

*Unofficial translation***CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY**

(based on mass media reports)

29.06-05.07.2020**№ 27****CARICC MEMBER STATES****REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

27.06.2020 A Baku resident was detained by law enforcement officers for illegal cultivation of narcotic plants. **1131 cannabis bushes** were found and seized in the yard of his house in Bilga settlement of Sabunchu district of Baku during inspection of a greenhouse. Besides, **42 kg of marijuana** were found and seized in the house. A criminal case was initiated on this fact. A measure of restraint in the form of detention was chosen by the court.

<https://media.az/society/1067781617/u-zhitelya-baku-izyali-krupnuyu-partiyu-narkotikov-foto-video/>

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

29.06.2020 Investigation Department of MVD in the Republic of Buryatia investigated and sent to court a criminal case against 11 members of a criminal community accused of illegal sale of synthetic drugs. Members of organized crime, aged 18 to 29, were engaged in purchase, transportation, packaging and sale of wholesale shipments of synthetic drugs in the period from June 2018 to February 2019 in Ulan-Ude and districts of Buryatia. OCG participants purchased drugs in the Moscow and Novosibirsk regions and in the Trans-Baikal krai, and transported to Ulan-Ude, where they distributed it in small wholesale consignments via the Internet and by courier-stashers. The money received from drug sales was transferred to accounts of electronic payment systems, including those using cryptocurrency. Illegal actions of the OCG were detected and intercepted by officers of tUNK MVD of the Republic of Buryatia in cooperation with their colleagues from the regional FSB of Russia. **1.5 kg of concentrated synthetic drugs** were seized.

<https://мвд.рф/news/item/20497175>

29.06.2020 Investigation Unit for Organized Crime of the Penza region SU UMVD of Russia is investigating a criminal case against members of a criminal association engaged in drug trafficking. The accused included 16 residents of the Penza, Vologda and Nizhny Novgorod provinces and the Republic of Dagestan. Members of OCG distributed drugs via an online shop without contact in Penza and Vologda regions and in Dagestan. More than **5 kg of synthetic drugs** were seized. The court selected a preventive measure in the form of remand in custody for 11 defendants, and five people signed off on not leaving the country.

<https://мвд.рф/news/item/20498445>

30.06.2020 Investigation Department of UMVD Russia in Tomsk region sent to court a criminal case against 9 members of a criminal association for crimes related to drug trafficking. Eight men and one young woman (residents of the Orenburg and Tomsk regions) from October 2018 to April 2019 carried out illegal production of mephedrone (4-methylmethcathinone) in a laboratory located in the Tomsk region, and its subsequent sale through a cache via an online store in the Tomsk and Novosibirsk regions. Over **14 kg of**

mephedrone (4-methylmethcathinone), which was prepared for further sale, was seized. <https://мвд.рф/news/item/20504396>

30.06.2020 At stationary DPS post in Bogucharsky district of Voronezh region, located at the 741st km of M-4 "Don" highway, policemen stopped a VAZ-21103 car with a 35-year-old driver and 34-year-old passenger - a resident of Rostov region. During inspection of the vehicle interior, bundles containing a **drug of synthetic origin weighing about 3 kg** were found in air vents of the front panel and in the air filter case under the front hood. Drug couriers were detained. They purchased large amounts of narcotics with the help of messengers and sold using a cashless payment system through caches. A criminal case has been launched. <https://мвд.рф/news/item/20505165>

OTHER COUNTRIES

BELGIUM

26.06.2020 During inspection in Waaslandhaven, on the left bank of the port of Antwerp, **3.4 tons of cocaine** were found in a container from Paraguay with a cargo of charcoal. The Antwerp Shipping Police arrested five suspects aged 18 to 26 from the Netherlands. Investigation is in progress. <https://www.crimesite.nl/nederlanders-gearresteerd-met-34-ton-cocaine/>

