

Unofficial translation

CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY

(based on mass media reports)

16.09-22.09.2019

№ 38

CARICC MEMBER STATES

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

20.09.2019 On the territory of the "Geytepe" border guard detachment of the State Border Guard Service (SGBS) on the "Jalilabad-Yardimli" highway near the village of Buravar in the Jalilabad district, a car passenger was detained, from whom a package of **1.125 kg of marijuana, 1.010 kg of opium and 450 g of heroin** were seized. During the arrest, the man resisted the border guards and stabbed an officer. A resident of Jalilabad district born in 1975 was detained. As a result of further measures, a 40-year-old resident of Babek district of Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, who had previously been a car driver, was detained near the village of Buravar. During inspection of the car, 55 grams of opium were additionally discovered. This fact is under investigation.

https://moscow-baku.ru/news/proisshestviya/intsident_na_granitse_azerbaydzhana_ranen_ofitser/

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

20.09.2019 At the "Zhibek Zholy" customs post, officers of the DGD and the Department of Economic Investigation of the Turkestan region, together with officers of the "Zhibek Zholy" border service of the Border Guard Service of the National Security Committee of the Republic of Kazakhstan, detained a citizen of Tajikistan, who was traveling from Uzbekistan to the Russian Federation through the territory of Kazakhstan, while crossing the border by car. During the customs inspection of the vehicle, a cache was found where 12 packages marked "Kabut Afghanistan R.C.C." containing **12 kg of heroin** were concealed. The suspect man and the seized heroin with the car were handed over to law enforcement authorities for pre-trial investigation. https://tengrinews.kz/kazakhstan_news/krupnuyu-partiyu-geroina-zavezli-v-kazahstan-379701/

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

16.09.2019 Officers of the Russian UVD in Tambov region detained two foreign citizens trying to organize sale of a large consignment of heroin. Drug traffickers were driving a Hyundai Solaris car with registration numbers of the Moscow region. During the search of the car and personal search of the suspects, **348 g of heroin** were found and seized, which were purchased by drug couriers in Moscow via the Internet for distribution in the Tambov region. A criminal case has been initiated against the defendants. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18350700>

16.09.2019 Officers of UNK of the Russian Interior Ministry's Voronezh Oblast Department detained a 39-year-old native of a Central Asian country, suspected of distributing heroin in a non-contact manner. The suspect illegally stored **502.5 g of heroin** prepared for further sale in Voronezh with him and at his place of residence. Electronic scales, bank cards and packing materials were also seized. The defendant used the Internet to find out the

addresses of wholesale caches, then took necessary amount of drugs and equipped the stashes from there. A criminal case has been initiated on this fact, and the man has been taken into custody. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18313858>

17.09.2019 A 33-year-old resident of Rostov-on-Don was detained in a forest near the village of Lebyazhiy Lug by officers of UNK UMVD of Russia in the Ivanovo region. During a personal search, a package of **500 g of mephedrone** were found and confiscated from him. The drugs were intended to be sold in a contactless manner to drug addicts in Ivanovo. A criminal case has been initiated in this regard. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18326311>

17.09.2019 Two residents of Izhevsk, who rented a room in the village of Sizyashur and equipped it with a drug lab for manufacturing synthetic drugs, were detained by officers of UNK MIA in the Udmurt Republic. The produced drugs were distributed through an online shop. In the course of the search, equipment and precursors used for the manufacture of mephedrone were seized in the drug laboratory. Drug couriers and cache operator distributing narcotic drugs in the territory of the Republic of Udmurtia and neighbouring regions were identified and detained. Nine people were involved in the criminal group: five residents of Izhevsk and four residents of the Perm region. In total, more than **2 kg of mephedrone** were confiscated. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18323109>

19.09.2019 A 37-year-old man and his 34-year-old wife, who are citizens of a CIS country and are suspected of selling large amounts of synthetic drugs through the production of caches, have been detained by officers of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs in the Kursk region. As a result of a search of the place of residence of the pair were found prepared for sale **450 g alpha-PVP**, as well as items used for their manufacture. Criminal proceedings have been initiated against the suspects. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18347667>

19.09.2019 Employees of ONK MU MVD of Russia "Shchelkovskoye" of the Moscow region detained a 24-year-old local resident, who for several months was engaged in the distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances in a non-contact way. During an inspection of the suspect's place of residence, about **400 g of methylephedrone** and a plastic container with similar contents, which is a drug derivative, were found and seized. A criminal case has been initiated in this regard. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18347663>

20.09.2019 A 33-year-old woman, suspected of illegal sale of synthetic drugs through caches, was detained by officers of the drug control unit of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs in the city of Togliatti, Samara region. More than **970 g of N-methylephedrone derivative** were collected. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/18361964>

