

CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY

(based on mass media reports)

11.05-17.05.2020

№ 20

CARICC MEMBER STATES

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

12.05.2020 State Border Service of Azerbaijan (SBS) prevented smuggling of total 55.36 kg of narcotics and psychotropic substances from Iran:

1) On May 10 in the zone of service of a frontier post located near the village of Orujmahalla of Astara district, border guards found packages with **4.9 kg of marijuana, 3.45 kg of heroin, 1.55 kg of opium, 2 kg of methamphetamine, 3,800 tablets of methadone M-40;**

2) On May 10, border guards during a joint operation with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, conducted in the service zone of a border post near the village of Pelikash of Astara district, found **5.56 kg of heroin;**

3) On 11 May in the service zone of a border post near Ahmadli village of South Beylagan district border guards stopped an attempt of illegal crossing of Azerbaijan-Iran border. The perpetrator fled in the territory of Iran, leaving at the scene of the incident convolution with **19.18 kg of opium, 16.305 kg of heroin and 2.415 kg of marijuana.**

<https://www.azernews.az/nation/165015.html>

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

13.05.2020 In Aksu, Pavlodar region, police detained a drug dealer who sold synthetic drugs through social networks via caches. About **500 g of psychotropic substance** were found in a cache, laid by defendant in the criminal case in Aksu. In addition, employees of the Pavlodar DP UPN detained a local resident in Pavlodar, in whose backpack were found two convolutions containing over **109 g of heroin** and more than **103 g of synthetic drugs**. The suspect was remanded in custody. Investigation is under way.

https://www.inform.kz/ru/srazu-neskol-ko-narkotorgovcev-zaderzhano-v-regionah-kazahstana_a3649102

16.05.2020 In Nur-Sultan, a lawsuit has been completed regarding production and sale of synthetic drugs against a 19-year-old native of Ekibastuz, who set up production and contactless sale of **alpha-pyrrolidinovalerophenone (a-PVP)**. For this purpose, he rented a house in the Kazakh capital, where he equipped a drug lab. During a search police seized chemicals for production of synthetic drugs, flasks, vacuum apparatus, notebooks with formulas for drug production, gas masks, scales, as well as a suit of chemical protection in which drugs were produced. **2.34 kg a-PVP** were seized.

https://tengrinews.kz/kazakhstan_news/19-letniy-himik-samouchka-proizvodil-skorost-v-nur-sultane-402437/

16.05.2020 Employees of UPN DP Zhambyl region seized more than **25 kg of marijuana and 700 g of hashish** from a resident of Shusky district, which he hid 10 km from his house. A pre-trial investigation is under way. In addition, in Zhambyl region, police have identified a drug den in his home that had been operating for more than six months and

was organized by the owner for use of synthetic drugs. About **1 kg of synthetic drugs and more than 3 kg of marijuana** were found and seized from the traffickers.

<https://24.kz/ru/news/incidents/item/396205-bole-25-kg-vysushennoj-marikhuany-iz-yali-u-zhitelya-shuskogo-rajona>

14.05.2020 Employees of the Shardara ROP in Turkestan region in the yard of an 80-year-old resident found and seized **5.5 thousand bushes of drug-containing plant cocknar (opium poppy) weighing 62 kg**. This fact was registered in the ERDR of Shardara ROP.

<https://inbusiness.kz/ru/last/v-turkestanskoj-oblasti-u-80-letnego-pensionera-izyali-62-kg-narkotikov>

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

13.05.2020 Employees of UNK UMVD of Russia in the Ryazan region detained two residents of Ryazan - a 39-year-old man and a 35-year-old woman. More than **1.5 kg of synthetic drugs and 129 g of hashish**, prepared for sale on the territory of Ryazan, were found during inspection of the detainees' home. Policemen also found caches with **1.65 kg of synthetic drugs**. A criminal case was initiated against the detainees.

