CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY (based on mass media reports)

04.05-10.05.2020

№ 19

CARICC MEMBER STATES

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

05.05.2020 In the course of measures taken for protection of the state border, the State Border Service of Azerbaijan prevented illegal import of large consignment of drugs and firearms into the territory of the Republic. Border guards of "Goradiz" gate near the village of Akhmedli of Beylyagan district detained a 50-year-old Russian citizen living in the village of Beyuk Bakhmanly of Fizuli district. During inspection of the scene, packages of heroin, opium, marijuana and methamphetamine weighing 115 kg were found and seized. In addition, they found a PAK RETAY-11 pistol, eight rounds of ammunition, a Kral magnesium hunting rifle and 19 Iranian-made rounds. A criminal case has been instituted and investigation is underway. https://1news.az/news/v-azerbaydzhan-ptyalis-provezti-krupnuyu-partiyu-narkotikov-i-oruzhiya---foto

07.05.2020 Employees of the Masalli ROP MVD of the Republic of Azerbaijan detained a resident of Masalli city suspected of illegal drug trafficking who illegally stored 2.17 kg of opium at his place of residence. https://www.azerbaycan24.com/ru/iz-doma-zhitelya-masalli-izayat-2-17-kg-narkotikov/?__cf_chl_jschl_tk__=80892c026f738f0aa9a39f653d2b34ef9552b0-1589184548-0-AZ5PG91wNm1ck5gY6hxA7LtD65j0pUf2x8kwSRh-4N4qrVbWial,19toMipFdCTVeUuefpl1L6Ctni3tOCAdv-QQ00oRCQ64Fdoypwv7NażzcGhoV1HbrorUMSszHda93fUEDaSz-nSEx7bSYJvijwWQ8lUyc2dmcJykkZq7EQG99YD5vF0B3Xk26Xk5ShNQx0ziyMB7bjR_e35It6yVI2WMmppl2m5St5LcaZKpF0FMFrZlIzp1zUBrozmuQjVNHcpIfZzsMNNVviPaq83W1RVypiejWvjf0sY8vd-WCSGBjPmZT-pHwnnxGKfIP9DuUl5znP5L8X4cM5GD99xK8Dse1jZBBusK77j60Ccp-VuQ8_xMOu8Ehb10NCTCp7sq-syXRIk9cHIU5ZbhFKRHSbvF7XuW-FBCxeP

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

05.05.2020 At the "Karaganda" station, supply chain for the city of Balkhash in the Karaganda region of cannabis group drugs from Zhambyl region was eliminated. The drug supplier was a 55-year-old resident of Shus district of Zhambyl region, who organized sale of about 10 kg of hashish. Subsequently, 13 kg of hashish were seized from his road bag during a personal search. The detainee was placed in a temporary detention facility in Shu city. A pre-trial investigation is underway. https://inbusiness.kz/ru/last/krupnuyu-partiyu-hashisha-izyala-policiya-na-transporte-v-karagande

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

07.05.2020 Investigator of the Department of MVD of Russia for the city of Novokuznetsk in the Kemerovo region has completed an investigation of a criminal case against a 25-year-old resident of Novokuznetsk for illegal production and sale of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances or their analogues. The defendant organized sale of drugs of synthetic and plant origin in Novokuznetsk, for which he created an online store where buyers purchased illicit...
substances for cryptocurrency. Employees of ONK UMVD of the Russian Federation in the city of Novokuznetsk carried out measures which resulted in the arrest of a drug dealer. During a personal search and in an apartment rented by detainees for packaging of illegal substances, marijuana, hashish, drugs of synthetic origin and a reagent for preparation of smoking "mixes," weighing about 600 g, were seized. At present, the criminal case has been sent to court for ruling. https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/20118486

06.05.2020 Employees of UNK UMVD of Russia on Bryansk region detained a 29-year-old resident of Bryansk. Amphetamine, cocaine, mephedrone, marijuana, hashish and LSD, weighing more than 2 kg, were found and seized in his apartment during a search. The suspect was selling illegal substances via the Internet and through equipment of wholesale and retail caches in various places of the city and region. Criminal proceedings were initiated against the detainee. He will be held in custody until trial. https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/20106952

07.05.2020 Three residents of Blagoveshchensk, suspected of illegal drug trafficking, have been detained by officers of UNK UMVD of Russia in Amur region. A 39-year-old man and a 32-year-old woman collected wild cannabis on the territory of Konstantinovsky district, from which hashish oil was later produced. Their 42-year-old accomplice carried drug to Blagoveshchensk for sale in the city. In a village in the Konstantinovsky district caches were found, which were used by the suspects to store drugs. A total of 67 kg of marijuana and 2.4 kg of hashish oil were seized. Investigation into this fact is underway. A preventive measure in the form of house arrest has been taken against the suspects. https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/20108875

