

CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY

(based on mass media reports)

01.06-07.06.2020**№ 23****ON CARICC MEMBER STATES****REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

03.06.2020 The Department of Operations and Investigations of the Main Customs Department of the Southern Territory of the State Customs Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan has received information that a large amount of drugs will be imported by smuggling from the Islamic Republic of Iran to Ukraine. Based on this information, the "Mercedes-Benz" truck under the control of an Azerbaijani citizen who was transporting cargoes from Astara (Iran) to Kharkov (Ukraine) in transit through the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan was detained at the "Astara" customs post of the Southern Territorial State territorial structure (STS). During the inspection in the trailer of the vehicle in 720 boxes of fruit, 526 packages containing **545.105 kg of heroin** were found. The driver of the vehicle was detained. For the first three days of June of this year the customs authorities of Azerbaijan seized 826,054 kg of heroin, the value of which in the European market exceeds 50 million euros. <https://customs.gov.az/en/faydali/xeberler/4295/>
Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ZclPSO3Jaw&feature=emb_logo

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

26.05.2020 In Nur-Sultan, a drug laboratory for the production of synthetic drugs - **amphetamine and mephedrone** - was eliminated by the Police Department. A 23-year-old resident of Nur-Sultan was detained and set up a drug laboratory in a rented premises, where the drugs were produced and prepared for sale. The young man purchased precursors abroad to prepare and distribute drugs on the territory of the capital, then sold the products through the Internet by bookmarks and to a close circle of people from hand to hand. The payment was paid in crypt currency. During the search of residential premises, police officers seized components for the production of synthetic drugs, glass flasks, vessels with a layer of psychotropic substances, precursors, measuring scales, as well as polyethylene bags for drug packaging. <https://inbusiness.kz/ru/last/v-nur-sultane-likvidirovana-narkolaboratoriya-po-proizvodstvu-sinteticheskikh-narkotikov>

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

29.05.2020 Employees of the Drug Trafficking Control Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs for the Kabardino-Balkarian Republic together with employees of the Federal Security Service Office of Russia in the Zolsky district of the Kabardino-Balkarian Republic within the framework of Operation "Mak-2020" (Poppy-2020) stopped a car driven by a 22-year-old resident of Nalchik. During the inspection of the vehicle, a bag of **300 g of heroin** was found in the vehicle's cabin, which had been prepared for further sale by means of bookmarking caches in the Republic and via the Internet. A criminal case has been

instituted against the suspect and a preventive measure in the form of remand in custody has been taken against him. <https://мвд.рф/news/item/20299751>

01.06.2020 Russian MIA police officers in the Chekhov Moscow Region's Chekhov-Skurygino motorway stopped a car driven by a 44-year-old resident of Yaroslavl. During the inspection of the interior of the car found and seized 2 crates containing over **490 g of methylephedrone**. A criminal case was initiated against the suspect and a preventive measure in the form of detention was taken. <https://мвд.рф/news/item/20290811>

02.06.2020 Officers of the Russian Interior Ministry's Odintsovo City District, Moscow Region, detained a 31-year-old native of a Central Asian country suspected of drug trafficking. More than **1 kg of heroin** was seized during a personal search of the driver, a site inspection and a vehicle inspection. A man drove a car to make a bookmark with heroin. A criminal case has been initiated and a preventive measure in the form of detention has been taken against the suspect. <https://мвд.рф/news/item/20298195>

04.06.2020 Drug Control Department of the Main Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation of Stavropol region detained two residents of Rostov region - a young man and a woman who bought a dacha in Izobilna City District, where they organized a drug lab. During the inspection, about **8.4 kg of mephedrone** were found and seized in the car, personal belongings and housing of the detainees. More than **30 canisters of precursors** were seized from the drug lab premises, from which the attackers intended to produce mephedrone for further sale through bookmark caches in Stavropol Territory, electronic scales, a fan, gas masks, hoods, two protective suits, packaging material, flasks, stoves, masks and other physical evidence. As part of the investigation of the criminal case brought against defendants, investigative and procedural steps are being taken to identify other participants and the drug supply chain. A man and a woman are taken into custody. <https://мвд.рф/news/item/20318991>

04.06.2020 Employees of the traffic police of the Department of Internal Affairs together with employees of Drug Enforcement Administration on the road "Tyumen-Ishim-Omsk" in the Tyumen region detained a 41-year-old resident of Novosibirsk, who acted as a carrier of narcotic drugs from St. Petersburg to Novosibirsk. In the trunk of his Toyota Windom car and in the caches equipped in the car, **4.84 kg of hashish** were found. The hashish was intended for subsequent sale by contactless means. A criminal case has been instituted and a preventive measure in the form of detention has been taken against the detainee. <https://мвд.рф/news/item/20317243>

