

CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY

(based on mass media reports)

06.-12.04.2020

№ 15

CARICC MEMBER STATES

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

20.03.2020 Kazakhstan's KNB employees stopped an international cocaine supply channel from Mexico to Kazakhstan as a result of an operation in February 2019. An employee of the Kazakh Foreign Ministry, diplomat N.A., smuggled **1.5 kg of cocaine** into the country, concealing it in parts of a souvenir table and plaster. N.A. was engaged in drug trafficking in complicity with his acquaintance R.K., who was head of a commercial enterprise, as well as a former employee of the Ministry of Internal Affairs. Cocaine was worth about 350-400 thousand US dollars. A search of the diplomat's residence resulted in seizure of cocaine concealed in 16 metal flasks. N.A. and R.K. were found guilty by the court of committing the crimes with which they were charged and sentenced to 15 and 10 years, respectively, while serving their sentences in the maximum security colony. <https://tengrinews.kz/news/kazahstanskiy-diplomat-privez-stolike-meksiki-kokain-395444/>

08.04.2020 During a special operation conducted at the end of March by officers of criminal police department of Ridder city of East Kazakhstan region, a 37-year-old driver of "Volkswagen Passat" car was detained, who illegally transported in the car and also stored more than **43 kg of marijuana** at his place of residence. A pre-trial investigation has been launched. https://www.inform.kz/ru/osobo-krupnuyu-partiyu-narkoticheskikh-sredstv-iz-yali-v-vko_a3635509

08.04.2020 Employees of the Mangistau provincial police department UPN stopped a Toyota Camry in Aktau, where there were four citizens. During a search of the vehicle in the cabin, more than **4 kg of marijuana** was found and seized, intended for further sale. Pre-trial investigations are under way for illegal acquisition, transportation and possession of narcotic drugs on a particularly large amount. <https://www.inaktau.kz/news/2722971/cetyre-kilogramma-marihuany-izali-policejskie-v-aktau>

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

06.04.2020 Investigation Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs for the Republic of Udmurtia has sent a criminal case to court against a resident of Perm Krai accused of attempted sale of narcotic drugs. The 42-year-old man was a stasher of an online drug store. He brought prohibited substances from Perm Krai and distributed in the territory of the Udmurt Republic by equipping caches. Criminal activity of the drug courier was suppressed by employees of the Drug Control Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Udmurt Republic. The police detained the perpetrator in Votkinsk. About **1.5 kg of heroin** were seized in Izhevsk, Votkinsk and Tchaikovsky during ORM and investigative operations. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19924376>

07.04.2020 Employees of UNK GU MVD of the Russian Federation for the Voronezh region, together with colleagues from Moscow, St. Petersburg, Rostov, Kaliningrad and Vologda regions and a number of other regions, halted activities of participants in inter-regional criminal community suspected of selling narcotic drugs. Perpetrators sold drugs through cache and postal shipments in eight constituent entities of the Russian Federation. They found clients in the shadow segment of the Internet, and were paid for with electronic wallets. In Voronezh Region, police detained a courier who was transporting a wholesale shipment of synthetic drugs intended for further sale. During inspection of his car, about **1.5 kg of methadone** were found. In the course of further work, police officers identified and brought to justice six of his accomplices - stashers and the operator of an online store. A criminal case has been initiated. A preventive measure in the form of detention has been chosen in respect of three defendants, and the rest are under a signature on their non-departure and proper conduct. More than **2.5 kg of synthetic drugs** have been seized during searches in equipped caches and mailings. An investigation is under way. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19930495>

07.04.2020 While on patrol route, officers of the Pyatigorsk Stavropol Krai Police Patrol and Checkpoint Service detained two men suspected of distributing drugs of synthetic origin. Over **250 g of A-PVP** were seized. A criminal case was initiated against the defendants and the court selected a preventive measure in the form of detention. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19928720>

07.04.2020 Officers of ONK UMVD of Russia in the city of Novorossiysk, Krasnodar Region, detained a 35-year-old resident of the Primorsko-Akhtarsky District who was engaged in distribution of narcotic drugs in Novorossiysk. In his apartment, the man illegally stored about **3 kg of mephedrone**. The police are taking measures aimed at identifying drug supply channel. A criminal case has been initiated against the detainee. The man has been placed in custody. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19931413>