<https://мвд.рф/news/item/20158720>

13.05.2020 Employees of ONK UMVD of Russia in the city of Kemerovo discovered a cache with **400 g of mephedrone**, equipped by a 35-year-old resident of Tomsk. The suspect was detained at his place of residence. **80 g of mephedrone** was seized during his personal search. The drug dealer had specially come to the Kemerovo region to sell wholesale shipments of drugs contactlessly. He sold illicit substances in Kemerovo and Novokuznetsk. A criminal case was initiated against the suspect and a preventive measure in the form of detention was chosen. <https://мвд.рф/news/item/20160253>

12.05.2020 Employees of UNK UMVD of Russia on Bryansk region together with colleagues from regional department of Federal service of enforcement of penalty have intercepted a channel of heroin delivery to territory of Bryansk region. Two 24-year-old residents of the Bryansk region supplied heroin from the Moscow region to a colony in Bryansk. The convict serving a sentence became an accomplice of criminal activity. 144 convolutions with **heroin, weighing more than 200 g**, were seized from one of the suspects. A preventive measure in the form of remand in custody was taken against the detainees.

<https://мвд.рф/news/item/20153248>

12.05.2020 Employees of the Chuvash LO MVD of Russia detained a 33-year-old local resident in Cheboksary who purchased at least **1.05 kg of N-methylephedron** through a stash and tried to sell it in pieces through other stashes. During a personal search and searches at two addresses, substance was found and seized. A criminal case has been initiated on this fact. <https://мвд.рф/news/item/20150810>

13.05.2020 Employees of UNK GU MVD of Russia in Novosibirsk region have stopped a 27-year-old resident of Irkutsk region, suspected of selling synthetic drugs. The man is detained in the territory of a garden society, where he has equipped caches with drugs. **497 g of α-PVP**, which was prepared for sale, were seized. A criminal case was initiated and a preventive measure in the form of detention was chosen. Channels for supplying the region with prohibited substance and other persons involved in its illicit trafficking have been identified. <https://мвд.рф/news/item/20155884>

14.05.2020 Employees of UNK UMVD of Russia in Kursk region detained a 24-year-old drug courier, who was a foreign citizen. The man was delivering wholesale shipments of illegal drugs to the territory of Kursk region and was making caches for their distribution. During a search in the suspect's apartment and in the place of caches, **1.5 kg of synthetic drugs** were seized. The suspect has been arrested and will remain in a remand centre until trial. A criminal case has been initiated. <https://мвд.рф/news/item/20166891>

14.05.2020 Employees of UNK GU MVD of Russia in the Kemerovo region detained a 43-year-old resident of Prokopyevsk at the moment of equipment of a cache with drugs, who turned out to be a wholesale courier of an Internet shop selling drugs. The man was packing and distributing drugs contactlessly in the Kemerovo region. During a personal search and as a result of a search of the house, about **600 g α-PVP** were found and seized. A criminal case was initiated on this fact, and the man was taken into custody. <https://мвд.рф/news/item/20168985>

14.05.2020 Employees of ONK UMVD of Russia in the city of Rostov-on-Don have stopped a drug courier - 23-year-old local resident. During a personal search in the suspect's backpack, as well as during a search in his apartment, **amphetamine, methamphetamine and MDMA, with a total mass of about 4.5 kg** prepared for sale, were found and seized. Criminal proceedings were instituted against the suspect and the court selected a preventive measure in the form of remand in custody. <https://мвд.рф/news/item/20166844>

14.05.2020 In Ukhta, officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Komi Republic detained a 19-year-old resident of the Murmansk region, who served as a stasher for an online store specializing in drug sales. His duties included storing, packing and placing drugs through caches. During a search of the apartment rented by the detainee, as well as from the caches were seized **950 g of synthetic drugs, 11 g of heroin, 536 tablets of ecstasy, 140 g of amphetamine and 170 g of methamphetamine**. A criminal case has been initiated and a preventive measure in the form of detention has been taken against the detainee. <https://мвд.рф/news/item/20166172>

