

*Unofficial translation***CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY**

(based on mass media reports)

16-22.03.2020**№ 12****CARICC MEMBER STATES****REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

09.03.2020 A resident of the village of Mirzamamed was detained as a suspect by the police department of the Khachmaz district and the Anti-Narcotics Unit. A search of his house revealed **50kg of marijuana**, 12 bags of cannabis, seeds of the plant and electronic scales. The suspect was growing narcotic plants in a forested area near his village for further sale. A criminal case has been initiated. <https://vesti.az/kriminal/v-azerbajdzhane-u-byvshego-osuzhdenogo-iz-yaty-narkotiki-v-krupnom-razmere-398362>

18.03.2020 Following an operation carried out by officers of the GUBN of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Azerbaijan, a BMW car driven by a resident of Ganja was detained on the Barda-Agjabedi road. More than **43 kg of heroin, 500 g of opium, 1,600 g of marijuana and 2 kg of methamphetamine** were found and seized during inspection of luggage compartment of the vehicle. Seized drugs are estimated to cost more than 1 million US dollars on illegal market. Having entered into a criminal conspiracy with two citizens, the detainee ensured delivery of a large consignment of drugs to Azerbaijan. A criminal case has been initiated on this fact. A preventive measure in the form of arrest was chosen against the defendant by court decision.

<https://media.az/society/1067769169/v-azerbaydzhane-izyaty-narkotiki-na-bolee-chem-odin-million-dollarov-foto/>

19.03.2020 Border guard unit intercepted an attempt of illegal crossing of the state border from Iran to Azerbaijan at the Goradiz outpost of the State Border Troops of the State Border Service of Azerbaijan near the village of 2nd Shahseven, Beylagan district. The frontier post was raised on alarm and its official territory was completely closed. Violators, ignoring warnings of border guards, put up armed resistance. With the use of weapons both intruders were neutralized and their weapons were seized: a Winchester-type rifle, a Glock pistol and a night vision device. Narcotics were found at the scene in two bags - **heroin, opium and marijuana, all weighing 61 kg**. A 47-year-old resident of the 1st Shakhseven village and a 37-year-old resident of the 2nd Shakhseven village were detained as suspects near the scene. In connection with the incident, officers of the Border Troops of the State Border Service and the Military Prosecutor's Office are currently taking necessary measures.

[https://moscow-](https://moscow-baku.ru/news/novosti/pogranichniki_azerbaydzhana_predotvratili_nezakonnoe_peresecheniya_azerbaydzhano_iranskoy_granitsy/)

[baku.ru/news/novosti/pogranichniki_azerbaydzhana_predotvratili_nezakonnoe_peresecheniya_azerbaydzhano_iranskoy_granitsy /](https://moscow-baku.ru/news/novosti/pogranichniki_azerbaydzhana_predotvratili_nezakonnoe_peresecheniya_azerbaydzhano_iranskoy_granitsy/)

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

12.03.2020 In Semey, East Kazakhstan region, police officers shut down a large drug supply channel. Persons involved in the criminal case, who were carrying out illegal supply and sale of narcotic drugs in Semey city, were identified and detained. At the beginning of

March this year, three accomplices received a large consignment of narcotics intended for sale. One of the associates was detained on the way out of the city of Semey. During a search in the trunk of a 27-year-old suspect's car, a boxing bag was found with **44 kg of dried marijuana** inside it. The same day, a 28-year-old man was detained in Semey, and more than **2.7 kg of hashish** were found and seized during a search of his car. To date, three suspects born in 1989, 1991 and 1992 have been detained and taken to a temporary detention facility. Pre-trial proceedings have been launched.

https://total.kz/ru/news/proisshestviya/marihuanu_v_bokserskoi_grushe_perevozili_zhiteli_semeya_date_2020_03_12_16_43_50

21.03.2020 Three people with a large consignment of marijuana were detained by officers of the Directorate for Combating Drug Trafficking in the Pavlodar Region Police Department. Police seized seven bags containing **201.7 kg of marijuana**. A pre-trial investigation is being conducted into this fact.

<https://inbusiness.kz/ru/last/bolee-200-kg-marihuany-izyato-v-pavlodarskoj-oblasti>

REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

27.02.2020 Tajik Interior Ministry officials have uncovered two criminal groups involved in smuggling synthetic drugs from Afghanistan. Three Afghan citizens were detained in Dushanbe red-handed and six packages of **10kg of methamphetamine** were seized. The cost of the seized shipment is estimated at more than US \$1m. Criminal cases have been opened against both groups and investigations are under way.

