

CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY

(based on mass media reports)

14.09-20.09.2020

№ 38

CARICC MEMBER STATES

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

17.09.2020 Border guards of the State Border Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the service zone of the border post of the State Border Service "Goradiz" in the village of Shakhsevan-2 of Beylagan district detained two violators of the state border with Iran. During detention, there was an exchange of fire, as a result of which one of the intruders died on the spot, while the second managed to escape. At the same time, the intruders left weapons and **15 kg of drugs**. A 45-year-old resident of Beylagansky district was detained. He had arrived to meet smugglers and was planning to pick up consignment. Information about the incident was sent to the Iranian Border Guard Service. Employees of the Border Guard Unit "Goradiz" and the military prosecutor's office in connection with the incident conducted necessary operational and investigative measures. <https://interfax.az/view/813567>

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

14.09.2020 A Kyrgyz citizen was detained at the Karasu border post attempting to smuggle a particularly large shipment of heroin. When checking a car of the detained man, two plastic buckets with honey were found. Caches containing **1.872 kg of heroin** were in double bottom of the buckets. A pre-trial investigation was opened into this fact. <https://24.kg/english/165350> [Kyrgyzstani tries to smuggle heroin across border /](#)

15.09.2020 The police detained a resident of Nur-Sultan, born in 1977, who illegally stored more than **14 kg of hashish** in his garage. Seized drugs cost more than 9 million tenge. Also confiscated during the search were scales for packing, money in the amount of 2 million 243 thousand tenge and a pneumatic gun. A pre-trial investigation is being conducted into this fact. **Over 50 kg of various narcotic substances, including over 18 kg of synthetic drugs**, were seized in Nur-Sultan during the "KARASORA-2020" OPM. 450 people have been detained for drug crimes, 73 of whom have been subjected to a custodial measure. <https://www.kp.kz/online/news/4013818/>

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

18.09.2020 Employees of SBNON MVD KR have carried out several detentions of drug traffickers, as a result of which more than 30 kg of narcotics were seized:

1) in Kara-Suu district, Osh region, an Afghan-born citizen born in 1985 was detained on a bypass road selling **10.195 kg of Afghan hashish**. Seized drugs were valued at \$40,000;

2) in Jalal-Abad, a man born in 1983 was detained while attempting to illegally sell **1.034 kg of heroin**. He stored and transported drug in the trunk of his car. Detained was an Interior Ministry officer who was leading a criminal group;

3) in Tash Kумыr, Jalal-Abad region, two citizens aged 23 and 43 were detained while selling a particularly large consignment of drugs. Bags of **20.816 kg of marijuana** were found and seized during an inspection of the vehicle in which the suspects were travelling. All the above facts are subject to pre-trial investigation.

https://www.tuz.kg/news/3111_na_uge_kyrgyzstana_aktivizirovalis_narkotorgovcy.html

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

14.09.2020 A 35-year-old resident of St. Petersburg was detained in a wooded area near the Obukhov cemetery by employees of UNK GU MVD of the Russian Federation in the Moscow region at the moment of seizure of **2 kg of methylephedrone** from a cache. The detainee had purchased drugs on the Internet for further sale in St. Petersburg. A criminal case has been initiated on this fact. The suspect was placed in custody.

<https://мвд.рф/news/item/21140568>

15.09.2020 SU UMVD of Russia for the city of Izhevsk of the Udmurt Republic sent a criminal case to court against four members of an organized group of drug sellers born in 1990 and 1995, who were engaged in illegal sale of drugs of plant and synthetic origin. Crimes were committed with the use of the Internet in a contactless way by laying drugs in caches in forest areas, garage cooperatives and near buildings located in Izhevsk and the Udmurt Republic. Over 330 convolutions with drugs were seized. The investigation revealed involvement of one of the suspects born in 1995 in legalization (laundering) of money obtained by criminal means. In order to make a profit and make money rightfully owned, he used impersonal electronic accounts to which money from drug sales was transferred. The suspect subsequently converted cryptocurrency received into fiat money and transferred to his bank account. The amount of money legalized amounted to at least 874 thousand rubles. <https://мвд.рф/news/item/21153636>

17.09.2020 Employees of ONK UMVD of Russia in the urban district of Domodedovo, Moscow region, on Kashirskoye Highway detained a 24-year-old citizen of a neighboring country, seized about **500 g of heroin**. A criminal case was opened against the foreign citizen and the court selected a preventive measure in the form of detention.