15.05.2020 Members of UNK UMVD of Russia in the Arkhangelsk region stopped a car with a driver and a passenger suspected of selling drugs in a wooded area near the village of Belomorje in the Primorsky district of the Arkhangelsk region. During inspection of the vehicle, **5 kg of mephedrone** were found and seized, which the passenger took from a cache near an abandoned building. The driver was not involved in illegal actions of the drug courier. The suspect was planning to sell the consignment of drugs on the territory of the region. A criminal case has been initiated. A preventive measure in the form of detention has been taken against the suspect. <https://мвд.рф/news/item/20180627>

15.05.2020 In Rostov-on-Don, police dismantled an underground laboratory for production of synthetic drugs. UNK staff detained a 32-year-old local resident, who rented an apartment where he was engaged in mephedrone production for subsequent sale in Rostov-on-Don through caches. The man purchased necessary equipment and chemical ingredients through the Internet and produced mephedrone, which he illegally stored at his home. During a search, **1 kg of mephedrone**, ingredients, chemical reagents and laboratory

equipment used for drug manufacture were seized. A criminal case was initiated against the defendant and the court selected a preventive measure in the form of detention.

<https://мвд.рф/news/item/20179061>

REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

18.05.2020 In the course of the joint event "Coradori-2020" ("Black Poppy-2020"), held from 1 to 15 May, employees of MVD, SGB and the National Guard in the Ferghana region seized more than **200 kg of opium, marijuana and other drugs**. Fifty cases of drug trafficking have been registered, and perpetrators have grown more than **20 thousand opium poppy and cannabis bushes**. Criminal cases have been initiated and judicial action is being taken against the offenders. <https://vesti.uz/chernyj-mak-2020-200-kg-narkotikov-vylovili-v-ferganskoj-doline/>

OTHER COUNTRIES

BELGIUM

14.05.2020 The Brussels authorities have notified the National Drug Control Directorate, through the Directorate of International Affairs, of the seizure of eight suitcases unclaimed by air passengers containing a total of **345 kg of cocaine** left on a luggage belt at Brussels airport. The suitcases arrived with a regular commercial Tui Fly flight from Gregorio Luperon International Airport (Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic). The aircraft carried 257 passengers aboard, of which 175 were on their way to Brussels and 82 were in transit to other destinations. A total of 161 items of luggage were delivered to the flights.

<http://www.dncd.gob.do/index.php/noticias/item/investigacion-confirma-avion-viajo-a-belgica-no-es-propiedad-de-ninguna-empresa-nacional>

BRAZIL

11.05.2020 In a joint operation with the Federal Police (PF), the Federal Revenue Service (IRS) discovered and seized **550 kg of cocaine** in the port of Salvador. Drug was among a cargo of grapes destined for the port of Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Seized drug was estimated at \$103 million. <http://receita.economia.gov.br/noticias/ascom/2020/maio/receita-federal-e-policia-federal-apreendem-550-kg-de-cocaina-no-porto-de-salvador>

12.05.2020 59 kg of cocaine were seized by the Special Maritime Operations Group (Gropem) of Federal Revenue Service (IRS) Customs in the port of Santos, Sao Paulo. The cocaine consignment was held in sports bags inside a wooden box and was stored at the terminal among a cargo of agricultural equipment. The port of Antwerp, Belgium, was the cargo's point of destination. Seized consignment was handed over to the Federal Police, which will continue investigation on the basis of information provided by the IRS. <http://receita.economia.gov.br/sobre/aco-es-e-programas/aco-es-da-receita-federal/noticias/2020/maio/8a-regiao-fiscal/receita-federal-apreende-59-kg-de-cocaina-no-porto-de-santos>

13.05.2020 An operation conducted by a group of Federal Revenue Service (IRS) customs officers in the port of Santos, Sao Paulo found **556 kg of cocaine**. A claimed shipment of soybean meal had its final destination at the port of Antwerp, Belgium. The container was selected for inspection by objective risk analysis criteria, using a non-intrusive scanner

inspection. Seized consignment has been handed over to the Federal Police, which will continue the investigation on the basis of information provided by the IRS.

