

CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY

(based on mass media reports)

31.08-06.09.2020

№ 36

CARICC MEMBER STATES

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

01.09.2020 Employees of SCC of Azerbaijan stopped an attempt to transit through the territory of Azerbaijan over **305.289 kg of heroin**. A truck with a tent semitrailer driven by a citizen of the Islamic Republic of Iran was stopped at "Astara" customs post based on operational information received by the Department of Operations and Investigations of the Main Customs Directorate of the Southern Territory. The cargo was declared as agricultural equipment (plough) and followed from Iran to the Republic of Kazakhstan through the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan. However, during inspection of the truck a service dog reacted to the metal frame of the plough, and the cargo was checked using a stationary X-ray machine. As a result, 598 briquettes with drugs were found in 12 out of 22 units of agricultural equipment. The packages were placed in cavities of the plough's metal frame. Heroin consignment value in the European market is over 22 million euros.

<https://customs.gov.az/az/faydali/xeberler/4386/> /
<https://minval.az/news/124026559>

02.09.2020 Border guards of the State Border Service of Azerbaijan in the zone of responsibility of frontier post in Bilyasuvar district detained two people who violated the border with Iran. About 20 kg of narcotics and psychotropic substances were seized from the trespassers. Thus, **3.265 kg of heroin, 3.180 kg of opium, 135 g of marijuana, 500 tablets of methadone, 100 units of "Glibotex" and 210 units of "Gabaprel"** were found and seized from the detained resident of Askerabad village of Bilasuvar region born in 1991. From another resident of the same village, born in 1990, they found and seized **315 g of heroin, 8.225 kg of opium, 2.310 kg of methamphetamine, 460 units of psychotropic substance and drugs**. Investigation is underway.

<http://dsx.gov.az/xeber/1019>
<https://media.az/society/1067789876/sotrudniki-gps-azerbaydzhana-izyali-u-narushiteley-granicy-20-kg-narkotikov-foto/>

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

01.09.2020 Employees of the Main Transport Directorate of the Russian MVD, together with colleagues from the Central Federal District Transport Directorate, detained a suspect in an attempted sale of narcotic drugs. The drug courier was transporting heroin by rail to Yaroslavl, Voronezh and Tula regions. During another large shipment of drugs, the drug courier was detained in Moscow region. He was a native of a Central Asian country. A total of **2.180 kg of heroin** prepared for further sale were seized. The suspect was subject to a preventive measure in the form of detention. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/21024117>

01.09.2020 Employees of UNK GU MVD of Russia for Novosibirsk region, together with colleagues from Khabarovsk krai in Novosibirsk on the highway "North Bypass" near the

village of Sadovy stopped a car that was moving a passenger, a 26-year-old resident of Komsomolsk-on-Amur, suspected of selling drugs and psychotropic substances on a particularly large scale in the Siberian Federal District. During a vehicle search, various synthetic drugs were found - **MDMA, a-PVP, mephedrone, methylephedrone and amphetamine - with a total weight of about 22 kg** intended for sale. The drug courier picked up wholesale shipments of drugs in agreed places, information about which he received through the Internet, then packed into small shipments and sold through caches. A criminal case was initiated. A preventive measure in the form of detention was chosen in relation to the detainee. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/21017260>

02.09.2020 Employees of UNK UMVD of Russia across Tambov region detained three citizens of a neighboring country and seized **200 g of heroin** prepared for distribution in a contactless way. A criminal case has been initiated. The traffickers conspired with a curator, who sent foreigners to Russian regions to sell drugs, and each received instructions on how to transport, pack, organize small shipments of drugs and further organize their sale. All actions were conducted in a non-contact manner. A cache of **287 g of heroin** was discovered during criminal investigation. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/21027242>

02.09.2020 As part of the preventive operation "Mak", officers of UNK MVD of the Republic of Tyva detained a 30-year-old resident of Kyzyl suspected of attempting to illegally sell a large consignment of hashish. On the Kyzyl - Erzin highway, **1.6 kg of hashish** was found and seized in the luggage compartment during an inspection of car interior and intended for further sale. A criminal case was initiated. Later, in Krasnoyarsk krai, police officers from Tyva, together with officers of the Krasnoyarsk krai GU MVD detained a 46-year-old local resident, who was supposed to receive the seized hashish. The suspects were subjected to a preventive measure in the form of detention. Investigation of the criminal case is underway. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/21032567>