BRAZIL

29.06.2020 Customs of the Federal Revenue Service (IRS) found and seized **557 kg of cocaine** in a coffee container at the port of Santos. A bagged shipment of coffee with the port of Antwerp, Belgium, as its final destination, was selected for inspection using objective risk analysis criteria, including non-intrusive scanner inspection. Criminals were found to have used the "Rip-off" method, whereby drug was placed in a legal cargo without the knowledge of exporters and importers. Seized consignment was handed over to the Federal Police, which will continue the investigation based on information provided by the Federal Revenue Service. In the first half of 2020, IRS detected 23 cocaine shipments totalling 10,487 tons of cocaine at the port of Santos. <http://receita.economia.gov.br/sobre/acoes-e-programas/acoes-da-receita-federal/noticias/2020/junho/8a-regiao-fiscal/receita-federal-intercepta-557-kg-de-cocaina-no-porto-de-santos>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= 1htaATDJIU>

HONDURAS

30.06.2020 As a result of Operation Hunter inspection, National Drug Authority (DNPA) agents in the port of Puerto Cortes discovered eight containers from Colombia with barrels totalling 640 barrels containing **hydrochloric acid¹ - precursor** used to produce cocaine hydrochloride. The total weight of hydrochloric acid was 121 tons. The operation was carried out by agents of the National Drug Authority (DNPA), together with the Ministry of State (MP), Honduran Customs Agency (AAH), Agency for Sanitation Regulation (ARSA) and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), in different ports, airports and customs in Honduras. <https://www.latribuna.hn/2020/06/30/retienen-8-contenedores-con-quimicos-usados-para-fabricar-cocaina/>

¹ Weight of hydrochloric acid with density of 1190 kg/m³ was 121 tons.



<https://twitter.com/PoliciaHonduras/status/1277770963690688513>

IRAN

04.07.2020 Between 27 June and 3 July, the Iranian Anti-Narcotics Police seized **20.660 tons of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including 203 kg of heroin, 18.538 tons of opium, 76 kg of methamphetamine, 1.214 tons of hashish and 51 kg of other narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances².**

SPAIN

03.07.2020 Agents of the Civil Guard of Ceuta seized **331.4 kg of hashish** while controlling vehicles in the port of Ceuta. The consignment of hashish was concealed in a cache equipped inside a specialized truck for glass recycling. The truck driver and his passenger, a Spanish citizen born in 1970 in Almeria, were arrested. <https://elforodeceuta.es/un-detenido-con-331-kilogramos-de-hachis-escondidos-en-un-camion-de-reciclaje/>

ITALY

01.07.2020 Organized Crime Investigation Unit (GICO) has seized **14 tons of amphetamines (about 84 million Captagon tablets)** in the port of Salerno as part of an investigation into an international criminal organization involved in drug smuggling. Following a period of lockdown due to epidemiological emergency caused by the Coronavirus pandemic, law enforcement efforts in this sector have been strengthened. On the basis of information obtained during the investigation, the Guardia di Finanza found 3 containers arriving at the port of Salerno with a cargo of paper cylinders for industrial use and equipment. Inspection, with the help of specialized technicians and the participation of the Anti-Fraud Unit of the Salerno Customs Agency, revealed that each paper cylinder contained about 350 kg of Captagon tablets. The paper cylinders, approximately 2 metres high and 1.4 metres in diameter, presumably made in Germany, were made of multi-layered materials capable of hiding contents stored in the inner layers from "scanner". Two weeks ago, in the port of Salerno, specialists from the Organized Crime Investigation Unit (GICO) of the Naples Economic and Financial Police intercepted a container with a cargo of counterfeit clothing concealing **2.8 tons of hashish and 190 kg of amphetamine (over 1 million Captagon tablets)**. The drug shipments came from Syria and were destined for sale on the European market. <http://www.gdf.gov.it/stampa/ultime-notizie/anno-2020/luglio/sequestro-record-di-14-tonnellate-di-anfetamine-84-milioni-di-pasticche-col-logo-201ccaptagon201d-prodotte-in-siria-da-isis-daesh>