<http://receita.economia.gov.br/sobre/aco-es-e-programas/aco-es-da-receita-federal/noticias/2020/maio/8a-regiao-fiscal/556-kg-de-cocaina-sao-apreendidos-no-porto-de-santos>

13.05.2020 Kahathi Civilian Police in Sao Paulo is investigating the murder of a retired corvette captain Walter Barros Barbos (55), former chief of the port authority of the Port of Santos. According to testimony of the wife of the victim, in the evening of May 13, two criminals approached the couple inside a car stopping at 498 km on the highway Radis Bittencourt. Criminals took the victim's identity card and his mobile phone and then shot at him. The victim's wife was in the car and witnessed the crime, but was not injured. Information was confirmed by the Federal Highway Police (PRF) of Sao Paulo. According to the Port of Santos administration, former superintendent had just left the company and was on his way to Santa Catarina, where he was to take over infrastructure and logistics department at SCPar Porto de Imbituba. <https://noticias.r7.com/sao-paulo/policia-apura-morte-de-ex-executivo-do-porto-de-santos-no-interior-de-sp-14052020>

<https://www.crimesite.nl/hoofdinspecteur-braziliaanse-cokehaven-op-snelweg-geliquideerd/>

UNITED KINGDOM

14.05.2020 West Yorkshire police officers conducted an operation on the north side of the A1-M highway near Leeds. Police found and seized **7 kg of cocaine** after stopping a van driven by a 38-year-old driver. Drug is worth over £500,000. <https://www.leeds-live.co.uk/news/leeds-news/police-seize-500000-worth-cocaine-18256621>

VIETNAM

15.05.2020 Police in the northern province of Son La arrested a 23-year-old woman from San Cay Village, Long Luong Commune, Van Ho District, for smuggling **11,735 methamphetamine tablets**. A motorcycle and other evidence were also confiscated. The woman purchased methamphetamine on the border with Laos and planned to sell it to other provinces in Vietnam. The police are investigating the case. Long Luong commune is 15 km from the Laos border. Many of the 5,200 inhabitants of Long Luong, most of whom are ethnic Mongs, have families in Laos. Hundreds of kilograms of drugs are smuggled out of Laos each year through Son La province. <https://vietnamnews.vn/society/716721/woman-arrested-for-smuggling-nearly-12000-meth-pills.html>

GERMANY

08.05.2020 The Weinsberg traffic police inspectors in Baden-Württemberg stopped a semi-trailer truck registered in Italy on the Ilshofen-Wolpertshausen motorway, driven by an Italian citizen, 42 years old, who was intoxicated on account of external signs. During a search of the vehicle, several grams of cocaine were found in the cab of the truck. Semitrailer was searched by the Drug Enforcement Unit of the Swabish Hall Criminal Police Division. As a result, about **48 kg of heroin** were found in the cargo bay under the loading bay. The driver was arrested and taken to a correctional facility.

<https://www.presseportal.de/blaulicht/pm/110969/4595260>

INDIA

12.05.2020 During the period of restrictions imposed by authorities on movement of people due to the spread of coronavirus infection, police carried out measures to detect illegal poppy and cannabis plantations in remote and inaccessible areas in foothills of the Himalayas. Police recorded five cases of illicit opium poppy cultivation in the Theog area, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh. Six people were arrested and **5,822 opium poppy plants** grown in their fields were seized. <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/himachal/six-booked-for-poppy-cultivation-in-theog-83929>

14.05.2020 29th Border Security Force Battalion (BSF) officers seized **7.70 kg of heroin** during a joint search operation with the Punjab Police Counterintelligence Unit near the DT Mall border post, along the India-Pakistan border. <https://www.tribuneindia.com/news/punjab/7-7-kg-narcotic-recovered-in-ferozepur-84856>