08.05.2020 Employees of UNK UMVD of Russia in the Astrakhan region during operative support of criminal case on accusation of a 32-year-old resident of Astrakhan of illegal sale of drugs, revealed legalization (laundering) of money resources. The man was involved in distribution of synthetic drugs, which he sold contactlessly through caches. Drug dealer found buyers through the Internet. In order to give a legal appearance to possession, use and disposal of money obtained by criminal means, the perpetrator made financial transactions and deals, having obtained illegal profits amounting to about 1.2 million rubles. https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/20127465

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**OTHER COUNTRIES**

**BELGIUM**

08.05.2020 Customs seized 275 kg of cocaine at the MPET container terminal at Dergank Waaslandhoven dock in port Anverpen. A shipment of cocaine with a potential value of €14 million was found in a container with copper plates that had arrived from Brazil. https://www.gva.be/cnt/dmf20200508_04951555/275-kilogram-cocaine-in-beslag-genomen-in-waaslandhaven

**BRAZIL**

06.05.2020 Federal Police (PF), in a special operation carried out at terminal at a pier of the port of Santos on the coast of São Paulo, detained three dockers, each of whom had packages of 6 kg, 4 kg and 2 kg of cocaine under their outer clothing attached to their hulls and concealed under compression underwear. The dockers intended to place cocaine
in a container on its way to Europe. Criminals could earn up to $5,000 for each package of cocaine delivered to designated location. Federal Police are investigating the case to find out who sent drugs and whether detained dockers were part of a criminal organization.

http://www.segurancaportuariaemfoco.com.br/2020/05/pf-prende-estivadores-com-12-kg-de.html
https://g1.globo.com/sp/santos-regiao/porto-mar/noticia/2020/05/07/pf-prende-estivadores-com-12-kg-de-drogas-presas-a-coro-no-porto-de-santos.qhtml

**05.05.2020** Investigators from the National Crime Agency (NCA) have charged two Albanian men, aged 20 and 23, with possession and importing Class A drugs, who broke into the London container terminal in Tilbury to pick up bags of drugs. Port workers found suspicious activity at the terminal and reported it to the police. Later, suspects were arrested by border guards, who seized about 16 kg of cocaine from a refrigerated container that arrived from Belize May 1. The shipment was worth over £1 million.

https://nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/two-charged-after-1m-cocaine-recovered-from-port

**11.05.2020** Customs stopped a van driven by a Belgian national at the Coquelles customs post on the border with France, where 285 kg of cocaine were found and seized, in an attempt to enter the United Kingdom. The man was carrying over €28 million worth of cocaine in the van, claiming that he was taking medicines to hospital. The Belgian was accused of attempting to import a Class A drug according to the classification of the British justice system. The man has been brought to trial and will remain in custody.


**04.05.2020** A large-scale international cooperation operation by the Hamburg Customs Service and the police at the port of Hamburg found about 500 kg of cocaine smuggled into Europe on a Montenegrin-flagged dry cargo ship from Brazil via England to Hamburg port. At the entrance to Dutch waters, the vessel was accompanied by Dutch police boats and was then placed under surveillance by German naval units. Cocaine was packed in waterproof bags and concealed behind hatches. Additional bags, buoys and a GPS transmitter were also found by investigators. Criminals obviously planned to throw cocaine overboard with a transmitter, where it would then be picked up by an accomplice in a boat. Suspected of cocaine smuggling, a 42-year-old dry freighter crew member, has been arrested.

https://www.zoll.de/SharedDocs/Pressemitteilungen/DE/Rauschgift/2020/z52_kokain_hamburg.html

**06.05.2020** Honduran authorities seized 211 kg of cocaine during a joint operation with the United States and Colombia as a result of a search of “the Little Mermaid” boat. The boat crew managed to escape after they were found by authorities in the Caribbean Sea. A shipment of cocaine was hidden in caches on seats of the boat. Honduras is considered an international transit corridor between major drug-producing countries in South America and the United States market. Authorities often conduct joint operations with the U.S. and...
Colombia to combat drug cartels. [https://www.macaubusiness.com/211kg-of-cocaine-found-off-honduras-on-boat-called-the-little-mermaid/]