<https://мвд.рф/news/item/21179077>

18.09.2020 Employees of ONK UMVD of Russia for the city of Surgut of the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous district - Yugra detained two citizens born in 1997 and 1999 in a forest area, who illegally kept with them and at their place of residence more than **1.550 kg of synthetic drugs** prepared for sale in Surgut through "stashs". Criminal proceedings have been instituted against the suspects. <https://мвд.рф/news/item/21198674>

REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

16.09.2020 SGB employees with assistance of MVD and a Department under the General Prosecutor's Office:

1) detained in Tashkent three residents of Namangan region who had more than 15,000 Regapen capsules smuggled from Kyrgyzstan;

2) SGB officers together with the Ferghana regional UVD and territorial administration of Department at the General Prosecutor's Office, detained a 25-year-old resident of Andijan while selling 1120 capsules of "Lyrika" and 110 bottles of "Tropikamid" in Ferghana. Drugs

were initially purchased from a resident of Jalalabad region, Kyrgyz Republic and smuggled into Uzbekistan bypassing the border;

3) In Margilan, a 33-year-old resident of Rishtan district was detained during the sale of 808 bottles of "Tropicamide";

4) In Altiarik district, two drug traffickers aged 27 and 36 were detained while attempting to smuggle 5,600 Lyryka capsules imported from Kyrgyzstan;

5) In Kuvinsky district, three local residents were arrested while trying to sell 2240 Lyryka capsules. As a result of actions, a total of **8960 capsules of "Lyrika", 15022 capsules of "Regapen" and 918 bottles of "Tropicamide"** were seized. Criminal cases were initiated and investigation is under way. <https://podrobno.uz/cat/proisshestiya/v-tashkent-prodolzhayut-vezti-aptechnye-narkotiki/>

OTHER COUNTRIES

UNITED KINGDOM

18.09.2020 As a result of an international operation carried out by the National Crime Agency (NCA) with the support of border troops, **1196 kg of heroin** were found and seized in Felixstowe port during inspection of a container with a cargo of rice that arrived on the Sembawang container ship. The ship was moored in the UK on its way to Antwerp, Belgium. Heroin consignment was estimated to cost 21 million pounds sterling. Drugs were inside bags of rice. <https://www.nationalcrimeagency.gov.uk/news/nca-investigation-keeps-120m-class-a-drugs-haul-off-uk-streets>

VIETNAM

14.09.2020 The General Customs Department has coordinated with competent authorities of Vietnam to arrest 11 suspects. **237 kg of narcotics** were seized. On September 8, a 44-year-old resident of Huong Son District, Ha Tinh Province, was arrested at the international border gate Cau Tre with **98 kg of synthetic drugs** hidden in five wooden Buddhist statues imported from Laos and equipped with tracking devices. As part of investigation, 6 more people were arrested in Ho Chi Minh City, and **6.650 kg of heroin and 22.5 kg of synthetic drugs** were seized. On the same day, border guards in Ha Tinh, in cooperation with Lao police, detained 4 more people, and seized **110 kg of methamphetamine** hidden in six wooden Buddhist statues. The province of Ha Tinh, bordering Laos, was for many years a major drug trafficking center. <https://en.vietnamplus.vn/237-kg-of-drugs-seized-in-major-bust/182966.vnp>

GHANA

19.09.2020 NACOC and National Security operatives at Tema port found **100 kg of cocaine** in a container carrying rice and sugar. The shipment was estimated to cost \$10 million. The container was one of more than 50 shipped to Taj, which imports large quantities of rice and sugar into Ghana.