17.05.2020 Officers from the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) seized **31 kg of opium** on a highway near Fatehpur and arrested four members of an international drug trafficking gang. Defendants transported a shipment of opium from Jharkhand to Haryana in a truck registered in Punjab under the guise of delivering basic necessities under national quarantine. Bags of narcotics were concealed under the hood of the truck. The consignment was destined for distribution in Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Illegal opium production in India is concentrated in Jharkhand, Bihar, Manipur, Arunachal Pradesh, Uttrahand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. <https://www.news18.com/news/india/narcotics-bureau-seizes-31-kg-opium-from-truck-which-was-carrying-essential-commodities-4-arrested-2624243.html>

IRAN

13.05.2020 Border services in Sistan and Balochistan detained two members of a group of drug dealers responsible for smuggling and transporting **1,615 kg of opium** in two vehicles after conducting complex intelligence operations in the border area of Yakigor. The smugglers were arrested and transferred to judicial authorities. <https://en.mehrnews.com/news/158651/Police-seize-1615kg-of-narcotics-in-Sistan-and-Baluchestan-province>

SPAIN

13.05.2020 Members of the National Police conducted an international large-scale operation that resulted in the arrest of 18 members of a criminal organization. The organization had an operating base in Spain, which used a sophisticated system of concealing drugs by soaking layers of paper with cocaine in the process of making cardboard boxes. Cocaine was subsequently extracted from cardboard through sophisticated chemical processes. Each box contained small amounts of cocaine - less than 100 grams - and was shipped from Colombia to Europe in shipping containers carrying pineapple and lime. The international operation resulted in the seizure of **1,200 kg of pressed paperboard and more than 1,000 litres of chemicals** in the Netherlands; arrests were also made in Spain (9), Bulgaria (4), the Netherlands (3) and Colombia (2). The operation was conducted by the National Police in close cooperation with the Office of the Drug Prosecutor and the Central Court of Investigation 2 of the National Court, with the participation of the Bulgarian National Police, the National Police of the Netherlands, the

National Police of Colombia (DIRAN), HSI (Department of Internal Security Investigations - Internal Security Investigations), DEA (Drug Enforcement Administration), CBP (US Customs and Border Protection) and INTERPOL. The investigation began a year ago, when National Police agents identified an organization based in Spain that was engaged in cocaine distribution in Europe. To do so, the organization had established a wide network of contacts, even with representatives of the Los Castañas clan, to use the group's logistics in southern Spain. In the course of the investigation, agents identified main person in the organization, a Colombian cocaine supplier, using a sophisticated concealment method. Cocaine was subsequently extracted in their own laboratories through sophisticated chemical processes. The Colombian side sent its own chemicals from Colombia, which arrived in Spain, where other members of the organization received and met them and then went to Bulgaria and the Netherlands, where cocaine extraction process was initiated. Once the work was completed, they returned to Spain and finally to Colombia. Once the cocaine was extracted, it was distributed throughout Europe, including Spain, Greece, the Netherlands and other EU countries. https://www.policia.es/prensa/20200513_1.html
 Video: https://www.policia.es/videos/wmv/20200513_1.mp4

15.05.2020 Agents of the judicial police unit of the Guardia Civil of Catalonia in Girona seized **95 kg of hashish** in an operation called "Fisher". At the end of March, Guardia Civil agents identified a criminal group consisting of three Polish citizens who, under the guise of transporting electrical equipment in three vans, transported drugs from Spain to European countries, mainly the Netherlands. Drug was concealed in secret compartments equipped on the sides of one of the vans. For their own safety, the criminals developed a sophisticated system of secrecy measures. <https://www.guardiacivil.es/es/prensa/noticias/7426.html>