OTHER COUNTRIES

BULGARIA

18.09.2019 Bulgarian law enforcement authorities seized nearly **80 kg of heroin** destined for the United Kingdom and an arsenal of weapons: 53 pieces of pistols of different makes and models, large quantities of ammunition (over 2000), silencers and bulletproof vests. Three suspects have been arrested, two of whom are Bulgarian nationals, and one is a British national. Those arrested earlier were wanted under a European arrest warrant. The

purity of the heroin seized was about 40 per cent. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2019-09/18/c_138402433.htm

BRAZIL

19.09.2019 Federal Police agents near Ponta Pora discovered and seized **230.7 kg of cocaine**, which was being transported in a special cache equipped in the bottom of a Scania truck. The 35-year-old driver's truck was on its way from Aral Moreira with 31 tons of corn as cargo, with Maringa in Paraná, Brazil as its destination.

<https://www.abc.com.py/nacionales/2019/09/19/incautan-en-la-frontera-mas-de-230-kilos-de-cocaina/>

VIETNAM

20.09.2019 Special operations in the northern province of Nam Dinh and the northern highlands province of Diène Bien have resulted in the detention of three members of a criminal group aged 38, 56 and 58 by the Narcotics Department. During a search of a house belonging to a member of the criminal group, **26.4 kg of heroin** were seized in Diène Bienne. Vietnam is a key trade centre for drugs from the Golden Triangle, the intersection of Laos, Thailand and Myanmar, which is the world's second-largest drug production centre after the Golden Crescent in South Asia. <https://e.vnexpress.net/news/news/three-women-caught-transporting-trading-26kg-of-heroin-3984938.html>

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

22.09.2019 National Drug Control Directorate (DNCD) agents in a luggage compartment of the International Airport of the Americas found **22 kg of cocaine** in a laundry container while checking luggage and containers just before they were taken to the cargo area of an Air Europa aircraft on their flight to Madrid. <https://www.diariolibre.com/actualidad/sucesos/dncd-decomisa-22-kilos-de-cocaina-en-el-aila-IO14290448>

INDIA

17.09.2019 Police found **13.72 kg of heroin** in a cache set up in a field near the village of Taoke in Ainale District, Amritsar District, on the India-Pakistan border.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/cities/13-7kg-heroin-buried-in-border-fields-seized-on-nabbed-peddler-s-disclosure/story-31gixXJsd8wOHypJdRbZsK.html>

IRAN

16.09.2019 As a result of large-scale reconnaissance operations in Iran, police units seized **1,100 kg of opium** and ammunition, including grenades. Smugglers fled after armed clashes with the police. <https://en.mehrnews.com/news/150110/Over-1-ton-of-narcotics-seized-in-SE-Iran>

SPAIN

19.09.2019 Civil Guard officers and tax officials uncovered a new way of importing cocaine into Spain in sealed packages attached to underwater part of a merchant ship without the knowledge of its crew at the port of Las Palmas de Gran Canaria. That method of concealment was used to transport **52 kg of cocaine** in a regular cargo transport vessel that arrived in Gran Canaria from Brazil to follow the route to Valencia.

https://www.cope.es/emisoras/canarias/las-palmas/gran-canaria/noticias/nuevo-metodo-trafico-cocaina-pegada-casco-sumergido-buque-20190919_501410

CHINA

19.09.2019 Officers of the Narcotics Bureau seized **300 g of ketamine and 9 bottles of wine with liquid cocaine** during two raids on apartments in Hong Kong, **each bottle containing two litres of cocaine**. Three women and one man between the ages of 19 and 24 years were arrested on suspicion of drug trafficking, all Malaysian nationals. <https://www.scmp.com/print/news/hong-kong/law-and-crime/article/3029613/blue-bottles-filled-liquid-cocaine-seized-hong-kong>

COSTA RICA

21.09.2019 Costa Rican authorities confiscated **2.5 tons of cocaine** in two separate operations along the Pacific and Caribbean coasts. In one operation, counter-narcotics officers discovered **1.5 tons of cocaine** in a container that had arrived at the Caribbean port of Moin from Panama. The container ship was inspected by the police after receiving information from the Panamanian authorities. The container carried chemical cylinders, so the police required the intervention of firefighters to ensure safe seizure of the drug. Drug packages were in 60 black bags. The container was destined for Belgium. In the second case, border police confiscated **1 ton of cocaine** after finding a boat stranded in Punta Burique, in the South Pacific, near the Panama border. Five men were arrested, four of them Colombian and one Costa Rican. <https://ticotimes.net/2019/09/21/costa-rica-seizes-2-5-tons-of-cocaine-in-two-operations>