CANADA

01.07.2020 An operation was conducted by the Niagara Regional Police in St. Catherine's to detect illicit cannabis crops. Police officers found and confiscated **17,200 cannabis plants** valued at US\$ 34 million. Eleven Canadian nationals from St. Catherine's, Scarborough and Markham, Ontario, and a United States national from New York City were arrested and charged with illicitly cultivating cannabis plants. <https://www.msn.com/en-ca/news/world/niagara-police-bust-dollar34m-illegal-cannabis-operation-arrest-11-people/ar-BB16dh00>

² Data provided by liaison officer of the Anti-Narcotics Police of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

COLOMBIA

30.06.2020 Employees of the anti-drug company "Port Control" from Santa Marta confiscated **32.737 kg of cocaine hydrochloride**. Drug was hidden in a container inside a turbine that generates electricity. A test in the turbine rotor revealed 30 packs of cocaine. The generator is owned by CI Servicios Empresariales de Calidad SAS and was to be sent to the port of Antwerp, Belgium. <https://defrente.co/descubrieron-cargamento-de-coca-en-el-puerto-de-santa-marta-que-iba-para-europa/>

02.07.2020 During a joint operation between the Colombian Navy and the United States Navy, **7.5 tons of cocaine** were seized in international waters on a ship bound for Colón, Panama, from the Caribbean port of Cartagena, Colombia. Cocaine belonged to AGC, the largest paramilitary group in Colombia, which is largely funded by drug trafficking and has contacts with transnational criminal organizations in Central America and Europe involved in drug distribution on international markets. Value of the consignment is \$286 million. Cocaine was mixed with kaolinite, white clay, to avoid detection. Technical equipment for molecular analysis of the substance was used to detect drugs. <https://colombiareports.com/7-5-metric-tons-of-cocaine-seized-in-us-colombia-operation/>

THE NETHERLANDS

30.06.2020 During inspection in the port of Rotterdam, customs seized **493 kg of cocaine**. The shipment was valued at over 37 million euros. Drugs were hidden in a container loaded with canned tuna from Cartagena, Colombia, which was destined for a company in Kempen, Germany. The HARC team, customs, FIOD, seaport police and the Public Prosecutor's Office are investigating. The seized cocaine shipment has been destroyed. In the first half of 2020, the HARC team seized 18 tons of cocaine at the port of Rotterdam. <https://www.om.nl/actueel/nieuws/2020/07/01/douane-onderschept-500-kilo-cocaine-in-container-geladen-met-blikken-tonijn>

MALDIVES

30.06.2020 Six people were arrested and **5.5 kg of heroin** confiscated during a joint operation by police and intelligence teams on Addu Atoll. Drugs were taken to Addu by high-speed boat from Tinadu Island in Gaafu Daalu Atoll. Police continues to investigate the case. <https://raajje.mv/81712>

MEXICO

03.07.2020 Officers of the State Police and the National Guard in the La Campinha area of Culiacana, Sinaloa, detained eight people after being informed of a street exchange of fire. They seized **136.9 kg of cocaine**, 9 mm firearms, a rifle, four vehicles and \$111,000 from the detainees. Eight detainees were charged with possession of cocaine for commercial purposes, possession of firearms for exclusive use by the armed forces and working with resources of illicit origin. They are held in pretrial detention. <https://www.riviera-maya-news.com/eight-arrested-after-police-find-136-kilos-of-cocaine/2020.html>

MYANMAR

05.07.2020 During an anti-drug operation in Pinlaung village, Shan State, Myanmar authorities found and seized about **599,400 tablets of stimulants and 5 kg of methamphetamine** in a vehicle that was carrying a large consignment of drugs. One suspect has been arrested. Drugs are estimated to cost more than \$1 million. Police have opened a case against the suspect, and investigation is under way.