COLOMBIA

13.05.2020 In the port of Cartagena, **7,358 kg of ecstasy (MDMA)** were found during Operation "Wash Powder", thanks to information provided by the Special Interagency Investigative Unit of the ICE of the Criminal Investigation Directorate and Interpol (DIJIN), in coordination with the Anti-Drug and Port Control Company of Cartagena, with the support of the Coast Guard Unit of the National Navy in Cartagena de Indias, Bolívar. The substance was hidden in six of 342 boxes of detergent from Belgium. The criminal organization involved in sending cocaine consignments to Europe received synthetic drugs as payment for cocaine, which were delivered from Belgium to Cartagena, by sea. This is the first case of its kind in the Colombian Caribbean, taking into account the fact that synthetic drug transactions to pay for illicit cocaine shipments to Europe have not previously been recorded between transnational criminal organizations. <https://www.eluniversal.com.co/sucesos/autoridades-incautan-mas-de-36-mil-dosis-de-extasis-provenientes-de-belgica-FY2818744>
<https://twitter.com/ArmadaColombia/status/1260753183925772290>
<https://www.policia.gov.co/noticia/incautamos-ocho-kilos-metanfetamina-valorizado-mas-600-millones-pesos>

COSTA RICA

14.05.2020 A total of **778 kg of cocaine** concealed in a container from Cartagena, Colombia, was confiscated by the Ministry of Public Security's drug control police (PCD) at the Moine de Limón terminal. Cocaine was in 26 of thousands of bags of industrial salt reported as a legal cargo. PCD identified another pineapple juice container as a legal cargo, containing **1,250 kg of cocaine**. The cargo was destined for the Netherlands.



<https://www.facebook.com/seguridadcrc/videos/2654170991355760/>

<https://www.crhoy.com/nacionales/decomisan-cocaina-dentro-de-contenedor-en-apm-terminals/>

<https://twitter.com/seguridadcrc/status/1261050839826907137>

Video: <https://twitter.com/i/status/1261050839826907137>

<https://twitter.com/seguridadcrc/status/1261050839826907137>

MOROCCO

10.05.2020 Police on the Tit Mellil toll highway, near Casablanca, stopped a truck carrying **3.5 tons of hashish**. The truck driver and a female passenger were arrested. Both suspects have criminal records for drug trafficking. The truck arrived from a town in northern Morocco. Police seized 106 packets of hashish, carefully hidden in a cargo of food products. <https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2020/05/302180/casablanca-police-seize-3-5-tons-of-cannabis-resin-arrest-traffickers/>

11.05.2020 Judicial Police in the port of Tangier Med arrested a 40-year-old truck driver from Germany who was carrying more than **25.5 kg of cocaine** in a joint operation with the General Directorate of Territorial Surveillance (DGST). The security services are conducting an investigation. Although the state of emergency has reduced crime rates in Morocco, DGSN continues to conduct significant operations against drug trafficking. For example, on May 4, police confiscated **7.2 tonnes of hashish** from a truck carrying counterfeit licence plates at the same toll station near Casablanca.

<https://www.moroccoworldnews.com/2020/05/302282/moroccan-police-seize-25-kilograms-of-cocaine-in-tangier-med-port/>

MEXICO

16.05.2020 Mexican authorities seized about 36,700 litres (8,000 gallons) of liquid methamphetamine and chemicals used in production of synthetic drugs. The seizure took place in a building in Culiacán, Sinaloa, as a result of execution of a search warrant by investigators from the Office of the Attorney General of Mexico (FGR). Culiacán is known as one of the strongholds of the Sinaloa drug cartel, and last October it was the site of an armed clash during which cartel fighters surrounded a unit of the Mexican army and forced it to release Ovidio Guzmán, one of the sons of drug lord Joaquín "El Chapo", who was imprisoned. However, Sinaloa has one of Mexico's leading commercial ports (Topolobampo) for trade with Asia, a region from which all cartels purchase precursor chemicals to produce methamphetamine, fentanyl and other opioids. Agents searched a clandestine warehouse and seized condensers, centrifuges, hydroelectric pumps, freezers and tools for mixing chemicals. Seizures of chemicals included **4,232.09 liters (1118 gallons) of benzyl chloride; 1,150.77 liters (304 gallons) of benzaldehyde; 605.67 liters (160 gallons) of monomethylamine; 420.18 liters (111 gallons) of liquid methamphetamine; 185.49 liters (49 gallons) of toluene and 124.92 liters (33 gallons) of hydrochloric acid.** A further **20062.68 litres (5,300 gallons)** of seized substances had yet to be identified. The Office of the Attorney General of Mexico is investigating whether drugs, precursors and chemicals belong to a specific criminal group. Investigation is under way. <http://www.borderlandbeat.com/2020/05/mexico-seizes-massive-stash-of-liquid.html>

