

CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY

(based on mass media reports)

13-19.04.2020**№ 16****CARICC MEMBER STATES****REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

13.04.2020 Employees of the Border Troops of the State Border Service of Azerbaijan prevented two attempts to smuggle drugs across state border. **2 kg of heroin and 1.95 kg of methamphetamine** were seized in the zone of responsibility of the border detachment in Geytepe, **4.73 kg of heroin and 1.77 kg of methamphetamine** in the zone of responsibility of the border detachment in Lankaran. <http://interfax.az/view/799053>
<https://www.trend.az/azerbaijan/incident/3222411.html>

17.04.2020 As a result of operation carried out by employees of the Central Drug Control Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances were prevented from being smuggled into the country. A resident of Shamkir district and a citizen of the Islamic Republic of Iran were detained on Bahramtepe-Bilasuvar highway in the territory of Imishli district. During a search, **94.673 kg of heroin, 646.401 g of opium, 950 g of hashish resin, 10.1 kg of marijuana and 7.153 kg of methamphetamine** were found and seized. A Sur-2608 pistol, 10 rounds of ammunition and a long-range surveillance device were also seized from an Iranian national. A total of **113,523 kg of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances** were seized during the operation. Detained persons smuggled drugs to Azerbaijan across Araz River on behalf of unidentified Iranian citizen. After the detainees had to hide the drugs in Imishli in a place specified by the Iranian citizen, they had to return. A criminal case was initiated on this fact. <https://vzglyad.az/news/160274>

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

13.04.2020 In the Kyzylorda region, employees of the DPN on the highway "Western Europe - Western China" near the settlement of "Shizhaga", located in the Aral region, stopped a car in which a 36-year-old resident of the Zhambyl region was carrying more than **21 kg of marijuana and more than 1 kg of hashish**. The drugs, packed in plastic bottles, were hidden in the baggage compartment. A pre-trial investigation has been initiated. <https://24.kz/ru/news/social/item/388074-krupnuyu-partiyu-narkotikov-iz-yali-v-kyzylordinskoj-oblasti>

11.04.2020 The DKNB and DP of Karaganda region neutralized an organized criminal group of 4 people from whom **570 grams of heroin**, three weapons and a large amount of cash were seized. The detainees are suspected of illegal sale of drugs in especially large amounts. During the operation four residents of Zhezkazgan and Satpayev, aged 32 to 51, were detained. No other information was disclosed in interests of the investigation. Currently, a pre-trial investigation has been launched into this fact. <https://ru.sputniknews.kz/incidents/20200414/13677400/Spetsoperatsiya-v-Satpaeve-geroin-i-arsenal-oruzhiya-izyaty-u-zaderzhannykh.html>

<https://24.kz/ru/news/incidents/item/388640-krupnyu-partiyu-geroina-iz-yali-v-karagandinskoj-oblasti>

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

13.04.2020 Employees of UNK GU MVD of Russia in Moscow region detained a 36-year-old local resident suspected of drug trafficking in Dmitrovsky urban district. A cache with **1 kg of mephedrone** was discovered during a site investigation. A criminal case was initiated against the detainee and a preventive measure in the form of detention was chosen.
<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19967686>

14.04.2020 Employees of UNK UMVD of Russia in the Pskov region detained a 38-year-old resident of the Pskov district, who in the basement of his home equipped an underground drug lab for cultivation of cannabis and subsequent extraction of marijuana. They seized **30 cannabis bushes, parts of cannabis plants with a total weight of 1178.66 g, more than 4 g of marijuana**, as well as heat lamps, fans and other special equipment, fertilizers, containers with seeds and soil. A criminal case has been initiated on these facts.
<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19979932>

15.04.2020 Officers of UNK GU MVD of Russia in the Krasnoyarsk Krai detained a 39-year-old man suspected of drug trafficking in Krasnoyarsk. During a personal search, a juice box with a bundle of **heroin weighing 615** was taken from him. A criminal case was initiated against the suspect and a preventive measure in the form of remand in custody was chosen.
<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19981330>

16.04.2020 A car driven by a 37-year-old resident of Voronezh was stopped on the M-4 "Don" highway by Russian OMVD officers in the Kashira urban district, Moscow region. During inspection of the vehicle and the driver's personal search, convolutions with **methamphetamine, hashish and cocaine, weighing more than 1 kg**, were found. A criminal case was initiated against the detainee. The Kashir City Court selected a preventive measure in the form of remand in custody for the suspect.
<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19993301>