07.04.2020 Employees of UNK UMVD of Russia in the Ryazan region as part of the work to counter drug threat on the Internet established the identity of a stasher operating in Ryazan. A 22-year-old resident of Ryazan, who acted in the interests of an illegal online store, was detained while making caches with drugs. The online store was offering synthetic drugs for sale in Darknet. In total, **208 g of drugs of synthetic origin** were seized. A criminal case has been initiated against the malefactor. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19933203>

08.04.2020 Employees of ONK UMVD of Russia in the city of Astrakhan detained three members of the same family - residents of Irkutsk aged 30 to 35 years, who were engaged in contactless distribution of synthetic drugs ("salt"). They seized about **220 grams of synthetic drugs**, as well as scales, packaging material and telephones with coordinates of caches. In the group, according to the distribution of roles, one of the brothers was involved in bagging, the woman in packaging, and the other brother in selling drugs. A criminal case has been initiated against the suspects. Detainees have been remanded in custody. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19937366yx>

08.04.2020 Employees of ONK of Nakhodkinsky LO of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia detained a 55-year-old local resident on transport, who, being in the area of the railway station Barkhatnaia Nakhodka, purchased about **250 grams of heroin**

contactlessly, packed it up for small batches and kept some of it at home, and some of it in a cache located in the city of Nakhodka. During a search, heroin was found and seized. The criminal case has now been sent to court.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19936140>

08.04.2020 A 35-year-old drug dealer, a resident of Krasnoyarsk suspected of distributing drugs, was detained in Krasnoyarsk by the Krasnoyarskoe ONK MU MVD of Russia. More than **576 grams of hashish** were found and seized at the residence address of the man. A preliminary investigation is under way. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19937080>

08.04.2020 Officers of the Russian Interior Ministry's patrol and checkpoint service in the Khimki urban district of Novogorsk stopped a car driven by a 32-year-old resident of Tula Region, suspected of illegal drug trafficking. During inspection of the vehicle, about **1 kg of methylephedrone** was found and seized. A criminal case has been initiated against the suspect. A preventive measure in the form of remand in custody has been taken. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19940087>

09.04.2020 Employees of the State Automobile Inspectorate in Voronezh stopped a Peugeot-308 car driven by a 23-year-old resident of the Krasnodar Krai during a traffic safety service on the 515th km of the M-4 "Don" highway. During inspection of the vehicle **198.30 grams of heroin** were found in a niche of the front armrest. A criminal case has been initiated. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19950252>

10.04.2020 Three Ukrainian citizens have been detained by the UNK GU MVD Moscow province on suspicion of illegal production of psychotropic substances. Malefactors rented a house in Serpukhov district to create a laboratory for production of mephedrone, where the police found containers with precursors, canisters with **hydrochloric acid**, electronic scales, and plastic containers filled with liquid. Two of the suspects were responsible for chemical production of prohibited substances, while the third was transporting to customers. About **9.5 kg of mephedrone** were seized. A criminal case has been initiated. The court has taken a preventive measure in the form of detention.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19952525>

REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

11.04.2020 Employees of the State Security Service (SGB) of Uzbekistan during operational actions in the city of Almalyk of Tashkent province discovered **975 g of hashish** during inspection of a 41-year-old local resident. During a search of his house, **2.569 kg of hashish and 1.997 kg of opium** were found and seized. Drugs were smuggled in from Tajikistan by a 32-year-old citizen, who was also detained.