NEPAL

14.05.2020 Police arrested two residents of the rural municipality of Gadjuri, aged 26 and 37, and seized **100 kg of marijuana**. Police also confiscated two motorcycles used to smuggle marijuana. Investigation into the incident is ongoing.

<https://english.khabarhub.com/2020/14/96307/>

THE NETHERLANDS

12.05.2020 Customs seized **325 kg of cocaine** during an inspection at the port of Rotterdam. Drugs were concealed in a container of Volkswagen Beetles vehicles originating in South America. It is not known who the vehicles were intended for. The case is being investigated by the HARC team - Customs, FIOD, the seaport police and the Public Prosecution Service in Rotterdam. Seized shipment of drugs has been destroyed.

<https://www.om.nl/actueel/nieuws/2020/05/12/douane-onderschept-325-kilo-cocaine>

PAKISTAN

13.05.2020 Pakistani counter-narcotics forces intercepted a vehicle carrying **122.4 kg of opium** near a toll highway in Succour. A member of a criminal group involved in transporting a consignment of opium has been arrested.

<https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/anti-narcotics-force-seizes-huge-quantity-of-919285.html>

SERBIA

24.04.2020 In the context of state of emergency imposed by the Coronavirus pandemic, customs administration has reorganized its daily operations, focusing on fast and the most efficient movement of goods, which includes in-depth monitoring of cargo. Customs at the Khorgos border crossing point identified a truck with a trailer, which contained in its air tanks **99,652 Xalol tablets and 18,890 Rivotril tablets**, as a result of search operations using a mobile scanner. The truck, registered in Belgrade, was transporting car parts, glue and other goods to Sweden and Norway.

<https://www.carina.rs/cyr/Stranice/Vest.aspx?ListItemID=2930>

USA

11.05.2020 Border patrol agents at Freer Station, Texas, stopped a vehicle carrying a plywood trailer on Highway 16. An inspection of the vehicle revealed a stash of **220 kg of marijuana** in a plywood pile. Drug cost is estimated at 388 thousand dollars. The case has been referred to the Duval County Sheriff's Office for prosecution.

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/laredo-sector-border-patrol-seizes-large-narcotics-load>

12.05.2020 Border Patrol agents from Yuma Sector, Arizona's Wellton Station, detained a 38-year-old Mexican citizen in an attempt to smuggle **25.4 kg of methamphetamine** hidden in side panels of a Dodge from Mexico. The shipment is estimated to cost \$113,000. Male driver was arrested on charges of smuggling drugs, methamphetamine and vehicle was confiscated.

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/yuma-sector-agents-arrest-permanent-resident-attempting-smuggle>

13.05.2020 U.S. Border Patrol agents at the Interstate Highway 35 checkpoint north of Laredo, Texas, found a bag with **4,496 kg of cocaine** worth \$317,000 in the luggage compartment as a result of a commercial bus inspection. The owner of the bag was not identified. Seized cocaine was handed over to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/border-patrol-seizes-several-bundles-cocaine-bus-checkpoint>

15.05.2020 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), in conjunction with the Office of Field Operations and Nogales Port officials, arrested a 56-year-old resident of Tucson, Arizona, while attempting to smuggle **3.63 kg of methamphetamine** hidden in a wheelchair seat and backrest. The man also had a bag of methamphetamine hidden on his body. The value of seized substance is \$8,000. The man was handed over to the U.S. Homeland Security Investigations. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-port-nogales-officers-encounter-unusual-concealment-method>