**INDIA**

**09.05.2020** Border Security Force (BSF) has stopped an attempt by Pakistani smugglers to bring drugs, weapons and ammunition into India. On the India-Pakistan border, units of the Border Security Forces (BSF) recorded suspicious movements of people in front of border fence. Suspects managed to escape into Pakistani territory. Five plastic bottles of 5 kg of heroin were found during site investigation. In addition, border guards found a 9 mm pistol, one magazine and four cartridges in the Ferozepur sector. Since early 2020, BSF has seized **137.194 kg of heroin** at the border. [https://www.dailyexcelsior.com(bsf-seizes-5-kg-heroin-ammunition-from-punjab-border/]

**IRAN**

**04.05.2020** Sistan and Balochistan police, after conducting counter-narcotics intelligence operations in Iranshahr and Saravan districts, identified and eliminated a group of drug dealers who intended to transport two large consignments of drugs to central Iran from the eastern borders. During the Saravan operation, police forces seized 812 kg of opium, weapons and ammunition. Smugglers managed to hide in highlands, using dark hours. In another operation in Iranshahr, two vehicles were seized, attempting to bring 587 kg of opium into the province. During the operation, one smuggler was detained and the other was killed. [https://en.mehrnews.com/news/158325/Police-bust-over-1-4-tons-of-narcotics-in-S-Iran]

**07.05.2020** Police forces seized **2.419 tons of drugs, including 2.03 tons of opium, 406 kg of hashish and 10 kg of morphine** after an armed clash with a group of drug dealers in the Hasha area. Two leaders of the group were arrested and some weapons, ammunition and vehicles confiscated. [https://en.mehrnews.com/news/158431/Police-arrest-two-drug-lords-after-massive-drug-bust-in-SE-Iran]

**08.05.2020** In total, from 2 to 8 May 2020, the Iranian Anti-Narcotics Police seized **22 tons and 376 kg of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, of which 179 kg of heroin, 19 tons 237 kg of opium, 84 kg of methamphetamine, 2 tons 801 kg of hashish, 25 kg of morphine and 50 kg of other narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances**.

**09.05.2020** Police in Qazvin discovered and seized **198 kg of opium** imported through the central province of Yazd. In cooperation with anti-narcotics forces in Yazd, opium cargo was stopped in the town of Mehriz and a criminal was arrested. [https://en.mehrnews.com/news/158500/Police-bust-200kg-of-opium-in-Yazd]

**SPAIN**

**06.05.2020** Civil Guard officers seized **250 kg of cocaine** hidden in a container among parts of a helicopter arriving from South America as a result of an operation in the port of

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1 Information provided by liaison officer of the Anti-Narcotics Police of the Islamic Republic of Iran.
Valencia. No one was arrested in the operation. Criminals used criminal "Rip-on/Rip-off" method, which involves concealing a consignment of drugs in a container with legal goods in the country of origin without the knowledge of the exporter or importer, and then extracting it at its destination before the cargo reaches its destination. In this way, drug traffickers bypass customs controls in Valencia. This consignment is estimated to cost €8.5 million. 

**07.05.2020** Officers of the Civil Guard in Puerto de la Luz and Las Palmas seized **14.26 kg of cocaine** distributed in 13 packages, which were hidden in a container from Brazil. During that operation, 123 Brazilian containers were inspected over four days. 
https://www.eldiario.es/canariasahora/sucesos/Guardia-Civil-cocaina-Puerto-Luz_0_1024697875.html

### COLOMBIA

**05.05.2020** During a counter-narcotics operation carried out by Antinarcóticos Santa Marta personnel on the territory of the port of Santa Marta, **61.9 kg of cocaine hydrochloride** were found in a container's cooling system during inspection. 
https://contraportada.co/encuentran-64-paquetes-de-clorhidrato-de-cocaina-en-el-puerto-samario/

### MOROCCO

**05.05.2020** In a joint operation carried out by the Judicial Police Brigade of Nador, National Security Agents (DGSN) and Port Nador Customs, a Turkish citizen was arrested for attempting to smuggle (export) **230 kg of hashish** in a truck registered in the Netherlands. The defendant intended to board a vessel bound for Almeria, Spain. He was arrested for purposes of investigation. 
https://www.bladi.es/marruecos-incautacion-drogas,3810.html

### MEXICO

**07.05.2020** In the port of Manzanillo, Colima, UNAPROP-62, with the support of a team of canines and customs personnel, inspected a container unloaded from the LONG BEACH TRADER under the Maltese flag, finding **45.78 kg of cocaine**. The vessel arrived at Manzanillo from Guayaquil, Ecuador. Investigation is being carried out by the Criminal Investigation Agency (AIC) of the Office of the Attorney General of Mexico. 
https://www.gob.mx/cms/uploads/attachment/file/550928/Personal_de_la_Armada_de_M xico_en_coordinaci n_con_la_Aduana_y_Fiscal_a_General_de_La_Rep_blica_Aseguran_40_paquetes_con_presunta_coca_na_en_ Manzanillo_Colima.pdf
https://twitter.com/SEMAR_mx/status/1258412515513507841