03.09.2020 Employees of UNK UMVD of Russia in Penza region detained a resident of Moscow region born in 1980 suspected of selling heroin by contactless means in the region. The woman illegally stored **250 g of heroin** prepared for further sale at her place of residence and in her apartment. Female drug dealer came to Penza to sell heroin, acting on instructions from persons outside the Russian Federation. A criminal case has been opened on this fact. She was remanded in custody as a preventive measure. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/21044733>

04.09.2020 Officers from UNK MVD of the Republic of Buryatia, near the settlement of Gorny, Kabansky district, stopped a car driven by a 35-year-old resident of Zaigraevsky district who was transporting a shipment of **amphetamine** weighing over **5 kg** from Perm to Ulan-Ude for subsequent sale by contactless means. A criminal case was initiated against the detainee and a preventive measure in the form of detention was taken against him. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/21056133>

04.09.2020 Employees of UNK UMVD of Russia in Lipetsk region together with GUNK MVD of Russia on the highway "Don" in Stanovlyansky district detained a 37-year-old citizen of the Republic of Uzbekistan, who was a supplier of wholesale shipments of heroin to Lipetsk and Voronezh regions. The drug courier was carrying **373.39 g of heroin** in his car

concealed in a cache located under the dashboard. A criminal case was initiated against the Uzbek citizen.

Video: <https://gorod48.ru/news/1901906/>

05.09.2020 Employees of UNK MVD of the Kabardino-Balkarian Republic together with their colleagues from OMVD of Russia for Chegemskiy district and employees of the Federal Security Service of Russia for the Kabardino-Balkarian Republic detained a 39-year-old man and a 40-year-old woman - citizens of a neighboring country, temporarily residing in Nalchik, who received a parcel with **313 g of heroin**. The parcel arrived with a shuttle bus from another region of Russia. They purchased heroin for subsequent sale contactlessly using the Internet, by making caches in the republic. A criminal case was initiated against the suspects and a preventive measure in the form of detention was chosen. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/21061687>

REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

01.09.2020 Officers of the Tashkent region Almalyk OVD detained two citizens aged 25 and 34 years and seized **1.925 kg of marijuana**. A criminal case was opened against the detainees. Preliminary investigation is underway.

<https://uz.sputniknews.ru/society/20200906/14918805/V-Tashkentskoy-oblasti-zaderzhany-dvoe-muzhchin-zharivshikh-na-dache-marikhuanu.html>

OTHER COUNTRIES

AFGHANISTAN

02.09.2020 Counter Narcotics police in a search operation in northern Kunduz province detained two smugglers attempting to transport a shipment of **14 kg of drugs, including 8 kg of heroin**, from the province. Investigation is currently underway to locate a group supporting drug dealers in the province. The previous day, police also detained two smugglers in Ali Abad district, Kunduz province, and seized **4 kg of heroin**.

http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-09/02/c_139336837.htm

BELGIUM

01.09.2020 Customs on the quay of 1742 in the Waasland harbor in Antwerp discovered and confiscated **451.8 kg of cocaine** during inspection of a container with a cargo of gold ore. Cocaine was packed in several bags hidden between the cargo of gold ore. The container arrived on MSC RONIT R on its way from Guayaquil (Ecuador) to Finland.

<https://www.hln.be/in-de-buurt/beveren/bijna-halve-ton-cocaine-aangetroffen-in-container-met-gouderts~a548591a/>

<https://www.om-mp.be/nl/nieuws>

BRAZIL

31.08.2020 Federal Revenue Service, in a joint operation with the Federal Police (PF) in the port of Santos on the coast of Sao Paulo, seized **281.5 kg of cocaine**. Cocaine shipment was packed in travel bags found in trucks for export. The vehicles were intended

for transit to the port of St. Petersburg (Russian Federation)¹ through the port of Antwerp (Belgium). "Rip-on/Rip-off" method was used to conceal cocaine consignment, whereby drug was placed in a legal cargo in its country of origin without the knowledge of exporters and importers and extracted at ports of transit or destination. Seized cocaine has been transferred to the Federal Police, which is conducting investigation. A total of 12.9 tons of cocaine was seized in the port complex Santos in the first 8 months of 2020.