<https://en.vietnamplus.vn/large-haul-of-stimulants-meth-seized-in-myanmar/178045.vnp>

USA

29.06.2020 An interdepartmental investigation by the United States Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) into a drug distribution network operating in Suffolk County, New York, resulted in the arrest of 5 people, seizure of **17 kg of cocaine, 2 kg of heroin, 4,000 tablets of oxycodone**, 9 pistols and \$1.5 million derived from drug trafficking.

<https://www.dea.gov/press-releases/2020/06/29/multi-agency-investigation-leads-arrest-5-seizure-17-kilograms-cocaine-2>

29.06.2020 Border patrol officers from El Centro Sector, California, seized two shipments of methamphetamine as a result of two separate checks:

- 1) A 45-year-old U.S. citizen was detained at the Highway 111 checkpoint while attempting to smuggle **24.72 kg of methamphetamine** in a Chevrolet Silverado gas tank. Male, car and seized methamphetamine were handed over to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA);
- 2) At the checkpoint on Highway 86, a 41-year-old Mexican citizen was detained attempting to smuggle **24.72 kg of methamphetamine** hidden inside a spare tire in a Ford Explorer vehicle. The driver, the car and seized consignment were handed over to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/methamphetamine-seized-two-separate-events-border-patrol-checkpoints>

29.06.2020 Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers and officers from the Office of Field Operations (OFO) at Juarez-Lincoln Bridge, Laredo, Texas, detained a 40-year-old U.S. citizen attempting to smuggle drugs into the United States as a passenger on a commercial bus. **15.98 kg of methamphetamine** were found and seized in the man's luggage. Drugs are worth more than 700,000 US dollars. The man was arrested and the case was handed over to special agents of the Homeland Security Investigations (ICE-HSI) for further investigation.

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/laredo-cbp-officers-seize-700k-hard-narcotics-one-enforcement-action>

29.06.2020 U.S. Border Patrol agents in four separate incidents in the Rio Grande Valley Sector, near Escobares, Roma, Garceno and Veslaco, Texas, intercepted a smuggling of approximately **600 kg of marijuana** from Mexico to the United States across the Rio Grande River. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/rgv-border-patrol-seizes-marijuana-cocaine-and-arrest-gang-member>

01.07.2020 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials in Honolulu intercepted and seized a shipment of approximately **9.53 kg of cocaine** transiting through Hawaii from Juarez, Mexico, to Australia. The shipment marked "aluminium machine tools" contained



three palletized, shrink-wrapped aluminium blocks, each weighing approximately 75 kg. CBP officers examining the shipment discovered that cocaine packs were concealed inside the aluminum block body. The shipment is worth over \$250,000.

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-honolulu-intercepts-over-20-lbs-cocaine-hidden-cast-aluminum-blocks>

02.07.2020 U.S. Border Patrol agents at the Ysleta BCP, east of El Paso, Texas, found **22.25 kg of cocaine** after inspecting a Ford truck with Oklahoma temporary registration plates. Packages of cocaine were located under a hatch that opened the truck's fuel tank. The driver, a 23-year-old U.S. citizen, was arrested and handed over to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). <https://www.ktsm.com/crime/truck-with-1-5-million-worth-of-cocaine-stopped-near-el-paso/>

02.07.2020 Border Patrol agents from El Centro Sector at the Highway 86, California checkpoint discovered **17.06 kg of methamphetamine** hidden inside the rear passenger seat during a Kia Soul vehicle search under the control of a 25-year-old U.S. citizen. Drugs are estimated to cost more than \$71,000. Driver, car and drugs were transferred to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/methamphetamine-seized-border-patrol-checkpoints>

THAILAND

02.07.2020 A smuggled consignment of crystalline **methamphetamine weighing 1,420 kg** was seized by a combined team of police, soldiers and local officials in the village of Padador in the tambon of Na Nak, Tak Bai district. The consignment was found in an 18-wheeler truck loaded with steel bars parked along the road in the village of Padador. The truck was carrying two men, Nakhon Si Thammarat's Thala resident, and Songkhla's Singha Nakhon district resident. Both suspects have been detained.

<https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/1944692/>