<https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/US-10-million-worth-of-suspected-cocaine-arrested-at-Tema-Port-1064200>

INDIA

16.09.2020 Delhi Western District Police Narcotics Squad arrested two Odishi residents who were carrying **368 kg of marijuana** in a truck. <https://www.indiatoday.in/crime/story/delhi-drug-ring-busted-over-368-kg-of-marijuana-recovered-2-arrested-1722490-2020-09-16>

17.09.2020 Police of Choparan of Hazaribag district during a special inspection of a car found and seized **20 kg of opium**. Two suspects were detained. Drug was placed in five bags of 4 kg each with wheat. <https://www.dailypioneer.com/2020/state-editions/police-seize-20-kg-opium--2-held.html>

IRAN

19.09.2020 From 12 to 18 September, the Anti-Narcotics Police of Iran seized **25.033 tons of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including 2.259 tons of heroin, 20.487 tons of opium, 79 kg of methamphetamine, 2.131 tons of hashish, 77 kg of other narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances¹**.

QATAR

17.09.2020 Employees of the Maritime Customs Department of the General Authority of Customs (GAC) in the port of Ruwais during inspection of a cargo vehicle inside the tubular hoods hidden behind the back fence of the truck with a shipment of fruit found **8.4 kg of hashish**. <https://menafn.com/1100816389/Qatar-Hashish-found-hidden-in-trucks-guard-rail>

COLOMBIA

14.09.2020 Colombian authorities seized **520 kg of cocaine** in the center of Poblado El Tres, located in the municipality of Turbo, Antioquia. The shipment is worth over 2 billion pesos. Drug was hidden in the trailer of a truck that intended to transport the consignment across the Gulf of Urab to other countries. Cocaine belonged to the criminal group Central Turbo Gulf clan. The vehicle and seized drug were handed over to competent authorities for investigation and destroying. <https://www.minuto30.com/antioquia/fotos-y-video-mas-de-media-tonelada-de-cocaina-le-incautaron-al-clan-del-golfo-en-el-municipio-de-turbo-antioquia/1128874/>
 Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f3tmqENLXO0&feature=emb_logo

MALTA

14.09.2020 During an operation carried out at Malta International Airport, customs officers found more than **9.85 kg of cocaine** in the luggage of passengers arriving from Madrid. A female drug courier from Spain was arrested by anti-drug police along with an accompanying passenger, who was also found to be carrying small amounts of **cannabis and ecstasy**. <https://www.maltatoday.com.mt/news/national/104717/over-nine-kilograms-of-cocaine-discovered-during-airport-luggage-screening#.X2g19aBXqU>

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

MOROCCO

18.09.2020 A total of **1,920 kg of hashish and about 21 kg of cocaine** were seized in three separate operations carried out by DGSN staff in northern Morocco. Police seized 920 kg of hashish in the port of Tangier-Med in a vehicle driven by a 42-year-old Moroccan driver travelling with a ferry to France. After the discovery of hashish shipments, the driver was arrested. In addition, three persons suspected of having links to a criminal network engaged in international cocaine trade were arrested in Nador. One of the three persons was arrested while transporting about 21 kg of cocaine on a water motorcycle. Also during an operation in the Mediterranean Sea, the Coast Guard seized a sailboat, jet skis and a go-fast. Five suspects, three Spaniards and two Moroccans, were arrested and about 1 ton of hashish was seized. <https://www.thecitizen.co.tz/news/africa/Morocco-seizes-2-tonnes-marijuana--20-kilos-cocaine/3302426-5624850-yflfmsz/index.html>

PAKISTAN

16.09.2020 Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) seized about **7 kg of heroin** from two Toyota Corolla vehicles in two operations near the dry port of Sambrial in Sialkot and near Mahmoud Bouti in Lahore. Four people, residents of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, were arrested. Drugs were hidden in special hiding places inside the cars. Investigation into these facts is underway. <https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/13-kg-drugs-recovered-worth-millions-of-rupee-1031717.html>