<https://regnum.ru/news/society/2913112.html>

11.04.2020 Employees of the State Security Service (SGB) of Uzbekistan during operative measures:

- 1) In Chilanzar district of Tashkent, when checking a Lacetti car with two men aged 48 and 50, found and seized **1.968 kg of hashish**;
- 2) On the territory of Kuva district of Ferghana region in a car "Matiz", which was driven by a 40-year-old citizen, in the cabin under the front passenger seat found and seized **944 g of hashish**;

3) A 41-year-old citizen was detained in the Madaniyat mahalla Taylak District, Samarkand Region, selling about **100 g of opium**. The man received opium from a 45-year-old woman, from whom more than **200 grams of opium** were found and seized during a search in the basement of a house. Criminal cases have been instituted and investigations are under way. <https://www.uznews.uz/ru/article/20134>
<https://uz.sputniknews.ru/incidents/20200411/13901670/V-Uzbekistane-siloviki-proveli-krupnyy-reyd-po-presecheniyu-narkotorgovli.html>

OTHER COUNTRIES

BELGIUM

06.04.2020 On the quay of Novy Fruit Pier in Leopoldock, Antwerp, customs officers spotted two men carrying a container. One of the suspects was later arrested, while the other managed to escape. A federal police helicopter was involved in the pursuit of the perpetrators, and Antwerp police teams also assisted in the arrest. The Federal Judicial Police was investigating the suspects' involvement in international drug trade. No drug discovery in the container has been reported.

https://www.gva.be/cnt/dmf20200406_04914317/achtervolging-op-vermeende-drugsuithalers-eindigt-met-crash-op-de-luchtbal

BRAZIL

07.04.2020 Federal Highway Police (PRF) stopped a Mercedes Benz truck coming from San Jose da Lapa in Kaarapo, carrying **1.4 tons of marijuana**. Police inspected the truck at 206 km on the BR-163 highway, the trailer was loaded with sugar and had a double bottom, where packages of drugs were hidden. The 29-year-old driver was detained. He was hired to transport drugs from Ponta Poran to Maravilla. The arrested driver, the truck and the drugs were sent to the civilian police in Kaarapo. <https://www.prf.gov.br/agencia/prf-apreende-1-4-t-de-maconha-sob-carga-de-acucar-em-caarapo-ms/>

Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=20&v=m8YstnRXzFE&feature=emb_logo

08.04.2020 Customs of the Federal Revenue Service (IRS) confiscated more than **312 kg of cocaine** during container inspection at a container terminal located in the port of Santos on the coast of Sao Paulo. Ferroalloy cargo packed in bags had its final destination at the port of Rotterdam, the Netherlands. The container for inspection was selected based on objective risk analysis criteria, including non-intrusive scanner inspection. Cocaine was handed over to the Federal Police, which accompanied the operation and will continue investigation using information provided by the Federal Revenue Service.

<https://g1.globo.com/sp/santos-regiao/porto-mar/noticia/2020/04/08/receita-federal-localiza-312-kg-de-cocaina-dentro-de-conteiner-no-porto-de-santos-sp.ghtml>

08.04.2020 Federal Revenue Service (IRS) Customs confiscated **555 kg of cocaine** at the port of Paranaguá, on the coast of Parana. It was concealed in an animal feed cargo and destined for the port of Antwerp, Belgium. A scan was performed to identify drugs.

<https://g1.globo.com/pr/parana/noticia/2020/04/08/receita-apreende-meia-tonelada-de-cocaina-escondida-em-racao-no-porto-de-paranagua.ghtml>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7stDJ4uPOP8>

UNITED KINGDOM

09.04.2020 Members of the East Region Special Operations Unit (ERSOU) in Luton, after stopping and searching a car, found about **10 kg of heroin**. The driver, a 34-year-old male from Luton, has been taken into custody. In addition, police officers searched Dunstable Road in Luton and seized more than **30 kg of other drugs, including cocaine and heroin**, which are class A drugs. In addition, significant amounts of steroids were discovered and confiscated. <https://www.lutontoday.co.uk/news/crime/driver-arrested-luton-after-police-find-40kg-cocaine-and-heroin-2534875>

GERMANY

16.03.2020 Frankfurt Airport Customs has prevented smuggling of a precursor for production of crystalline methamphetamine. Customs officials checked a mail shipment from India and found six chessboards with **3.3 kg of ephedrine** concealed in them. https://www.zoll.de/SharedDocs/Pressemitteilungen/DE/Rauschgift/2020/z62_ephedrin_in_schachbrettern.html;jsessionid=4C6A0011D101F1EFFC81D63129102F6E.live4652