19.04.2020 Officers of ONK UMVD the Russian Interior Ministry's Vladikavkaz police department detained a group of people who were distributing drugs in the city through caches. Two Moscow residents, aged 23 and 36, were detained while stashing drugs. The women used magnets and double-sided duct tape to attach drug to mailboxes of apartment buildings. Some of drugs were kept by the women in a rented apartment. Total weight of the seized **heroin was over 320 g**. A criminal case was initiated against the suspects.
<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/20003145>

15.04.2020 Police in Rostov region stopped a drug courier. At 1041 km of the M-4 "Don" highway, inspectors of the DPS of the Don Independent Battalion of the regional traffic police stopped a car under the control of a 27-year-old driver for inspection. During inspection of the vehicle, bags of **2.7 kg of methylephedron, 213 grams of cocaine and 980 grams of amphetamine** were found in the trunk and interior of the vehicle under the rear seat. Drugs were to be sold through caches in Rostov-on-Don and the Rostov region. Criminal proceedings were instituted against the detainee.
<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19984678>

17.04.2020 Employees of the Perm Krai UNK MVD of Russia, with the assistance of GUNK MVD of Russia, have detained six foreign nationals from neighboring countries who are suspected of illegal drug trafficking. One of the group members purchased large amounts of heroin, then packed with three accomplices on single doses. The other two members of the group were distributing heroin. During searches and body searches, more than **7.5 kg of heroin**, as well as electronic scales and packaging material, were seized from the defendants. An investigation is under way.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/19996823>

REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

16.04.2020 Employees of the DCA under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan in Dushanbe detained members of an organized criminal group engaged in drug trafficking, which included citizens of Afghanistan and Tajikistan. The leader of the OCG is an Afghan national born in 1980 and other members of the group are Tajik citizens, including a resident of Gissar born in 1982 and a resident of Khuroson district born in 1995. During a personal search, three sports bags were found and seized from detainees, inside which were **39.22 kg of opium and 4.99 kg of hashish**. A criminal case has been initiated in this regard. Appropriate measures are currently being taken to identify and detain remaining members of the organized criminal group. <http://avesta.tj/2020/04/16/v-dushanbe-zaderzhana-gruppa-narkotorgovtsev-izyato-svyshe-44-kg-narkotikov/>

16.04.2020 Tajikistan's Drug Control Agency (DCA) has dismantled a network of drug dealers in Dushanbe that distributed synthetic drugs. A total of **82 tablets of MDMA (methylenedioxy-methamphetamine)** have been seized. In February 2020, three women were detained and criminal proceedings initiated against them. A drug dealer D.A., who had been detained earlier, is under investigation.

<http://avesta.tj/2020/04/16/v-dushanbe-obezvrezhena-set-zhenshchin-narkodilerov/>

17.04.2020 Officers of UMVD of Tajikistan in Dushanbe city intercepted an organised criminal group engaged in smuggling drugs from Afghanistan into Tajikistan. About **68,7 kg of opium and 2 kg of methamphetamine** were seized from members of this group. In particular, 36-year-old local resident D.R. was detained at his house in the area of Farhor, bordering with Afghanistan. During further investigation the identity of OCG leader was established. It was a resident of the Farkhor district, D.B., born in 1979, who had previously been tried for drug trafficking. Currently, B.D. is located in the Russian Federation, from where he controls supply of drugs from Afghanistan to Tajikistan by mobile communication. A criminal case has been initiated against R.D. and B.D., and investigations are under way. B.D. is wanted.

<http://dushanbepolice.tj/2020/04/%d0%bc%d1%83%d1%81%d0%be%d0%b4%d0%b8%d1%80%d0%b0%d0%b8-140-%d0%ba%d0%b3-%d0%b2%d0%be%d1%81%d0%b8%d1%82%d0%b0%d2%b3%d0%be%d0%b8-%d0%bd%d0%b0%d1%88%d1%8a%d0%b0%d0%b4%d0%be%d1%80-%d0%b0%d0%b7-%d0%b4/>
<http://www.toptj.com/News/2020/04/17/na-yuge-tadjikistana-izyato-svyshe-70-kg-narkotikov>

OTHER COUNTRIES

AUSTRALIA

16.04.2020 As a result of an inter-agency investigation known as Operation Romani, which included the Australian Federal Police (AFP), the New South Wales Police Force (NSVPPF) and the Australian Border Force (ABF), the yacht "La Fayette" was intercepted 50 nautical miles east of Lake McQuory, New South Wales, carrying approximately **1 ton of methamphetamine**, in cooperation with agencies from the United Kingdom and New Caledonia. Two people have been arrested. The yacht followed a route from Mexico through the British island of Norfolk, New Caledonia to the Australian coast. Two crew members, a 33-year-old New Zealand citizen and a 34-year-old man with dual British and South African citizenship, who were on board, were arrested. Crew members were subject to restrictions under the Public Health Act and many additional precautions under COVID-19, including a coronavirus test.