<http://www.segurancaportuariaemfoco.com.br/2020/09/rfb-e-pf-localizam-cocaina-em-caminhoes.html>

01.09.2020 Teams of the Federal Revenue Service in the port of Santos discovered and seized 332 kg of cocaine during inspection of an export cargo container destined for Spain. Final destination of the container was the port of Cartagena in Spain and the transit port of Algeciras (Spain). The container was selected for inspection using a service dog and scanner based on objective risk analysis criteria. Seized cocaine consignment was handed over to the Federal Police, which is investigating on the basis of information provided by the Revenue Service. <http://receita.economia.gov.br/noticias/ascom/2020/setembro/receita-federal-apreende-332-kg-de-cocaina-no-porto-de-santos>

GEORGIA

07.09.2020 Georgian Interior Ministry officials detained two Ukrainian citizens on charges of illegal acquisition, possession, and sale of large amounts of drugs. The detainees were members of an organized group of drug dealers who planned to sell drugs using caches. A total of up to **1,000 Subutex tablets** containing the narcotic drug **buprenorphine** were seized. In addition, the drug **methadone** was seized during a personal search of the suspects and a search in their apartments. <https://tass.ru/proisshestiya/9387237>

SPAIN

03.09.2020 Civil Guard and the Tax Office, as part of Operation ACLIS, dismantled a criminal organization engaged in international drug trade through the port of Barcelona. Four people were arrested during the operation. It began as a result of customs control of goods in the port of Barcelona. During one of those checks last March, **121 kg of high-purity cocaine** were found inside containers from Colombia with a shipment of industrial equipment (perforators). A joint investigation team consisting of agents from the Organized Crime and Drug Enforcement Unit of the Judicial Police of the Barcelona Civil Guard and the Additional Department of Customs Supervision (DAVA) of the Tax Service was created to join forces. The criminal organization that organized the cocaine shipment changed delivery routes of its consignments, opening a new entry route, including delivery by air through Bilbao airport. In April 2020, a member of a criminal group living in Bilbao, who was responsible for receiving shipments, was arrested in Santander. While transporting drugs from Barcelona to Villanueva de la Cañada in Madrid, in complete isolation due to the COVID-19 pandemic, two other members of the criminal organization living in Alcón and Madrid were arrested. Members of the criminal organization rented a house and equipped it with soundproofing to safely remove drug shipments from the equipment. The operation

¹ See CARICC weekly report No. 33 for 2020 (in a similar way, 25 kg of cocaine were delivered to the port of St. Petersburg (Russia) and seized on August 14, 2020 <https://мвд.рф/news/item/20869406>).

ended in June with an investigation into the last organization member responsible for bringing the equipment into Santande. <https://www.guardiacivil.es/es/prensa/noticias/7581.html>
 Video: <https://www.facebook.com/RTnews/videos/2063378657126610/>

CHINA

04.09.2020 Police in the city of Taiyuan, located in Shanxi province in northern China, detained six suspects in drug trafficking and seized **40 kg of heroin**. Back in 2019, police uncovered a criminal group that smuggled drugs into Shanxi, and detained five suspects in Xinzhou, seizing more than **5 kg of heroin** and freezing assets associated with drug trafficking in the amount of more than 1 million yuan (about 146 thousand U.S. dollars). A police investigation led to the suspect responsible for smuggling heroin into China, who returned to China in May this year. The man was detained in Yunnan province with a shipment of **heroin** weighing **33 kg**. It was found that in December 2019, the man ferried a shipment of heroin from abroad to Linkan in Yunnan province and instructed two women to deliver drugs to Shanxi. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-09/04/c_139342539.htm

MEXICO

02.09.2020 Mexican Navy, in cooperation with the Mexican Ministry of National Defense (SEDENA) east of Mahahual, Quintana Roo, spotted a vessel moving at high speed 85 nautical miles (136 km) east of Mahual during a maritime and aerial surveillance patrol operation. After the vessel was intercepted, **2960 kg of cocaine** were found on board. Three people suspected of smuggling drugs have been arrested. <https://www.theyucatanimes.com/2020/09/navy-seizes-nearly-3000-kilos-of-cocaine-in-quintana-roo/>