04.06.2020 Employees of the 2nd regiment of the traffic police (southern) of the State Traffic Safety Inspectorate of the Main Directorate of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the Moscow Region at a stationary post located in the Kashirsky district on the M-4 Don highway stopped a car drove by 24-year-old native of the near abroad. When inspecting a vehicle in the passenger compartment, **500 g of mephedrone** was found under the passenger seat. The man was a drug courier and was sent to the Republic of Dagestan. A criminal case has been initiated against the suspect. <https://мвд.рф/news/item/20318027>

04.06.2020 Employees of the Drug Enforcement Administration of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the Tver region in the Kalininsky district detained two men aged 21 who

planned to sell drugs in a forest in Tver in a non-contact way. When inspecting a vehicle, **1 kg of mephedrone** was found. Suspects are detained. A criminal case has been initiated against them. <https://мвд.рф/news/item/20323523>

05.06.2020 Employees of the Drug Enforcement Administration of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia for the Krasnoyarsk Territory and the traffic police traffic police stopped the Toyota Camry car, in which a 39-year-old man was, as a passenger, at the 1st km of the Krasnoyarsk-Chastoostrovskoye road. During the search of the vehicle, **2 kg of heroin** prepared by the suspect for further sale and more than 1 million rubles were found and seized. Subsequently, a search was carried out at the place of residence of the man - objects used in criminal activities related to drug trafficking were found. A criminal case has been instituted against him and a preventive measure in the form of detention has been chosen. <https://мвд.рф/news/item/20327995>

OTHER COUNTRIES

AFGHANISTAN

05.06.2020 The Afghan National Police (ANP) arrested 10 drug dealers and confiscated large quantities of drugs as a result of several separate operations. The Afghanistan Anti-Narcotics Police (CNPA), part of the ANP, arrested three people in Kalat, the capital of the southern province of Zabul. Those arrested hid a shipment of drugs among 10 tons of poultry meat transported in a truck with a trailer to the neighboring province of Kandahar. In the eastern province of Nangarhar, five more people were detained who transported **20 kg of opium and 8.5 kg of heroin** to Kandahar in two vehicles seized in the Bati Kot and Jalalabad areas. In the eastern province of Panjshir, CNPA police carried out a special operation and arrested one person for transporting 25 kg of hashish to Kabul. Following an initial investigation, the CNPA referred the cases to the Afghanistan Drug Enforcement Center (CNJC), which has a special court for jurisdiction in major drug cases. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-06/05/c_139116661.htm

BRAZIL

28.05.2020 Customs at the Federal Tax Service (IRS) at Itajai Port confiscated **128.4 kg of cocaine**. The batch was contained in two containers with a cargo of corn, which were intended for Libya. The containers were examined using a service dog and scanned after work on risk analysis. This was the third seizure in 2020 at the port of Itajai, with a total volume of 1.17 tons of cocaine. <https://g1.globo.com/sc/santa-catarina/noticia/2020/05/28/receita-apreende-128-kg-de-cocaina-em-carga-de-milho-no-porto-de-itajai.ghtml>
<https://www.nsctotal.com.br/colunistas/dagmara-spautz/receita-federal-encontra-128-quilos-de-cocaina-em-carga-de-milho-no-porto>

30.05.2020 As a result of a joint operation by the Federal Police (PF) and the Federal Highway Police (PRF) on the BR 116 highway, in Caxias do Sul, a semi-trailer truck carrying about **200 kg of cocaine paste was stopped**. The 49-year-old truck driver was not able to tell the route and destination of the cargo. Finding signs of a body modification, the agents dismantled the floor of the semi-trailer and found 188 packages of the drug. The driver was arrested and sent, along with drugs and a vehicle, to the Federal Police Station in

Caxias do Sul. http://www.pf.gov.br/imprensa/noticias/2020/05-noticias-de-maio/policia-federal-e-prf-apreendem-caminhao-com-cerca-de-200-quilos-de-cocaina-em-caxias-do-sul/@nitf_custom_galleria

INDIA

02.06.2020 The Narcotic Control Bureau (NCB) during a blockage caused by the coronavirus COVID-19, seized **355 kg of opium** in May. Eleven people are arrested. All groups of drug traffickers used trucks carrying goods intended for smuggling across state borders to transport consignments of opium. Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh are considered the main centers of illicit trade in opium in India. Three cases have been reported in Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. <https://www.dailyexcelsior.com/ncb-seizes-355-kg-opium-from-trucks-plying-under-essential-services-cover-11-held/>

IRAN

07.06.2020 During the period from May 30 to June 5, Iran’s anti-drug police seized **14 tons of 940 kg of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including 181 kg of heroin, 11 763 kg of opium, 503 kg of methamphetamine, 271 kg of morphine, 2182 kg of hash, 40 kg of other drugs¹.**

