp, Belgium. Since the beginning of 2019, more than 9 tons of cocaine have been seized at the port of Paranagua. <http://receita.economia.gov.br/noticias/ascom/2019/agosto/receita-federal-realiza-apreensao-de-866-quilos-de-cocaina-no-porto-de-paranagua>

16.08.2019 Some **300 kg of cocaine** were seized by Federal Police officers in a joint operation with the Customs team (IRS). Monitoring group found ten black bags of drugs in a container bound for the port of Le Havre, France. The shipment of the drug was placed in a licit consignment without the knowledge of exporters and importers. Investigation is conducted by the Federal Police. <http://www.pf.gov.br/imprensa/noticias/2019/08/pf-e-receita-federal-localizam-malas-com-cocaina>

19.08.2019 Customs agents (IRS) in the port of Santos discovered **272.8 kg of cocaine** concealed in an export container in a joint operation with the Federal Police. Risk profile analysis and suspicious movement of people and vehicles detected by surveillance cameras related to Customs Control and Supervision (OVC), forced Customs officers to start checking containers in the terminal. An unaccompanied cargo container, "contaminated" by drugs, was identified by false seals. When it was opened, many backpacks filled with cocaine packages were found. The seized cocaine shipment has been transferred to the Santos Federal Police Station, which will continue investigation.

<http://receita.economia.gov.br/sobre/acoes-e-programas/acoes-da-receita-federal/noticias/2019/agosto/8a-regiao-fiscal/receita-federal-localiza-272-kg-de-cocaina-em-carga-de-exportacao-no-porto-de-santos>

20.08.2019 Customs Service (IRS) at the port of Santos intercepted **720 kg of cocaine** concealed in two containers destined for Europe. The shipment was detected through risk analysis of export shipments and a study of non-invasive images obtained by scanning containers. Container searches revealed 15 black bags of 446 kg of cocaine in the first container with orange ether oil and 6 bags of 274 kg of cocaine in the second container with combined cargo (from several exporters). Both containers were destined for the port of Rotterdam, Netherlands. The seized cocaine shipment was transferred to the Santos Federal Police Station, which will continue its investigation.

<https://receita.economia.gov.br/noticias/ascom/2019/agosto/alfandega-de-santos-localiza-720-kg-de-cocaina>

GEORGIA

20.08.2019 Department for Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Georgia detained a citizen of Azerbaijan and accused of illegal acquisition and storage of a large consignment of drugs, from whom **114 g of heroin** was seized. A criminal case has been initiated on this fact. <https://media.az/important/1067744116/grazhdanin-azerbaydzhana-zaderzhan-v-gruzii-s-geroinom/>

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

24.08.2019 National Drug Control Directorate (DNCD) in a joint operation with the military security forces of the port of Kaucedo and other intelligence agencies found and seized approximately **471 kg of cocaine** in a container destined for the port of Rotterdam, Netherlands. In the course of the operation, three Dominican nationals involved in smuggling were arrested at port terminal. <http://www.dncd.gob.do/index.php/noticias/item/dncd-ocupa-18-bultos-con-471-paquetes-presumiblemente-cocaina-en-puerto-multimodal-caucedo>

IRAN

19.08.2019 In a joint operation, police forces of Bushehr and Fars provinces seized **75 kg of opium**. A smuggler who was attempting to transport drugs to Fars province from Bushehr was arrested. <https://en.mehrnews.com/news/149021/Anti-narcotics-police-bust-75kg-of-narcotics-in-Iran-s-Fars-Prov>

SPAIN

21.08.2019 Civil Guard Organized Crime Unit, together with the Algayda Judicial Police, carried out an operation to confiscate **80 kg of cocaine**. A man of Spanish origin

established a company on the island of Mallorca, Spain, under the cover of which drugs were smuggled from South America. A month earlier, a truck driver was arrested in Port d'Alcudia transporting **1 kg of cocaine** hidden in a vehicle. The suspect was linked to an international criminal organization established by Colombians and Spaniards. Investigations also include searches in Madrid and Barcelona. <https://www.maritimeherald.com/2019/the-civil-guard-of-mallorca-intervenues-80-kilos-of-cocaine-in-the-container-of-a-ship-in-colombia/>

23.08.2019 Civil Guard officers spotted a Fiat Multiplace car driven by a French national under whose belly **112 kg of hashish** were hidden inside several gas cylinders as a result of vehicle searches on ferries to Algeciras. The driver was arrested and had two of his minor children in the car with him. <https://elforodeceuta.es/detenido-frances-hachis-bombonas-gas-ceuta-ferry/>
 Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kNdepXdgTnM>