LATVIA

18.09.2019 Department of Tax and Customs Police of the State Revenue Service (SRS) initiated a criminal case on smuggling of precursors of narcotic and psychotropic substances. Employees of the Tax and Customs Police Department of the State Revenue Service discovered an attempt to import large amounts of **1-phenyl-2-propanone precursor chemical or BMK** to Latvia from China. BMK is used in the manufacture of amphetamine and methamphetamine. The substance arrived in Latvia by air. The criminal case involved searches of sites and warehouses in Riga and Salaspils, resulting in the discovery and seizure of **3.3 tons of precursors containing BMK and five barrels (1,000 litres in total) of sodium hydroxide solution**. Evidence relating to criminal proceedings was seized at the place of residence of the detainees: money in the amount of 34,500 euros, 1,000 NOK, laptops, navigation systems, mobile phones and SIM cards. A criminal case has been initiated and three persons involved in smuggling have been arrested. <https://www.vid.gov.lv/lv/vid-nodoklu-un-muitas-policija-atklaj-vairak-neka-3-tonnu-narkotisko-vai-psihotropu-vielu-0>

MALAYSIA

10.09.2019 Police at the North Butterworth Container Terminal (NBCT) discovered and confiscated about **12 tons of cocaine**. The drug consignment was concealed in 60 tons of coal in three containers. An international drug syndicate used Malaysia as a transit country for smuggling drugs from South America. Cocaine was mixed with charcoal to prevent its

detection through modern technology and methods. A 29-year-old Malaysian national involved in drug smuggling was arrested.

<https://www.malaymail.com/news/malaysia/2019/09/20/cocaine-worth-rm2.4b-seized-in-malaysias-largest-haul/1792701>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TXFXBbj5K2M>

MEXICO

19.09.2019 The Mexican Navy Secretariat, as the National Maritime Authority acting as Coast Guard, working with the National Defence and Customs Secretariat at the Port of Lazaro Cárdenas, Michoacán, detected and seized **82 kg of cocaine hydrochloride**. The illicit cargo container was being transported aboard the Liberian-flagged CMA CGM MISSISSIPPI from the port of Guayaquil, Ecuador, through the port of Calderas, Costa Rica. According to customs documents, the container held the cargo in the form of electrical cable rolls. <https://www.gob.mx/semar/prensa/las-secretarias-de-marina-de-la-defensa-nacional-y-la-aduana-aseguran-cargamento-de-clorhidrato-de-cocaina-en-lazaro-cardenas-michoacan-217989?idiom=es>

19.09.2019 The Federal Police, in coordination with the National Defence Secretariat, seized about **224 kg of methamphetamine hydrochloride** at a checkpoint in the municipality of Opodepe, Sonora. The drug was detected during X-ray screening of a truck semi-trailer platform. The truck was carrying various cargoes from a courier company. The consignment originated in Hermosillo and was destined for the city of Tijuana, Baja California. Drugs were concealed in black plastic rolls. <https://www.gob.mx/sspc/prensa/policia-federal-y-sedena-incautaron-alrededor-de-224-kilos-de-aparente-clorhidrato-de-metanfetamina-en-sonora?idiom=es>

MYANMAR

16.09.2019 Police officers at the checkpoint near Indawi villages in Sagai district seized **0.5 kg of heroin and 5,850 methamphetamine tablets**. The drugs were concealed in a box that a 34-year-old man was carrying on a motorcycle. The man was charged with drug trafficking. <https://www.mmtimes.com/news/police-seize-k80m-worth-heroin-and-meth-sagaing.html>

THE NETHERLANDS

20.09.2019 Customs agents intercepted more than **450 kg of cocaine** during an inspection at the port of Rotterdam. The drugs were hidden in a container that had arrived from Brazil. The cargo was destined for a company in Rotterdam that was not involved in the smuggling. The seized shipment of cocaine was destroyed. <https://www.om.nl/actueel/nieuwsberichten/@106712/douane-onderschept/>

PAKISTAN

19.09.2019 Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) detained a Peshawar resident at Faisalabad International Airport in an attempt to smuggle inside luggage **4 kg of ice heroin** into Riyadh (Saudi Arabia). <https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/anf-foils-bid-to-smuggle-ice-heroin-to-saudi-715916.html>

19.09.2019 Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) seized **374 kg of hashish, 26.6 kg of opium, 10.6 kg of heroin** and arrested 18 criminals, including three women, in various operations throughout the country. Eight vehicles used to smuggle drugs were arrested.