IRAN

08.04.2020 In central Yazd Province, police seized **211 kg of opium and 80 kg of hashish**. Two criminals were detained during the operation. Illicit consignment entered Yazd from southeast Sistan and Balochistan province that borders Afghanistan. <https://en.mehrnews.com/news/157401/300kg-of-illegal-drugs-busted-in-Yazd>

ITALY

10.04.2020 Even the worldwide COVID-19 outbreak has not stopped international drug trade. A truck driven by a 47-year-old driver travelling from Durres in Albania and reaching the port city of Bari on the Adriatic Sea was searched for hours, finding **12 kg of cocaine and 8.8 kg of heroin**. It was carrying clothing from Albania to Piacenza and Bergamo. After the discovery, the driver was taken into custody. The Italian and Albanian authorities are investigating drug smuggling channels and concealment methods. <https://www.albaniandailynews.com/index.php?idm=41271&mod=2>

CANADA

07.04.2020 More than **106 kg of methamphetamine** were seized by personnel of the Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA). A shipment of crystalline methamphetamine was found at the container research facility in Zawwassen (TCEF) on 4 February 2020. Following information from the National Targeting Centre of CBSA, border officials at TCEF inspected a container from Mexico using a wide range of detection tools and technologies, resulting in bags of white crystalline methamphetamine. The shipment was valued at \$13.5 million. <https://www.canada.ca/en/border-services-agency/news/2020/04/over-100-kilograms-of-methamphetamine-seized-by-the-cbsa.html>
<https://bc.ctvnews.ca/someone-tried-to-ship-more-than-100-kilograms-of-meth-into-b-c-cbsa-1.4886400>

07.04.2020 The Lethbridge Police Service has indicted a 36-year-old resident of Calgary for crimes related to drug and gun trafficking. In a car owned by the man, **990 grams of methamphetamine, 437 grams of cocaine and nearly 47 grams of carfentanyl**

were found and seized, along with a loaded revolver stolen from a Stettler store, ammunition, two knives and \$19,000 in cash. At the same time, the police found that the driver was in violation of house arrest in Calgary. He was detained. Drug value totals almost \$136,000. <https://lethbridgeherald.com/news/lethbridge-news/2020/04/08/citizen-tip-reporting-suspicious-vehicle-leads-to-136000-drug-seizure/>

THE NETHERLANDS

07.04.2020 Customs confiscated **1,018 kg of cocaine** during two different inspections in the port of Rotterdam. The first consignment, weighing 1,000 kg, was found in a refrigerated container loaded with frozen fruit concentrate. The cargo arrived from Peru and entered the port of Rotterdam on a ship from Colombia. Barrels were destined for a company in Rotterdam. The company had nothing to do with smuggling. Customs subsequently discovered another 18 kg of cocaine in the hatches of a container that had arrived from Colombia. It costs about 1.35 million euros. Investigation is carried out by the NARC team - Customs, FIOD, Seaport Police and the Public Prosecution Service in Rotterdam. Seized drugs have been destroyed.

<https://www.om.nl/actueel/nieuws/2020/04/08/douane-onderschept-1000-kilo-cocaine>

PAKISTAN

11.04.2020 Despite the blockage of maritime trade due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a container was found in Pakistan with **700 kg of heroin and 80 kg of opium** hidden. The container was destined for Antwerp, Belgium. Drugs were carefully hidden in large bags of soap waste. Through the Container Control Programme (CCP), UNODC and the World Customs Organization support national customs and police services in combating illicit trafficking in drugs, weapons, protected wildlife and other contraband.

<https://atv.be/nieuws/700-kilogram-heroine-en-80-kg-opium-bestemd-voor-antwerpen-onderschept>

PORTUGAL

07.04.2020 The Tax and Customs Authority (TA) seized more than **100 kg of cocaine** during a control operation on a container arriving from South America at Port Sinus. Packages of cocaine were placed in four sport bags hidden among legal cargo. Drug was found during non-intrusive inspection of the container, which was selected in accordance with local risk analysis criteria. Drug was valued at around EUR 4 million. Seized cocaine was handed over to the judicial police. <https://www.macaubusiness.com/portugal-customs-seize-100kg-cocaine-on-container-ship-at-sines-port/>