MYANMAR

03.09.2020 Joint Drug Enforcement Police Force in the Mandalay area of Pyin Oo Lwin seized **8.8 kg of heroin**. The amount of heroin seized was 616 million kyat (more than 456,000 U.S. dollars). Drug was transported in two vehicles, and four suspects were arrested. The case has been initiated and is currently under investigation. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-09/03/c_139340129.htm

THE NETHERLANDS

31.08.2020 During inspection in the port of Rotterdam Customs found **40 kg of cocaine**. Drugs were hidden behind the back wall of a container with a shipment of bananas. Cargo was destined for a company in France. <https://www.om.nl/actueel/nieuws/2020/09/04/douane-onderschept-40-kilo-cocaine>
<https://www.hardnieuws.nl/zuid-holland/rotterdam/40-kilo-cocaine-verstoopt-in-container-met-bananen-reeweg-rotterdam-11844.html>.

PAKISTAN

02.09.2020 Nasirabad police stopped a smuggling attempt from the northwest border province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa to Punjab of **10 kg of heroin** and arrested two smugglers. The case against the suspects is registered in accordance with relevant provisions of the law. <https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/naseerabad-police-foil-drug-smuggling-big-re-1018320.html>

<https://nation.com.pk/03-Sep-2020/police-foil-heroin-smuggling-bid>

PANAMA

05.09.2020 Drug Prosecutor's Office of Colon and Guna-Yala together with the National Aviation Service (Senan) in the port of Colon seized about **35 kg of cocaine** during inspection of a container destined for the Netherlands. The Prosecutor's Office launched an investigation into the case. Detention of suspects is not reported.

<https://www.telemetro.com/nacionales/2020/09/05/decomisan-paquetes-droga-contenedor/3203090.html>

https://twitter.com/PGN_PANAMA/status/1302044031770390528

PUERTO RICO

02.09.2020 A joint operation by the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the Puerto Rico Police Department seized **78.96 kg of cocaine** in a beach area in Dorado, near El Caracol, and arrested three illegal migrants from the Dominican Republic. CBP agents found a boat with two outboard engines on shore. After examination of the territory adjacent to the beach, three Dominican citizens were detained, from whom four bales of cocaine were seized. The detained foreigners were taken into custody and handed over to the Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) for investigation and prosecution along with drugs.

<https://dominantoday.com/dr/local/2020/09/03/puerto-rico-seizes-174-lbs-of-cocaine-nabs-3-dominicans/>

04.09.2020 During a joint territorial waters patrol near Key Rodríguez in Mayaguez, U.S. Border Patrol and the Puerto Rico Police Department's Joint Rapid Response Force (FURA) discovered a vessel registered in Puerto Rico with two U.S. citizens on board. Inspection found **263.419 kg of cocaine** on board. Confiscated cocaine shipment was worth 6.5 million dollars.

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/us-border-patrol-fura-seize-581-pounds-and-arrest-2-men-near-mayaguez>

USA

02.09.2020 Narcotics agents from Nueces County and the Robstown Police Department, Texas, on Highway 77, stopped a trailer truck carrying a shipment of bell peppers for the Walmart retail chain in the nearby town of Callen. Search of the trailer inside a box of peppers found **36 kg of cocaine**. The driver of the truck was charged with storing a controlled substance.

<https://www.kcentv.com/article/news/63000-in-cash-and-1-million-dollars-in-cocaine-discovered-over-the-past-several-days-along-highway-77/503-7b39f6e6-aeac-4280-b610-2643a551b121>

02.09.2020 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the Office of Field Operations agents in Nogales Port, Arizona, stopped numerous attempts to smuggle drugs into the United States, resulting in eight arrests. Seizures of narcotics - **methamphetamine, heroin, fentanyl and cocaine - totalling more than 79.4 kg** and worth more than \$1 million:

1) On August 28, two 18-year-old men, one a U.S. citizen and one a Mexican citizen, were detained at the DeConcini Crossing while attempting to smuggle **14.06 kg of cocaine** hidden in the back of a car;