<https://www.pakistantoday.com.pk/2019/09/19/anf-seizes-421kg-narcotics-in-countrywide-operations/>

21.09.2019 Two British citizens of Pakistani origin, a 26-year-old man and his 20-year-old wife, were detained by Airport Security Force (ASF) at Sialkot International Airport while attempting to smuggle more than **24 kg of heroin** in their luggage. The couple attempted to fly to the UK on a Emirates flight via Dubai (UAE). The drug couriers were handed over to ANF for further investigation. <https://metro.co.uk/2019/09/21/british-couple-face-death-penalty-trying-smuggle-heroin-pakistan-10783027/>

PANAMA

17.09.2019 During an operation of maritime and port control by the National Aeronautical Service of Panama (SENAN) at the port of Cristobal, Colón province, about **370 kg of cocaine** were seized in 362 packages in 10 black bags found inside shipping containers. A Panama national was arrested in this connection.

<http://www.aeronaval.gob.pa/default.asp?aid=noticias&n=articulos-noticias-2019-20190917.html>

USA

16.09.2019 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the Office of Field Operations detained a 27-year-old Mexican national while attempting to smuggle **1.81 kg of fentanyl** into the U.S. from Mexico in a Dodge vehicle in tablet form. Market value of drugs is estimated at 40 thousand dollars. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-officers-nab-fentanyl-smugglers-port-san-luis>

20.09.2019 U.S. Coast Guard crews in Miami Beach, Florida, patrolling international waters in the eastern Pacific off the coast of Mexico, Central and South America, seized more than **5.4 tons of cocaine** in several operations. <https://www.wptv.com/news/state/coast-guard-seizes-12-000-pounds-of-cocaine-in-pacific-ocean>

21.09.2019 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), in conjunction with the Office of Field Operations (OFO) at the Juarez-Lincoln Bridge in Laredo, Texas, seized a shipment of drugs worth more than \$1.6 million. A Chrysler vehicle driven by a 29-year-old Mexican citizen was inspected and found to contain **32.89 kg of heroin, 1.02 kg of cocaine and 1.12 kg of norephedrine hydrochloride**. The driver was arrested and handed over to Homeland Security Investigations (HSI). <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-field-operations-seizes-more-16-million-heroin-cocaine-norephedrine>

TAIWAN

19.09.2019 Police in New Taipei City have arrested four members of a criminal group during raids conducted in cooperation with the Criminal Investigation Division of the Taipei Police Department and the Keelung Customs Bureau. Approximately **20 kg of heroin**, packaged in 52 packages, were seized. <https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/3783973>

THAILAND

17.09.2019 Task Force Fa Muang at the Mae Aye checkpoint in Chiang Mai seized **2.5 million methamphetamine tablets**. Police received information that a criminal group was planning to smuggle a large consignment of drugs from a neighbouring country into Ban Doi Laem in Tambon Mae Ai for storage. The drugs were destined for a customer in Fang County. Officers discovered 2.5 million methamphetamine tablets in 25 bags that were being transported in a truck. Two women aged 33 and 40 years were arrested in the truck. Drug couriers were hired by an unnamed person over the phone with instructions for delivering drugs for 900,000 baht. <https://www.nationthailand.com/news/30376310>

TURKEY

21.09.2019 In two separate cases, customs and security officials seized **13.29 kg of cocaine** at Istanbul International Airport. When attempting to smuggle drugs in their luggage from São Paulo, Brazil, to Istanbul, two drug couriers, nationals of Chile and the Netherlands, were arrested. In the course of a search, **10.53 kg of cocaine** were found in a suitcase of the Chilean and **2.76 kg of cocaine** in a suitcase of the Dutchman. <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/over-13-kg-of-cocaine-seized-in-istanbul-146788>

FRANCE

20.09.2019 A cocaine cache was found on a cargo ship used to transport missile elements to the European spaceport in Kourou, French Guiana, South America. The illegal cargo was discovered when a cargo ship, which usually carries elements of the European missiles Ariane, Soyuz and Vega, was preparing to leave the port of Pariacabo on 5 August. During the manoeuvring of the cargo, an alarm went off and the container, which was imperceptibly attached to the hull of the ship, fell into the water. Port officials warned the authorities when they found a suspicious package and the Maritime Gendarmerie arrived at the scene. There were about **8 kg of cocaine** inside the package. How drugs could have entered the port of Pariacabo, which is linked to the Guiana Space Centre, will be established during further investigation. The European Space Agency (ESA), the French Space Agency (CNES) and Arianespace are conducting launches from Kourou, which has been operating since the 1960s. <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-7486477/Stash-cocaine-ship-used-transport-rockets.html>

JAMAICA

19.09.2019 Detectives from the Narcotics Division at Sangster International Airport in Montego Bay, St. James, during a baggage and cargo inspection of a flight to Philadelphia (USA), found 20 packs with **9.98 kg of cocaine**. <http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/news/20190919/cocaine-worth-over-13-million-seized-sangster-airport>