SINGAPORE

08.04.2020 Two Singapore citizens aged 41 and 44 suspected of drug trafficking were detained during a Central Narcotics Board (CNB) operation. They seized **2.29kg of heroin and 120g of crystalline methamphetamine (ice)** from a car and at the place of residence of the detainees. CAD 460 and US\$3,350 in cash were also seized. Investigation is in progress. <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/drugs-heroin-seized-cnb-operation-arrest-12624984>

USA

09.04.2020 U.S. border patrol agents at a checkpoint on Interstate Highway 8 near Campo, California, arrested a man attempting to smuggle **18.73 kg of methamphetamine** into the U.S. from Mexico in a Dodge Dart gas tank, estimated to cost \$93,000. The driver is a 28-year-old US citizen and has been arrested. The substance has been transferred to the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA). Vehicle was confiscated by the United States Border Patrol. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/agents-seize-nearly-93k-meth>

UKRAINE

11.04.2020 Officers of UPN of police of Kyiv region together with the Brovary police department under the procedural supervision of the Brovary local prosecutor's office in Kyiv region arrested 9 members of an organized criminal group (five girls and four guys aged 18-24 years), which was engaged in manufacture and sale of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. In the period 2019-2020, members of the OCG in the territory of Kyiv region and Kyiv region illegally manufactured and stored narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The police also eradicated a telegram channel through which the "goods" were distributed to drug dependent persons. The OCG organizer was a 24-year-old resident of Brovary. During searches, **700 g of amphetamine 1.5 kg of marijuana, 30 tablets of ecstasy and 70 stamps of LSD**, as well as money obtained by criminal means, mobile phones and bank cards were seized. Cost of seized substances amounts to 1.2 million hryvnia. Investigation is in progress.

<https://www.facebook.com/pol.kyivregion/posts/2905362712852215>

Video: <https://youtu.be/3bJMSOcGLo>

09.04.2020 SBU blocked activities of a drug group, organized by officials of the State Service for Emergency Situations. Two commanders of branches of the State Service for Emergency Situations in Khmelnytsky region, together with a former colleague, organized a large-scale sale of illegal substances. In Khmelnytsky, they rented an office where they packed and stored drugs prepared for sale. The criminals sent wholesale consignments of "goods" to customers through a postal service throughout the country and also sold them to local dealers and drug addicts. Each month, the criminals sold up to **10 kg of narcotics**. Both branch commanders were detained by law enforcement officers at a drug storage site during preparation of an order, and their accomplice was detained in his own home. Previously, special services have documented several cases of sale of **cannabis and amphetamine** by drug traffickers. During searches they found a consignment of drugs and psychotropic substances worth more than 500 thousand hryvnia. As part of criminal proceedings, the question of notifying of suspicion and choosing a preventive measure is being decided. Pre-trial investigation is continuing to identify other members of the group and their clients, as well as sources of origin of drugs. The investigation was carried out with the assistance of investigators from the GBR, the Department for Combating Drug Crime and the Department of the National Police in Khmelnytsky and Chernivtsy regions under procedural guidance of the Prosecutor's Office.

<https://ssu.gov.ua/ua/news/1/category/21/view/7424#.XIUfrDiP.dpbs>



FRANCE

06.04.2020 As part of control measures, Nantes Customs seized **50 kg of cocaine** in the port of Montaigne de Brittany. Drugs were concealed in a container arriving from the Antilles. A judicial investigation is being conducted by the Nantes judicial police. <https://www.lefigaro.fr/flash-actu/loire-atlantique-50-kilos-de-cocaine-saisis-dans-un-conteneur-maritime-20200406>

SRI LANKA

10.04.2020 Sri Lankan navy units found a vessel without a flag on high seas 548 nautical miles (985 km) off the coast of Sri Lanka, carrying approximately **260 kg of heroin and 56 kg of crystalline methamphetamine**. Seven Iranian nationals on board were taken into custody. The operation was conducted by the Navy using information gathered from crews of three vessels captured on high seas earlier this year. In addition, the operation was facilitated by international exchange of information as well as by analysis of satellite communication data.

http://www.colombopage.com/archive_20A/Apr11_1586587091CH.php