**09.05.2020** Mexico's navy units discovered and seized **35.4 kg of cocaine** at the port of Lazaro Cárdenas, Michoacán, after containers were unloaded from the Liberian vessel RDO Concord. Drug was in the cooling system of a container. The vessel sailed from Guayaquil (Ecuador) through the ports of Buenaventura (Colombia), Rodman (Panama) and Lazaro Cardena, Michoacán (Mexico). Its final destination was the port of Manzanillo, Colima (Mexico). Upon discovery, the cocaine shipment was forwarded to competent authorities. 
https://twitter.com/SEMAR_mx/status/125918233586353568

06.05.2020  Myanmar Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC) reported that 3.96 kg of heroin had been seized by the Joint Police Force in Sagaing territory. Drug had been transported by motorcycle and seized in Tamu city. It is estimated to cost about 169,000 US dollars. The police initiated proceedings against the suspect under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act in the country. A motorcyclist fled the scene. 
https://menafn.com/1100124065/Myanmar-confiscates-around-4-KG-of-heroin

08.05.2020  A group of security officers on the Kyethi-Mongnawng road confiscated 1,038 kg of opium from a car. City police have filed a lawsuit to detain a suspect who had fled the scene. A day earlier, on 7 May, 26,560 litres of ethyl acetate (acetic ethyl ether) had also been seized. Four people are accused in connection with this case under the Prevention of Hazard from Chemical and Related Substances Law. 

10.05.2020  According to statements by the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC), 10.58 kg of opium, 440 g of heroin and 923 g of methamphetamine were seized by the Sagaing Region Joint Police Force during a search of a house in Banmauk city. One suspect was apprehended. The police have instituted proceedings against the suspect, and investigations are under way under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. 
http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-05/10/c_139045396.htm

THE NETHERLANDS

04.05.2020  At the APMTR container terminal in Maasvlakt, police detained two men aged 19 and 25 from Rotterdam on suspicion of involvement in drug trafficking. The men were probably "collectors" who extract drugs from containers. No drugs were found with them when they were apprehended. A "collector" gets 1,000 euros for a kilo of cocaine. Bags where drugs are usually found in containers can carry up to 25 kg of drugs. 
https://www.rijnmond.nl/nieuws/195029/VIDEO-Twee-mogelijke-drugsuithalers-gepakt-bij-APM

06.05.2020  Customs at the port of Rotterdam found 300 kg of cocaine in a container during inspection. The container came from Brazil and contained barrels of frozen orange juice. Five barrels were found, each containing 60 packs of cocaine. Frozen juice barrels were destined for a company in Rotterdam that was not involved in smuggling. The HARC team, a partnership between Customs, FIOD, the Seaport Police and the Public Prosecutor's Office in Rotterdam is investigating it. Seized drug shipment has been destroyed. 
https://www.om.nl/actueel/nieuws/2020/05/07/cocaine-tussen-sinaasappelsap

07.05.2020  Customs and police in a company in Moerdjik confiscated 70 kg of cocaine. Packages of cocaine were stored in two sport bags hidden in a container. The shipment was discovered by company personnel unloading the container at a facility in the Moerdjik industrial zone. The company is not involved in drug smuggling. The container loaded with ferronickel bags arrived from Chile and was moved from Rotterdam to Moerdjik in a
domestic ship. The HARC team, a partnership between Customs, FIOD, the Seaport Police and the Public Prosecutor's Office in Rotterdam, is continuing its investigation. Seized drugs have been destroyed. https://www.om.nl/actueel/nieuws/2020/05/07/70-kilo-cocaine-in-sporttassen

### PAKISTAN

**07.05.2020** The police arrested two drug traffickers in a major operation against drug trafficking, and seized **75 kg of hashish and 3 kg of opium** from them. Defendants were involved in drug smuggling throughout Pakistan. A case has been registered against the alleged drug smugglers. https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/police-crackdown-against-drug-dealers-75-kg-913768.html

### PUERTO RICO

**07.05.2020** U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents, together with Air and Marine Operations (AMO), Puerto Rico Police Department (PRPD) and Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), uncovered suspicious activity near the coastline at the foot of Maternillo in Fajardo and subsequent activities in a drug smuggling investigation found **190 kg of cocaine** in a car and seized it. The shipment is valued at $4.75 million. Two defendants have been arrested. The U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the U.S. Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) are in charge of the case. https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/amo-hsi-prpd-seize-419-pounds-cocaine-and-arrest-two-individuals