SPAIN

05.06.2020 The national police confiscated about 650 kg of cocaine found in a container warehouse located in the Quart de Poblet industrial zone. The drug was loaded using the “Rip-off” method without the participation of the exporter and importer. Cocaine was hidden among pallets with a batch of bananas shipped from the port of Santos (Brazil) to the port of Valencia. After the drug was discovered, the police controlled the delivery, the container was moved to the logistics warehouse in Quart de Poblet, where agents from the Udyco National Police of Valencia, along with UCO Civil Guard and Customs officers seized the shipment. No one was arrested during the operation. The cost of cocaine in the European market is estimated at 22 million euros. <https://www.levante-emv.com/sucesos/2020/06/05/policia-detecta-650-kilos-cocaina/2018206.html>

CHINA

04.06.2020 Customs at Hong Kong International Airport confiscated **21 kg of cocaine**, worth \$ 24 million. In Yau Tong, a 20-year-old suspect of involvement in the smuggling of this party was detained. Cocaine delivered by air from the Netherlands. [https://www.thestandard.com.hk/breaking-news/section/4/148558/Yau-Tong-youth-charged-with-trafficking-in-cocaine-worth-HK\\$24m](https://www.thestandard.com.hk/breaking-news/section/4/148558/Yau-Tong-youth-charged-with-trafficking-in-cocaine-worth-HK$24m)

NETHERLANDS

20.05.2020 Customs at the port of Rotterdam seized a consignment of cocaine **weighing 37 kg**. The seizure was not previously reported in the interest of the investigation. Cocaine was found in sports bags during regular inspection in a container with a cargo of

¹ Data provided by the liaison officer of the Anti-Drug Police of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

pomegranates that arrived from Lima (Peru). The fruit batch was intended for a German company that is not involved in drug smuggling.

<https://www.om.nl/actueel/nieuws/2020/06/05/douane-onderschept-37-kilo-cocaine>

03.06.2020 The HARC team confiscated **374 kg of cocaine** in the port of Rotterdam. Two suspects from Rotterdam, aged 18 and 22, were detained by Customs and the seaport police. The so-called "tow trucks" were seen leaving the container and tried to escape. A shipment of cocaine worth more than €28 million was found in a container containing bananas from Ecuador. The investigation is being carried out by the HARC team - Customs, FIOD, Seaport Police and the Public Prosecution Service in Rotterdam. A shipment of cocaine has been destroyed. <https://www.om.nl/actueel/nieuws/2020/06/03/harc-team-onderschept-374-kilo-cocaine-twee-verdachten-langer-vast>

06.06.2020 During the inspection in the port of Rotterdam, customs intercepted more than **2020 kg of cocaine**. The drugs were hidden in a container containing a shipment of bananas. The container came from Guayaquil (Ecuador) and was intended for the company in Hungary. The recipient was probably not involved in drug smuggling. The value of the cocaine is over 151 million euros. The investigation is being carried out by the HARC team - Customs, FIOD, Seaport Police and the Public Prosecution Service in Rotterdam. The seized cocaine shipment has been destroyed. <https://www.om.nl/actueel/nieuws/2020/06/07/douane-onderschept-2020-kilo-cocaine>

PAKISTAN

01.06.2020 Police in Kohat during a routine check at the Muslimabad checkpoint located on the highway, stopped a car in which Garhi resident Kamar Dir Peshawar was in as a passenger. During a personal search, convolutions with **1.03 kg of heroin** were found around the man's legs. The drug courier tried to smuggle heroin into southern Pakistan.

https://pakobserver.net/smuggler-with-1030gm-heroin-arrested/?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=smuggler-with-1030gm-heroin-arrested

USA

01.06.2020 US Customs and Border Control (CBP) agents at checkpoints located on the Mexican border with Texas stopped six drug smuggling attempts:

- 1) at Weslaco Station, several smugglers transferred **108 kg of marijuana** across the Rio Grande River, subsequently hiding in Mexico;
- 2) in Mexico, near Brownsville, two Mexican citizens were detained who tried to smuggle **20.4 kg of marijuana** over a wall at the border;
- 3) at the checkpoint located in Falfurias, during the inspection of the Volkswagen car, **59 kg of marijuana** were found and seized;
- 4) north of the Rio Grande, not far from Garceno, several smugglers relocated **158.76 kg of marijuana**, after which they hid in Mexico.

In addition, border patrol agents at the checkpoints seized about **45.36 kg of methamphetamine and more than 6.8 kg of cocaine** in two separate cases.