19.09.2020 Excise Police inspectors of Mardan district in Balochistan during inspection of vehicles stopped smuggling of **45 kg of heroin** found in secret compartment of a truck. The smuggler was detained. The police have registered the case and investigation is underway. <https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/45-kg-heroin-recovered-smuggler-arrested-1034191.html>

PANAMA

16.09.2020 Mr. Laurentino Cortiso, the President of Panama, ordered immediate dismissal of Mr. Erik Martelo Robinson, Guna-Yala Governor, who was arrested by police after **79 kg of cocaine** was found in his car. Drug was in double bottom of the vehicle. <https://www.unionesarda.it/en/articolo/news/mondo/2020/09/16/panama-governatore-destituito-viaggiava-con-79-chili-di-cocaina-i-137-1059883.html>

PUERTO RICO

16.09.2020 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Air and Marine Operations (AMO) units stopped a fast-track vessel carrying **1,787.4 kg of cocaine** approximately 75 nautical miles south of St. Croix, Virgin Islands. Two U.S. citizens who were trying to get to Vieques Island in Puerto Rico were arrested. Seized shipment was worth 44.7 million dollars. Homeland Security Investigations took over protection of the suspects and seized cocaine in the interests of investigation and prosecution. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/amo-seizes-3941-pounds-cocaine-arrest-2-men-near-vieques-puerto-rico>

USA

14.09.2020 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at the Tekate Crossing, California, found and seized about **152.86 kg of methamphetamine and 101.15 kg of cocaine** in a truckload of beach pebbles and stones. Drugs were found by officers during a search of a truck, tractor and cargo, which resulted from opening of large quartz boulders that were part of the cargo. Drugs are valued at \$3.9 million. Tractor, cargo and drug shipments were seized. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-officers-bust-open-quartz-boulders-seize-cocaine-and>

14.09.2020 Border patrol agents in the Rio Grande area of Texas stopped two drug smuggling from Mexico, resulting in the seizure of over **453.59 kg of marijuana**. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/border-patrol-agents-seize-more-800k-worth-drugs-rqv>

14.09.2020 Border patrol agents from El Centro sector at the immigration checkpoint on Highway 86 detained three men suspected of drug smuggling in two separate incidents:

1) agents detained two U.S. citizens, a 54-year-old driver and a 37-year-old passenger, while attempting to smuggle about **13.97 kg of methamphetamine** in a Hyundai Veloster. Shipment of methamphetamine was found in the passenger's suitcase. The driver and passenger, the car and drugs were transferred to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA);

2) agents detained a 32-year-old U.S. citizen while attempting to smuggle about **6.69 kg of heroin** hidden inside an engine collector in a Ford F-250. Drugs are worth more than 187 thousand dollars. The driver, the car and drugs have been transferred to the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/border-patrol-agents-stop-two-narcotic-smuggling-attempts-two-separate>

16.09.2020 Law enforcement teams from the U.S. Coast Guard Branch in Miami and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection found and seized **14.97 kg of cocaine** in common areas of the Togolese flag ship on the Miami River, California. <https://www.marinelink.com/news/us-authorities-find-drugs-cargo-ship-481735>

16.09.2020 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Office of Field Operations (OFO) agents at cargo facilities at Farr International Bridge and Ansalduwas International Bridge, Texas, interdicted drug smuggling attempts:

1) At the Anzalduas-Reynosa International Bridge, a 23-year-old U.S. citizen was detained while attempting to smuggle **13.24 kg of methamphetamine** hidden in her Chrysler Pacifica;

2) At the Farr International Bridge, a 63-year-old Mexican citizen was detained while attempting to smuggle **220.5 kg of marijuana** inside his trailer. In both cases, drug shipments and vehicles were seized. Drivers were arrested. Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) agents have taken them both into custody and are investigating. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-field-operations-seizes-narcotics-worth-681k-mid-valley>

18.09.2020 U.S. Border Patrol agents from the Tucson Sector detained a 25-year-old U.S. citizen at Interstate Immigration BCP 19 near Amado, Arizona, attempting to smuggle more than **7.71 kg of fentanyl** in a Chevrolet Trailblazer. Fentanyl is estimated to cost 188

thousand dollars. Female driver was arrested, fentanyl and the car were seized. The case was transferred to the Drug Enforcement Administration of the United States (DEA).