### RWANDA

**08.05.2020** Rwandan security services in the village of Nyakabanda, Ruangara, in sector Chianzarwe shot a man and a woman while attempting to smuggle some **100 kg of marijuana** from neighbouring Democratic Republic of the Congo. Another smuggler managed to escape. The deceased smugglers, aged 30 and 38, have been identified. https://taarifa.rw/rwanda-kills-two-smugglers-carrying-80kgs-of-marijuana/

### USA

**06.05.2020** Border Patrol agents from El Centro Sector, Salton City, California, detained a 30-year-old female U.S. citizen driving a Ford Expedition vehicle suspected of drug smuggling at a checkpoint on Highway 86. Inspections of the vehicle revealed 75 packages of **26.82 kg of methamphetamine** hidden inside the tank. Value of the consignment was estimated at 112 thousand US dollars. Woman, drugs and vehicle were handed over to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/border-patrol-agents-discover-narcotics-concealed-inside-gas-tank

**07.05.2020** U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials in El Paso, Texas, detained a 24-year-old U.S. citizen at a cargo facility at the Bridge of the Americas port of entry attempting to smuggle more than **18.14 kg of cocaine** hidden in a cache in the floor of a Chevy Corvette vehicle. Cocaine was confiscated and the driver was handed over to the Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) for federal charges. In addition, on May 7, CBP officers at the port of entry in Santa Teresa detained a U.S. citizen who was attempting to smuggle about **1.36 kg of methamphetamine**. Drugs were hidden in area of the vehicle.
chassis. Female driver was transferred to HSI for federal charges, drugs were seized.

07.05.2020  Border Patrol agents working at BCP I-8, Yuma, Arizona, seized **fentanyl tablets weighing 1.11 kg** after checking a Ford Focus vehicle with three people in it. Fentanyl was in four bags in a backpack in the back seat. Fentanyl is worth 33,000 dollars. The driver, a 35-year-old woman, and two passengers, a 31-year-old and a 55-year-old man, were U.S. citizens. 31-year-old passenger was arrested. Drugs and the vehicle were confiscated. https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/yuma-sector-checkpoint-agents-seize-fentanyl-pills

### TURKEY

08.05.2020  Gendarmerie and police units seized **810 kg of marijuana** during counter-narcotics operations conducted in the Lice and Kocakoy districts of Diyarbakir province. Sacks of marijuana were hidden in wooded areas in rural Diyarbakir, ready for shipment to major cities across the country. Security forces are looking for suspects.

### UKRAINE

05.05.2020  Border guards, in cooperation with the SBU, the prosecutor's office and customs at Yuzhny seaport, seized **53.4 kg of cocaine**, which was placed in caches in technical cavities of a banana container from Ecuador. Cocaine was packed in 45 briquettes. Each briquette was wrapped in lead packaging to minimize the possibility of detection by scanners or service dogs. The shipment is estimated to cost more than 200 million hryvnia. Investigations into this fact are underway. Packages had a logo in the form of a cartoon character "minion". https://dpsu.gov.ua/ua/news/ponad-53-kg-kokainu-viyavili-na-odeshchini-v-konteyneri-z-ekvadorskimi-bananami/

09.05.2020  Police officers from the Shevchenko Police Department detained two 23-year-old drug dealers who organized an Internet resource for sale of drugs and psychotropic substances. The online store offered drugs in the form of stamps, pills, hallucinogenic mushrooms and confectionery products with cannabis, which were distributed through courier deliveries. The cost of seized during searches of narcotic and psychotropic substances amounted to almost UAH 10 million. Law enforcement officers seized **1,560 stamps, 3,164 pills** and bank cards from an apartment, which was used as a warehouse. During a personal search of a perpetrator, about **60 grams of marijuana were seized, 51 tablets MDMA and a bottle with butirate**, and from a car of his accomplice - **8 packages with marijuana, 264 tablets MDMA, 81 bottles with butirate, 167 confectionery products with cannabis, brands LSD, etc**. Law enforcers also identified and detained a 32-year-old resident of Brovary, who purchased about **50 grams of synthetic drugs** through this online store. Criminal proceedings were initiated on this fact.
04.05.2020 Police and Narcotics Division officers conducted coordinated operations in Spur Tree in Manchester. During searches carried out on two premises found and seized 3,946 kg of marijuana, valued at approximately $35 million. Three men and a woman were arrested and police also confiscated a vehicle. Identities of detainees are not disclosed for the purpose of further investigation.