<https://tj.sputniknews.ru/country/20200227/1030783040/MVD-Tajikistan-narkotik-metamfetamin-million-dollarov.html>

06.03.2020 Employees of the Tajik Customs Service detained an Afghan citizen at the Nizhny Pyanj customs post on the Tajik-Afghan border, from whom **2.11kg of heroin** was seized. While searching a suitcase belonging to the detained smuggler, customs officers found two bags of almonds. The same bags contained heroin among almonds. A criminal case has been initiated against the citizen of Afghanistan under articles 200 (Drug trafficking) and 289 (Smuggling) of the Criminal Code. <https://www.interfax.ru/world/698005>

OTHER COUNTRIES

GERMANY

10.03.2020 Employees of the General Customs Administration in Bremen found more than **500 kg of hashish** in a small van from Sweden during a technical inspection at the Thünen car park on motorway 1 near Achim. The drug was found in a cache in the van floor after removing the carpet and two bolted sheets of plywood and sheet metal. Customs control of intra-European cross-border traffic is focused on risk profile analysis. Due to the fact that a 39-year-old driver showed signs of drug exposure, the police from Langwedel were called in. The driver has been arrested. The Hanover Customs Bureau has taken over further investigations. The value of the seized drugs is about 4 million euros.

https://www.zoll.de/SharedDocs/Pressemitteilungen/DE/Rauschgift/2020/z69_haschischplatten.html

IRAN

16.03.2020 As a result of a series of intelligence operations, a fuel tanker was stopped by police on the Zahedan-Kerman road. Smugglers concealed about **3 tonnes of drugs, including morphine and opium**, in the tanker. They intended to transport drugs from Sistan and Balochistan to the country's central provinces. One offender associated with the illegal transport was arrested. <https://en.mehrnews.com/news/156824/Big-haul-of-illicit-drugs-busted-in-Kerman>

THE NETHERLANDS

17.03.2020 Customs officials at the port of Rotterdam found five different shipments of cocaine, weighing more than **250 kg of cocaine**, and eight people suspected of involvement in drug smuggling were arrested.

- 1) On March 13, **20 kg of cocaine** were found in a refrigerated container with a cargo of frozen chicken;
- 2) On March 14, officers found two more **cocaine** shipments hidden in the same way, weighing **35 kg and 6 kg** respectively;
- 3) On March 14, another **160 kg of cocaine** was found in a tin shipment sent from Brazil;
- 4) On March 17, **30 kg of cocaine** were found in the fan compartment of an empty container. On March 12, a shipment of bananas from Peru arrived in the container. The empty container was later returned to the terminal in Rotterdam, where drugs were intercepted. All seized drugs were destroyed.

<https://nltimes.nl/2020/03/17/customs-catches-250-kilograms-cocaine-arrest-8>

PAKISTAN

19.03.2020 Anti-Narcotics Force of Pakistan (ANF) seized **2.9 tons of narcotics as a result of 31 special operations, including 1,165.6 kg of heroin, 1,727 kg of hashish, 23 kg of opium and 113,000 tablets (Lyrica, Xanax, Valium and Diazepam)** with a total value of USD 227.5 million. 21 persons were arrested, including one foreign national, and 7 vehicles were confiscated. <https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/anf-seizes-29-metric-tons-drugs-in-31-operat-869252.html>

USA

17.03.2020 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials at the Nogales Mariposa cargo terminal detained a 34-year-old Mexican national in an attempt to smuggle into the United States from Mexico via Nogales Port, Arizona. CBP officers found more than 600 packages with **313 kilograms of methamphetamine** hidden in a secret compartment on the floor of a cargo trailer, under crates of tomatoes and sweet peppers. The consignment of methamphetamine is worth about \$690,000. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-officers-make-record-methamphetamine-seizure>

TURKEY

20.03.2020 Anti-drug police squads in the Edremith area stopped a truck carrying 30 packages of **methamphetamine, weighing about 8 kg.**

<https://www.yenisafak.com/en/news/over-7-kg-of-meth-seized-in-anti-drug-operation-in-turkey-3514451>