COLOMBIA

12.08.2019 Drug Control Police of the Ministry of Public Security (PCD) and the Colombian National Navy, with the support of the National Coast Guard Service in Moine, Limón Province, seized a large amount of cocaine. Inspection of containers carrying cargoes in one of the containers that was being transported along the route: Italy-Colombia-Costa Rica, resulted in discovery of 20 bags containing packages with **504 kg of cocaine**. The container was loaded in Italy with legal cargo, plastic boxes.

http://www.seguridadpublica.go.cr/sala_prensa/comunicados/2019/agosto/CP0603.aspx

Video: <https://we.tl/t-SNsf3KsWWu?src=dnI>

COSTA RICA

19.08.2019 Drug control agents (PCD) of the Department of Public Security, after careful examination of docks in Puerto Moína in the province of Limón, found **348 kg of cocaine** inside a container from Puerto Cristobal (Panama). The container was passing through Puerto Moine to Germany. <https://www.multimedios.cr/en-alerta/encuentran-contenedor-con-mas-de-300-kilos-de-cocaina-en-limon>

MALAYSIA

19.08.2019 In a joint operation between the Narcotics Investigation Division (NCID) and the Customs Department in Punchak Alam, **467 kg of ketamine and more than 3.23 tons of cocaine** were seized on the outskirts of Kuala Lumpur. Four Malaysian nationals and nine foreign nationals were arrested. Authorities suggest that ketamine was shipped to Malaysia from Pakistan, cocaine from Ecuador and drugs were destined for export to a third country. Street value of the seized drugs is estimated at 676 million ringgiths (161.41 million US dollars).

<https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2019/08/19/13-arrested-over-half-a-rm1bil-worth-of-ketamine-cocaine-seized>

<https://www.macaubusiness.com/drugs-worth-161-million-seized-in-malaysias-biggest-haul/>

Video: https://youtu.be/QCQ7h_D7w-E

MEXICO

20.08.2019 Ministry of National Defence unit in Pijiján municipality, Chiapas, intercepted a plane loaded with **450kg of cocaine** worth 112m pesos (US \$5.6m). As a result of

Integrated Air Traffic Surveillance System, the Ministry of Defence units detected an unidentified aircraft entering the national airspace. Measures taken have made the aircraft to land. As a result of its inspection, a large consignment of cocaine smuggled into the national airspace was discovered. <http://www.borderlandbeat.com/2019/08/chiapas-450-kilos-of-cocaine-seized-in.html>

24.08.2019 Collaboration between the Mexican Navy and Customs at the Port of Lazaro Cárdenas, Michoacán, during inspection of a container carrying calcium chloride from China on a Danish-flagged vessel, resulted in discovery of approximately **23.368 tons of fentanyl**. Customs randomly sampled 931 bags of chemicals and found that they contained fentanyl. The shipment arrived from Shanghai, China, and was headed to Culliacan, Sinaloa, Mexico. <https://www.mimorelia.com/aseguran-mas-de-20-toneladas-de-droga-en-puerto-de-lazaro-cardenas-proveniente-de-china/>

THE NETHERLANDS

12.08.2019 Customs authorities found **750 kg of cocaine** in a fruit container that was in a warehouse in Maasvlakt in the port of Rotterdam. Further investigation by the Rotterdam police group led to detention of five men suspected of being involved in smuggling at the Orangelaan office in Rosenburg. Earlier, August 10, police and customs also discovered **500 kg of cocaine** during an inspection at the port of Rotterdam. Drugs were hidden in a container of fruit concentrates. The police suggest that the consignments were not linked. Investigation is being conducted by the police, customs and prosecutors in Rotterdam. Both shipments of cocaine have been destroyed. <https://www.politie.nl/nieuws/2019/augustus/12/07-500-kilo-cocaine-onderschept-op-maasvlakte.html>

20.08.2019 Customs officers discovered and confiscated about **1,650 kg of cocaine** in a sugar container destined for a third country at a warehouse in Maasvlakt in the Rotterdam port area during an inspection. On the night of 21 August, customs found a second container loaded with barrels of banana flesh, in which about **1,300 kg of cocaine** were concealed. The second container was destined for a commercial company in Osterhout, the Netherlands. Both containers came from Costa Rica. An investigation into the origin of the drugs led the police to the office in Walhaven. The police arrested 6 suspects. The HARC team, a joint venture between Customs, FIOD, the seaport police and the Public Prosecution Service in Rotterdam, is investigating these crimes. <https://www.om.nl/actueel/nieuwsberichten/@106536/douane-onderschept/>

PANAMA

23.08.2019 In the course of an operation against organized crime conducted by the National Police and the Public Prosecution Service, **908 kg of cocaine** were found inside a container destined for Colon Port, United Kingdom. <https://ensegundos.com.pa/2019/08/23/decomisan-908-paquetes-con-droga-en-colon/>

PUERTO RICO

19.08.2019 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers found five bags with **25 kg of LSD** inside a parcel, a box marked "Cabrera Leather Dye" that arrived at Rafael Hernandez International Airport (BQN).