2) On August 28, a 29-year-old U.S. citizen was detained at the DeConcini Crossing while attempting to smuggle **8.62 kg of cocaine** in a truck, concealing it in two hollow wooden bars;

3) On August 29, a 24-year-old U.S. citizen was detained at DeConcini Crossing while attempting to smuggle **3.63 kg of heroin and 1.81 kg of methamphetamine** in a truck;

4) On August 30, at the DeConcini Crossing, a 24-year-old U.S. citizen was detained while attempting to smuggle a **1.36 kg fentanyl tablets** in a car, attached and concealed on his body in socks and backpack;

5) On August 30, at the DeConcini Crossing, a 61-year-old U.S. citizen was detained while attempting to smuggle 70 packages of **methamphetamine weighing 34.47 kg** in a truck hidden in the back of the vehicle under a wooden floor.

6) On August 30, a 17-year-old U.S. citizen was detained while attempting to smuggle **165 g of fentanyl tablets** across the DeConcini crosswalk intracavitarily;

7) On August 30, a 22-year-old U.S. citizen was detained at the DeConcini Crossing while attempting to smuggle about **15 kg of methamphetamine inside** a gas tank.
<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-officers-port-nogales-seize-1-million-worth-drugs>

31.08.2020 U.S. Border Patrol agents observed three intruders with backpacks in a forest border area located in North Troy, along the Vermont state border with Canadian Quebec. One of the three intruders, who turned out to be a Canadian citizen, was detained while attempting to smuggle a large shipment of drugs into the United States from Canada. The other two managed to escape on Canadian territory. **102.5 kg of marijuana** were found and seized at the scene. <https://infotel.ca/in420/canadian-facing-charges-in-marijuana-smuggling-attempt/it76633>

02.09.2020 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials at the port of entry in San Isidro, San Diego, California, prevented an attempt to smuggle into the United States more than **100 kg of methamphetamine and 2.27 kg of fentanyl**, which were hidden in a 71-year-old U.S. citizen's Chrysler Sebring. During a search, 216 packages of methamphetamine and two packages of fentanyl were found in the trunk of the car. The car and drugs were seized. The driver was handed over to Homeland Security Investigation agents. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/san-ysidro-cbp-officers-seize-more-227-pounds-meth-fentanyl>

03.09.2020 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the Office of Field Operations (OFO) officers at the Hidalgo-Reynosa International Bridge, Texas, detained a 54-year-old Mexican citizen residing in the United States while attempting to smuggle **57.38 kg of methamphetamine** in a Jeep Grand Cherokee. 24 packages of methamphetamine were hidden in SUV tires. CBP officers confiscated methamphetamine and the car. The driver was arrested and handed over to Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) agents for investigation. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-field-operations-arrest-local-man-methamphetamine-worth-25-million>

TURKEY

31.08.2020 Police seized **87.4 kg of heroin** during operations in the Van and Agri provinces. A shipment of **45.2 kg of heroin** was transported in a van and seized on the Van Hakkari Highway in the Goupinar district of Van province. The driver of the minibus was arrested. In addition, a vehicle carrying **42.2 kg of heroin** was stopped during a joint



operation by police teams from Agri and Van provinces. The driver of the vehicle was also arrested. <https://www.yenisafak.com/en/news/police-seize-nearly-90-kg-of-heroin-in-eastern-turkey-3538051>

05.09.2020 Gendarmerie forces seized **1.4 tons of marijuana and 305 kg of hashish** during raids on drug trafficking by terrorist groups of the Kurdistan Workers' Party, recognized as a terrorist organization in Turkey, conducted in the district of Lice in Diyarbakir province. <https://www.yenisafak.com/en/news/security-forces-seize-over-17-tons-of-marijuana-in-se-turkey-3538533>

SRI LANKA

02.09.2020 23 kg of heroin were seized during a raid conducted by the Meegahawatta police in Samadhi Mawatha district of Sapugaskanda. A 37-year-old local resident was detained on suspicion of drug trafficking. Police are conducting an investigation. <http://www.adaderana.lk/news/66917/23kg-of-heroin-recovered-in-sapugaskanda-suspect-arrested>