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/border-patrol-intercepts-large-fentanyl-load-checkpoint>

18.09.2020 U.S. Border Patrol agents in the Tucson Sector detained a 26-year-old U.S. citizen at an immigration checkpoint near Sasabe, Arizona, attempting to smuggle more than **272.16 kg of methamphetamine** in specially equipped caches in a Ford F-250 truck. The consignment is worth 1.4 million dollars. The truck, methamphetamine and the driver were handed over to special agents of the Homeland Security Investigations.

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-discovers-14-million-meth-load-altered-work-truck>

19.09.2020 Detectives from the Mohave Area General Narcotics Enforcement (MAGNET) task force on the interstate highway 40 in Kingman, Arizona, stopped a vehicle and found and seized about **40.37 kg of methamphetamine** worth about \$3.9 million. Three men and one woman, aged 22 to 30, were arrested. <https://www.foxnews.com/us/arizona-police-dog-nabs-4-in-4m-meth-bust-during-traffic-stop>

TURKEY

14.09.2020 Gendarmerie forces within the "Operation Yildirim-7" conducted in Lice district of Diyarbakir province seized and destroyed **669 kg of marijuana and 510 thousand cannabis plants**. Drug shipments belonged to the Kurdistan Workers Party, a terrorist organization banned in Turkey. The Kurdistan Workers Party uses proceeds of illicit drug trade to finance terrorist groups. Operation "Yildirim-7" was launched on August 26. About 1.5 thousand security officers were involved in the operation.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/turkish-police-seize-nearly-670-kg-of-marijuana/1973368>

16.09.2020 Police in the Gurpinar district of Van province found **310.8 kg of liquid heroin** in a tow truck fuel tank during a vehicle inspection. The truck driver was detained and subsequently taken into custody by a local court. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/turkey-over-310-kg-of-heroin-seized-suspect-arrested/1975083>

ECUADOR

12.09.2020 Operation Victoria 929 in the Guayaquil area detained a truck carrying **116.9 kg of cocaine** as a result of coordinated efforts by the National Drug Investigation Unit (UNIA) and the National Chemical Investigation Unit (UNISQ) in the Durand Canton of Guayaas province. Drug was hidden in a cache at the bottom of the cargo bay. <https://www.policia.gob.ec/en-operativo-policial-victoria-929-agentes-antidrogas-retienen-vehiculo-con-116-9-kilos-de-cocaina/>

Video: <https://twitter.com/PoliciaEcuador/status/1305595829898620929>

12.09.2020 Tactical units of the National Police (UNAC, UNIPA and GEMA) in Guayaquil detected **376.2 kg of cocaine** during an inspection of the container ship "Clexa Maersk" heading for the port of Croatia. Drug was concealed inside the container door. The container carried an export cargo of bananas. <https://www.eltelegrafo.com.ec/noticias/judicial>
<https://ecuador221.com.ec/2020/09/14/policia-descubre-376-kilos-de-cocaina-en-buque-con-destino-a-croacia/>
<https://www.maersk.com/tracking/#tracking/MNBU0350403>



CENTRAL ASIAN REGIONAL INFORMATION AND COORDINATION CENTRE FOR COMBATING THE ILLICIT TRAFFICKING OF NARCOTIC DRUGS, PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND THEIR PRECURSORS

ЦЕНТРАЛЬНОАЗИАТСКИЙ РЕГИОНАЛЬНЫЙ ИНФОРМАЦИОННЫЙ КООРДИНАЦИОННЫЙ ЦЕНТР ПО БОРЬБЕ С НЕЗАКОННЫМ ОБОРОТОМ НАРКОТИЧЕСКИХ СРЕДСТВ, ПСИХОТРОПНЫХ ВЕЩЕСТВ И ИХ ПРЕКУРСОРОВ