<https://newsroom.abf.gov.au/releases/large-haul-of-drugs-seized-from-yacht-off-the-coast-near-lake-macquarie>

Video: https://videos.dailymail.co.uk/video/mol/2020/04/19/5135287018804691124/640x360_MP4_5135287018804691124.mp4

UNITED KINGDOM

14.04.2020 A Proactive Intercept Team near junction 28 in Tingley, Leeds, stopped a Honda Civic driven by a 61-year-old resident of Bradford, West Yorkshire. Police found and confiscated **7 kg of cocaine** worth £560,000 when they inspected the vehicle. The driver was arrested and charged with possession of Class A drugs.

<https://www.yorkshireeveningpost.co.uk/news/crime/west-yorkshire-man-charged-after-police-seize-7kg-cocaine-worth-more-ps500k-m62-leeds-2541968>

VIETNAM

14.04.2020 Police in central Quang Binh Province confiscated **307 kg of methamphetamine**. Four suspects, a man and a woman in their 20s, have been arrested. Two were detained while transporting drugs in a car on National Highway 1A through Bo Trach District. The drug couriers were hired for WON 300m (US \$12,800) to transport 15 bags from the Laos border gate in neighbouring Ha Tinh Province to Saigon. Further investigations have resulted in the arrest of two other drug dealers aged 26 and 42. Another 46-year-old member of the criminal group is in hiding from the police. Vietnam is a key drug trafficking hub from the Golden Triangle, the intersection of Laos, Thailand and Myanmar and the world's second largest drug production area after the Golden Crescent in South Asia. <https://e.vnexpress.net/news/news/307-kg-of-meth-seized-in-vietnam-four-arrested-4084983.html>

IRAN

17.04.2020 Between 10 and 17 April 2020, the Iranian Anti-Narcotics Police seized **280 kg of heroin, 14 tons 903 kg of opium, 576 kg of methamphetamine, 1 ton 185 kg of**

hashish, 66 kg of morphine and 206 kg of other narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances¹.

18.04.2020 Police in Sistan and Balochistan Province confiscated **1,927 kg of opium, 436 kg of hashish and 53 kg of other drugs** in a special operation. An attempt has been made to detain a group of smugglers who were planning to smuggle drugs into the country across the Saravan borders. The smuggled cargo was carried in two cars on the Saravan-Hash road. Ammunition was seized in addition to drugs. Smugglers fled to highlands of the area, using the dark hours of the day.
<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/157726/Over-2-tons-of-drugs-confiscated-in-SE-Iran>

IRELAND

14.04.2020 Gardaí employees in Dublin seized **8 kg of cocaine**, estimated at 500,000 euros, as well as a small amount of **cannabis** and two guns in pursuit of a vehicle that had not stopped at a COVID-19 checkpoint. Two men and a woman, aged 20 years, were arrested at the scene.
<https://www.irishexaminer.com/breakingnews/ireland/--994054.html>

CANADA

15.04.2020 Officers of the Canadian Border Services Agency and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police seized approximately **25 kg of cocaine**, valued at approximately \$3 million, and **4.1 kg of hashish**, valued at approximately \$82,000, during commercial flight controls at Toronto Pearson International Airport from 21 to 29 March. The substances were imported on two separate flights from Montego Bay and one flight from Mexico City.
<https://toronto.ctvnews.ca/canada-border-officials-seize-more-than-3m-worth-of-drugs-at-toronto-airport-1.4897449>

THE NETHERLANDS

10.04.2020 The NARC team found and seized **1,459 kg of cocaine** in the port of Rotterdam. Investigation resulted in five arrests - two men from Kosovo, aged 33 and 35, a 42-year-old Turkish citizen, a 43-year-old Albanian citizen and a 32-year-old French citizen. The investigation resulted in the discovery of a warehouse located in Best, North Brabant, where four suspects were detained by police and customs, who were looking for two containers of drugs. The containers held manganese ore from Brazil as cargo. A fifth suspect was arrested in Rotterdam for his involvement in transporting containers. The Rotterdam Office of the Public Prosecutor suspected the detainees of involvement in importation and transport of cocaine. The investigation is being carried out by the NARC team through Customs, FIOD, the Seaport Police and the Public Prosecutor's Office in Rotterdam. The drugs seized have been destroyed.
<https://www.om.nl/actueel/nieuws/2020/04/17/vijf-aanhoudingen-na-onderschepping-1459-kilo-cocaine>