13.05.2020 Columbus, Ohio Police Division officers, together with DEA Task Force Columbus officers and federal partners, seized **23.98 kg of cocaine**, valued at approximately \$2.4 million. <https://www.nbc4i.com/news/columbus-police-help-seize-2-3-million-worth-of-cocaine/>

15.05.2020 Officers from the Wayne County Sheriff's Office, Indiana, on the I-70 stopped a Nissan car driven by a resident of Hesperia, California, for speeding. A search of the vehicle resulted in the discovery and seizure of **16 kg of fentanyl, 5 kg of heroin** and a small amount of **methamphetamine**. Drug seizures are valued at \$25 million. The joint investigation is being conducted by the Wayne County Drug Task Force and the FBI office in Indianapolis. <https://fox59.com/news/crimetracker/enough-to-kill-millions-wayne-county-traffic-stop-nets-25-million-heroin-fentanyl-bust/>

THAILAND

15.05.2020 Police in Bangkok arrested a 46-year-old local man who was illegally storing **221 kg of marijuana** in a house on Suwintawong Road for further sale. <https://www.thestar.com.my/news/regional/2020/05/16/over-220kg-of-marijuana-seized-in-bangkok-following-sting-operation>

16.05.2020 Border police officers on the banks of the Mekong River in the north-eastern province of Mukdahan seized **480 kg of marijuana**, which was smuggled across the river from Laos territory. Drugs are worth at least 10 million Baht. Three local residents belonging to a drug trafficking network have been detained. Homes of the suspects were searched and three vehicles were confiscated. <https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/1919176/>

TURKEY

14.05.2020 Police seized **328 kg of marijuana, 2.33 g of heroin, 8.02 g of synthetic drugs and more than 720 opiates** during 26 anti-drug operations conducted between May 5 and 12 in the Bismil, Silvan and Dicle districts of the southeastern Diyarbakir province to counter drug trafficking, as well as to finance terrorist groups through the drug trade. Of 28 detained suspects, 10 were arrested. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/over-300-kg-of-marijuana-seized-in-southeastern-turkey/1840287>

FRANCE

14.05.2020 As part of an investigation conducted by the Regional Judicial Police Service in Rwanda with the assistance of customs, about **1.4 tons of cocaine** were found in a container at the port of Le Havre. In connection with the investigation, a dockworker and two port workers, a Le Havre resident between the ages of 20 and 30, were taken into custody. The suspects will be brought before a specialized court of inter-regional jurisdiction (Jirs) Lille. <https://www.paris-normandie.fr/actualites/faits-divers/saisie-de-plus-d-une-tonne-de-cocaine-sur-le-port-du-havre-trois-hommes-interpelles-OI16787779>

SRI LANKA

15.05.2020 Four residents of Velisara and Homagama aged 24 to 55 suspected of drug trafficking were arrested by the Police Narcotics Bureau (PNB) during a raid in Rahama. A total of **226 kg of heroin** were seized. Two vehicles were also confiscated. The suspects will stand trial before a magistrate's court in Colombo.

http://www.dailymirror.lk/breaking_news/Four-arrested-with-226kgs-of-heroin-in-Ragama/108-188354

Video: <http://www.hirunews.lk/240768/four-suspects-with-225-kilograms-of-heroin-taken-into-custody-in-ja-ela-video>

RSA

11.05.2020 About **35.2 kg of cocaine** were seized during a joint operation carried out in the port of Durban by the Serious Organised Crime Investigation, Crime Intelligence and SARS Tactical Intervention Unit (TIU). Drug arrived in a container from Brazil. During inspection of the container, a hidden compartment was found, where 32 packets of cocaine were hidden under the panels. <https://www.saps.gov.za/newsroom/msspeechdetail.php?nid=25794>