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-seizes-55-pounds-lsd-inside-parcel-sent-puerto-rico>

19.08.2019 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), supported by the Puerto Rico National Guard and the Interagency Caribbean Border Group (CBIG) near Punta Santiago, Umacao municipality, on the east coast of the island, seized **677 kilograms of cocaine** and arrested two men. The shipment was being transported aboard a small boat. Estimated value of drugs is \$17 million. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/amo-seizes-cocaine-worth-17-million-arrests-2-men-near-puerto-rico-s>

USA

20.08.2019 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the Office of Field Operations arrested a 28-year-old U.S. citizen for attempting to transport nearly **1.8 kg of methamphetamine** through the port of San Luis, Tucson, Arizona. The man hid bags of drugs under the back seats of a Nissan car. Drugs worth about 3.5 thousand U.S. dollars and the car were confiscated. The drug mule has been handed over to the U.S. Homeland Security Investigations. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/san-luis-cbp-officers-arrest-meth-smuggler-4>

20.08.2019 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the Office of Field Operations of Morley, Tucson, Arizona detained a 35-year-old man from Tucson in an attempt to smuggle more than **900 grams of methamphetamine** out of Mexico. The man's personal search of his clothing in the groin revealed two packages of methamphetamine. Drugs were seized and the drug mule was handed over to U.S. Homeland Security Investigations. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-arrests-man-hiding-methamphetamine-his-body>

21.08.2019 In three Safeway stores in Bellingham, Washington, about **23 kg of cocaine** were found in boxes of bananas. Drugs are currently in the Bellingham Police Department. The Safeway distribution center is located outside Washington, D.C., and the same center distributes goods to 144 stores on the West Coast of the United States. The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) is investigating the case. <https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/kilos-of-cocaine-found-in-banana-boxes-at-3-washington-safeway-stores/281-72119e8d-477c-47a3-8687-33d062e7e7e7>

22.08.2019 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers, together with the Field Operations Office, detained a 37-year-old U.S. citizen at the port of Lukeville, Tucson, Arizona, while attempting to smuggle **22.68 kg of methamphetamine** from Mexico into the U.S. on a Chevy truck, hidden inside the spare wheel of the car. Street value of the consignment is estimated at 45 thousand U.S. dollars. The drug mule was handed over to representatives of the U.S. Homeland Security Investigations. Drugs and the truck have been confiscated. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/lukeville-cbp-officers-arrest-local-resident-smuggling-drugs>

TURKEY

20.08.2019 Customs Service of the Ministry of Commerce detected and seized **233,854 kg of heroin** during an operation at the Gurbulak customs post in Bulbul. A truck from Iran was inspected as a result of a risk analysis conducted by customs protection teams as part of their efforts to combat drug trafficking. A total of 228 transparent packages of heroin

were found hidden in the roof of the trailer and 5 separate caches. <https://www.haberler.com/gurbulak-ta-233-9-kilogram-eroin-ele-gecirildi-12343406-haberi/>

Video: <https://www.haberler.com/gurbulak-ta-233-9-kilogram-eroin-ele-gecirildi-12344399-haberi/>

22.08.2019 Police in the eastern province of Agri bordering Iran, discovered and seized about **35 kg of heroin** concealed in a truck. The driver of the truck, an Iranian national, was detained. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/some-35-kg-of-heroin-seized-in-eastern-turkey-/1562205>

23.08.2019 During a special operation in the Van provincial highway connecting the border with Haqqari province, anti-drug police found about **342.7 kg of heroin** in the trunk of a vehicle. One suspect was arrested in this connection. Since the beginning of 2019, Turkish security forces have seized **4 tons of heroin** in Van province.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/over-340-kg-of-heroin-seized-in-eastern-turkey/1562868>

URUGUAY

24.08.2019 At Montevideo airport, a Czech national was arrested and found to have more than **5 kg of cocaine** in his luggage. The man spent three days in Uruguay and intended to fly to Hong Kong, China. <https://www.radio.cz/en/section/news/czech-national-carrying-cocaine-arrested-in-uruguay>