¹ Information provided by liaison officer of the Anti-Narcotics Police of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

PUERTO RICO

18.04.2020 30 kg of cocaine were seized in Puerto Barrios Isabal in a joint operation by the Drug Investigation Directorate-General (GSVB) of the National Civil Police, the Ministry of State and the Special Navy. The drug packets were inside a cylindrical red metal object (measuring 1.5 m x 0.6 m) attached to the outer part of a speedboat docked at the Caribbean Naval Dock. <https://mingob.gov.gt/localizan-30-paquetes-de-cocaina-en-objeto-cilindrico-en-izabal/>

UAE

16.04.2020 The Dubai Police General Department of Anti-Narcotics obtained information about gang members who were trying to take advantage of the COVID-19 pandemic prevention measures by distributing drugs to young people. After receiving information about the gang's operations, its members were under surveillance for 12 days. During this period, all gang members, as well as vehicles they used, were identified by the police. Two suspects, including gang leader, were arrested while drugs were being transported. The other two were arrested in front of their residence in Dubai. A total of **26 kg of heroin and 33 kg of crystalline methamphetamine** were seized. <https://www.khaleejtimes.com/news/crime-and-courts/dubai-police-seize-59kg-of-heroin-crystal-meth-4-arrested>

PAKISTAN

16.04.2020 Anti-Narcotics Force of Pakistan (ANF) seized **3.449 tons of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including 1,721 kg of heroin, 1,020 kg of morphine, 395 kg of opium and 312.7 kg of hashish** in 11 anti-drug operations. Eight persons were arrested and four vehicles seized. <https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/anf-seizes-3449-metric-tons-drugs-in-11-oper-895111.html>

USA

16.04.2020 Border patrol agents from the Rio Grande Valley in Garceno, Escobar, Brownsville and Havana, Texas, stopped four attempts to smuggle drugs from Mexico into the United States, resulting in the seizure of **500 kilograms of marijuana** worth approximately \$1 million. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/rio-grande-valley-agents-seize-over-1000-lbs-seven-hours>

TANZANIA

17.04.2020 Detectives from the Drug Control and Enforcement Agency (DCEA) arrested a Nigerian drug lord operating in Tanzania, along with his two Tanzanian associates. More than **270 kg of heroin** were seized. <https://www.ippmedia.com/en/news/big-heroin-haul-nigerian-two-tanzanians-arrested>

TURKEY

13.04.2020 Officers from the Narcotics Division of the Provincial Police Department and the Directorate of Anti-Smuggling and Customs Intelligence of the Port of Mersin searched a

container of bananas from Ecuador and found **34.795 kg of cocaine**. Drugs were hidden in natural cavities in the refrigerant section of the container. Investigation is under way. <http://m.karsmanset.com/haber/mersin-limaninda-34-kilo-795-gram-kokain-ele-gecirildi-185873.htm>

13.04.2020 Security forces in the Haniyeh district of southeastern Diyarbakir province seized **305 kg of marijuana**. Four suspects have been arrested in connection with drug trafficking. Marijuana was found as a result of a search of a vehicle selected for inspection. <https://www.dailysabah.com/turkey/over-300-kg-of-marijuana-seized-in-southeastern-turkey/news>

FRANCE

15.04.2020 Border guard officers at the Channel Tunnel terminal in Cocksley stopped a van registered in Poland carrying a large shipment of face masks when attempting to enter the UK via the English Channel for inspection. As a result, **14 kg of cocaine** were found in boxes with masks. The driver, a 34-year-old Polish citizen, was arrested. Criminal networks are trying to use the coronavirus pandemic for their criminal purposes. Investigation is conducted by the National Directorate of Civil Police. https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-52300095?at_campaign=64&at_medium=custom7&at_custom3=%40BBCNews&at_custom2=twitter&at_custom1=%5Bpost+type%5D&at_custom4=49396710-7F54-11EA-ACBF-0CB8C28169F1

JAPAN

16.04.2020 Customs authorities at Yokohama port seized about **700 kg of cocaine** in early April, with a potential value of 14 billion yen (\$130 million). Customs authorities suspect a major international drug syndicate of involvement in smuggling and are investigating a case of customs law violations. Cocaine was concealed in a shipping container with banana boxes. <https://english.kyodonews.net/news/2020/04/52065fd2f6a9-record-700-kg-of-cocaine-seized-at-yokohama-port.html>