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/over-three-days-rgv-agents-seize-more-4m-worth-drugs>

02.06.2020 US Customs and Border Control (CBP) Field Operations at Port of Entry in El Paso, Texas:

- 1) On May 26, a 51-year-old Mexican citizen was detained at the border crossing point Paso del Norte while trying to smuggle about **12.44 kg of methamphetamine** hidden in a pickup spare tire;
- 2) On May 28, a 21-year-old US citizen was detained at the border crossing "America's Bridge" who tried to smuggle **10.48 kg of methamphetamine** on an SUV, hiding them in a car;
- 3) On June 1, a 17-year-old US citizen who arrived from Mexico by car was detained at the port of entry to Islet. When inspecting a vehicle, **7.18 kg of cocaine** was found in the rear seats and in the center console.

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-seizures-include-17-year-old-smuggling-cocaine>

02.06.2020 In mid-May, a US Coast Guard boat in international Pacific waters off the coast of Central America, the 7th Coast Guard District, Florida, hijacked a high-speed vessel with **494.4 kg of cocaine** on board. Three men suspected of smuggling on board were detained. The cost of cocaine is \$ 18.7 million. <https://seapowermagazine.org/cutter-confidence-seizes-1090-pounds-of-cocaine-from-smuggling-vessel/>

02.06.2020 US border patrol agents in Tucson, Arizona seized **56.7 kg of methamphetamine and 5.9 kg of fentanyl** in three separate cases. A 37-year-old US citizen, a resident of Nogales, who tried to smuggle drugs in his SUV, was arrested, in the second case, drugs were traversed on foot by a 38-year-old Mexican citizen. Also, drugs were discovered during the inspection of the border area. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/border-patrol-seizes-550k-hard-narcotics-over-weekend>

03.06.2020 Officers of the Kern County, California sheriff, as a result of a vehicle stopping at Brandage Lane and Vernal Place at the intersection due to traffic violations, found and seized **68.04 kg of cocaine**. The cost of drugs is estimated at more than \$ 5 million. Arrested 30-year-old resident of Bakersfield. https://www.bakersfield.com/news/k-9-leads-deputies-to-major-cocaine-bust-in-bakersfield-wednesday/article_1df02040-a60e-11ea-8ec4-0ba80969d1ce.html

04.06.2020 A member of the OSP Central Command Post in Oregon on I-5 Highway stopped a Nissan Sentra driver, a 33-year-old Washington resident, for violating traffic rules. As a result of a search of the vehicle, about **7.39 kg of heroin** was found in the gas tank. The driver was detained and imprisoned in Jackson County on charges of illegally storing and transporting heroin. <https://www.kdrv.com/content/news/OSP-State-trooper-finds-16-pounds-of-heroin-during-Central-Point-traffic-stop-571017521.html>

06.06.2020 US Border and Customs Management (CBP) Field Operations at Gateway International Bridge in Brownsville, Texas stopped a Jeep Grand Cherokee car with **55.34 kg of cocaine**. The cost of the party is estimated at 940 thousand dollars. The driver is detained. The case was referred for further investigation to US special agents for the investigation of immigration and customs protection and internal security (ICE-HSI). https://www.mytexasdaily.com/south-texas/nearly-1-million-in-cocaine-discovered-in-passenger-vehicle-at-texas-mexico-border-crossing/article_b66097cc-aa7f-11ea-bc1e-ebb6395591f2.html

TURKEY

02.06.2020 During an operation in the Lice region against illegal drug production and trafficking for the Kurdistan Workers Party, a terrorist organization recognized in Turkey. More than 2.4 million cannabis bushes and at least **235 kg of marijuana** were seized.



Drugs were found in bags hidden underground in forests in rural areas in the province of Diyarbakir. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/turkey-nearly-25m-cannabis-sativa-roots-seized/1861937>

04.06.2020 Police drug control teams in Ipekolu, eastern Wang Province, seized more than **82 kg of heroin** as a result of an operation carried out at the Freight Company Transportation Center. During the operation, one suspect was detained.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/police-seize-over-82-kg-of-heroin-in-eastern-turkey/1864745>

ECUADOR

04.06.2020 Three agents were arrested by agents of the National Judicial Police and Investigation Administration (DNPJeI), together with a crime unit as a result of an operation in the Chiveria sector, not far from the Guayaquil-Daule toll road, on suspicion of smuggling **500 kg of cocaine** through the port of Guayaquil. The suspects traveled in two vehicles. One truck was transporting a container with a cache of 500 packages of cocaine found in its structure. The second car provided escort and cover for the truck. The packages were marked with the GOLLY logo. Three mobile terminals, a signal suppression device, an energy converter, two vehicles and a container were seized during the operation.

<https://www.extra.ec/actualidad/ocultaban-paquetes-droga-piso-contenedor-policia-trafico-KJ3496149>

Video: <https://twitter.com/PoliciaEcuador/status/1268748762748510213>