

*Unofficial translation***CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY**

(based on mass media reports)

09.11-15.11.2020**№ 46****CARICC MEMBER STATES****REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN**

11.11.2020 Employees of the West-Kazakhstan region Police Department of MVD RK in Uralsk dismantled a drug laboratory organized in a garage by citizens of Ukraine. The suspects were involved in manufacture of synthetic drugs for further sale in Kazakhstan. More than **30 kg of synthetic drugs (pyrrolidinovalerophenone and mephedrone)** and 31 kg of reagent necessary for their production were found and seized. https://express-k.kz/news/svodka/proizvodstvo_sinteticheskikh_narkotikov_organizovali_v_uralskom_garazhe_grazhdane_ukrainy-169308

16.11.2020 National Security Committee (KNB) as a result of a large-scale operation that lasted from April to October, dismantled a transnational organized group that supplied synthetic drugs to Kazakhstan from abroad and sold it through an online store called "Borat 24". 34 participants of transnational drug structure were detained, 8 drug laboratories were dismantled. They seized **40 kg of psychotropic substances** smuggled into Nur-Sultan, Almaty and Shymkent. Seized drugs are worth over 600 million tenge. In addition, illegal crypto-exchangers, which organized legalization of money received from the sale of drugs, through financial transactions for purchase of bitcoins and their withdrawal abroad, were foiled. At the same time 6 mobile mining farms manufactured by the accomplices for legalization of received money were identified. Over 2.5 billion tenge was legalized by the accomplices of transnational organized group during two years. The mentioned facts are registered in ERDR. <https://www.zakon.kz/5047850-eto-eshche-ne-vse-o-masshtabah.html>
<https://tengrinews.kz/news/knb-likvidiroval-transnatsionalnuyu-narkogruppirovku-420219/>

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

09.11.2020 Employees of the Batken region Department SBNON MVD KR detained a 44-year-old Tajik native, a resident of Sokuluk district, Chui region, on the road near the village of Zhashtyk, Leilek district, Batken region, on suspicion of transporting narcotic drugs. During a personal search, **796 g of hashish** were seized from the detainee that was smuggled from Tajikistan. This fact was registered in ERPP. Pre-trial investigation is under way. <https://elgezit.kg/2020/11/11/sbnon-zaderzhala-narkotorgovtsa-postavlyavshego-narkotiki-iz-tadzhikistana-v-kr/>

17.11.2020 Staff of the Interregional Department of SKM MVD KR detained in Osh a member of an organized criminal group, a 36-year-old resident of Suzak district, suspected of selling drugs. During a personal search of the man, **2.455 kg of heroin** were found and seized. In addition, the detainee is suspected of involvement in clashes between rival criminal groups that took place in Suzak district, resulting in 9 people being detained. <https://svodka.akipress.org/news:1661987/?from=svodka&place=newsload>

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

09.11.2020 Employees of UNK GU MVD of the Russian Federation in St. Petersburg and Leningrad region prevented activities of an organized group specializing in the sale of drugs through caches. Criminals used an online store in Darknet. Organizer and three members of this group (administrator of online store and caches) aged 26 to 40 years were detained. Seized were **360 g of amphetamine, more than 100 g MDMA**, electronic scales, packaging material. Police identified location of another 100 caches in Vsevolozhsky district, Leningrad region. All four suspects were taken into custody. Criminal cases have been initiated. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/21764029>

09.11.2020 Employees of UNK GU MVD of Russia in Irkutsk region together with their colleagues from St. Petersburg stopped activities of an interregional group, which organized supply of drugs from Leningrad region to the area through transport and logistics companies, which provided transportation of marijuana and hashish in packages with sports food. Sales in the Irkutsk region were carried out through two online stores created on the platform of a mobile messenger, with the help of stashes. Drug purchasers paid using cryptocurrency. A 32-year-old group leader and his two accomplices were detained in Irkutsk. Another suspect was detained in St. Petersburg and taken to Irkutsk region. More than **1 kg of narcotics (marijuana and hashish)** as well as items used in criminal activity, were found and seized in the places where the detainees lived. Drugs worth more than 1.5 million rubles were found in Irkutsk region. Criminal cases were instituted. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/21740551>

11.11.2020 Employees of UNK UMVD of Russia in Ivanovo region together with representatives of GUNK MVD of Russia dismantled an illegal laboratory for production of N-methylephedron. Two 40-year-old residents of Nizhny Novgorod were detained. Perpetrators organized production of drugs in a private house in a village in Puchezhsky district of Ivanovo region, where were found almost **4 kg of N-methylephedron**, produced for subsequent sale. Laboratory equipment and 35 liters of chemicals were also seized. A criminal case was opened on this fact. The defendants were placed in a detention facility. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/21794375>

13.11.2020 Employees of traffic police regiment of UMVD of Russia in the Tyumen region at 40 km of the road "Tyumen - Omsk" stopped a car "Toyota Camry", in which a 24-year-old resident of the Novosibirsk region was carrying **marijuana and hashish** from St. Petersburg to Novosibirsk, a total weight of **about 2 kg**. Drugs were found during vehicle inspection under the front passenger seat and in the trunk. A criminal case was opened and the driver was detained. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/21818155>

14.11.2020 Employees of UMVD of Russia in the Kostroma region detained a 25-year-old organizer and another member of a criminal group engaged in selling drugs through an online store in shadow segment of network. Leader of the group distributed money between couriers, gave them information about location of wholesale shipments, determined regions for distribution of illegal goods and routes of movement. Drug sales were conducted contactlessly in Kaluga and Bryansk regions. More than **1.5 kg of synthetic drugs** and equipment for packaging were seized. Criminal proceedings were instituted against the

suspects, and a preventive measure in the form of detention was taken against them.
<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/21829106>

REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

10.11.2020 State Security Service of Uzbekistan (SGB) has stopped activities of several criminal groups engaged in drug trafficking:

1) When selling about **1 kg of opium** for 18 thousand dollars in his car "Spark" were detained a resident of Samarkand district and his accomplice. Also detained were two other members of the group who were searching for drug buyers;

2) In Ishtikhan district, as a result of a car stop, a resident of Urgutsky district was detained transporting **200 g of opium**;

3) In Syrdarya region a man was detained, from whom **9.745 kg of hashish** were seized, smuggled from Tajikistan to Khavast district;

4) In the Ferghana region was detained a resident of the Ferghana district, who kept with him and his place of residence **1.086 kg of hashish** intended for further sale. Narcotics were smuggled in from Kyrgyzstan;

5) When selling **490 g of hashish** to a buyer, a resident of Markhamat district of Andijan region was detained in his Damas car;

6) A resident of Kokand was detained at the Chagali post in Danghara district, transporting **14980 Tramadol tablets** in a Damas car from Tashkent to Kokand. Criminal proceedings were instituted against him.

<https://podrobno.uz/cat/proisshestviya/sgb-presekla-deyatelnost-neskolkikh-prestupnykh-gruppirovok-zanimavshikhsya-prodazhey-narkotikov/>

OTHER COUNTRIES

ARGENTINA

14.11.2020 National Gendarmerie (GNA) during a joint operation with bailiffs 796 km north of Buenos Aires, stopped a truck carrying over **10 tons of marijuana** on the road in the northern province of Misiones. http://www.xinhuanet.com/english/2020-11/15/c_139517131.htm

AFGHANISTAN

10.11.2020 From 9 to 16 November, Center Narcotics Police officers implemented 63 operations in 15 provinces. As a result of investigations 76 people were detained and **339.351 kg of narcotics and psychotropic substances were seized, including 6.465 kg of heroin, 178.860 kg of hashish, 3.011 kg of methamphetamine, 67.015 kg of opium and 941 tablets of MDMA**. Confiscated were currency in the amount of 2987 US dollars, 7 cell phones, 7 vehicles, 4 weapons, 1280 pieces ammunition. Drugs and property confiscated in Afghanistan worth a total of 707,532 US dollars¹.

BRAZIL

04.11.2020 As a result of a joint operation by the Federal Revenue Service (IRS) and the Federal Police (PF), **324 kg of cocaine** were seized in the port of Paranagua on the coast

¹ Data provided by liaison officer of the Ministry of Interior Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan at CARICC.

of Parana. The consignment was to be sent to Antwerp (Belgium). Drugs were handed over to the Federal Police, which will continue the investigation.

<http://www.segurancaportuariaemfoco.com.br/2020/11/operacao-conjunta-apreende-324-kg-de.html>

11.11.2020 Federal Police (PF) in a joint action with the Federal Revenue Service (IRS) seized **380 kg of cocaine** in the port of Rio de Janeiro. Cocaine shipment was found in a container destined for the port of Valencia (Spain). The vessel with cargo left the port of Santos for Sao Paulo. Seized drug was sent to the Federal Police Directorate in Rio de Janeiro. <https://www.gov.br/pf/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2020/11-noticias-de-novembro-de-2020/policia-federal-e-receita-e-apreendem-380-kg-de-cocaina-no-porto-do-rio-de-janeiro>
<https://g1.globo.com/rj/rio-de-janeiro/noticia/2020/11/11/receita-federal-apreende-cocaina-no-porto-do-rio.ghtml>

UNITED KINGDOM

10.11.2020 An anti-corruption police raid in the British Virgin Islands found and seized **2.3 tons of cocaine** in the house of a 41-year-old police officer under construction. The shipment is worth 189 million pounds sterling. Officer with 20 years of police service in the Virgin Islands and his accomplice were arrested.

<https://www.thescottishsun.co.uk/news/6265377/two-tons-cocaine-million-policeman-british-virgin-islands/>
<https://bvi.gov.vg/media-centre/statement-police-commissioner-michael-matthews-regarding-recent-drugs-seizure>
<https://www.reuters.com/article/us-bvi-cocaine/two-tonnes-of-cocaine-worth-250-million-seized-in-british-virgin-islands-idUSKBN27R160?rpc=401>

13.11.2020 A truck carrying **5 kg of cocaine** was stopped as a result of a joint raid by the Port Police and the Border Force near the docks in Merseyside. The driver, a 30-year-old resident of Kilkeel, Northern Ireland, was arrested. A second truck driven by a 30-year-old driver from the same area in Northern Ireland was subsequently stopped by police. A man was arrested on suspicion of conspiracy to supply class A drugs. Investigation is under way. <https://www.liverpoolecho.co.uk/news/liverpool-news/massive-haul-cocaine-found-hidden-19291599>

GUATEMALA

10.11.2020 Members of the Narcotics Division of the Guatemalan Police found **1.28 tons of cocaine** in a plane that crashed in the municipality of Champerico, in the southwestern department of Retalhuleu. The plane arrived in the Guatemalan airspace from Venezuela. Drugs are worth \$14 million. The aircraft belonged to a 27-year-old Guatemalan who died at the scene, while two other people on board - a 60-year-old Mexican citizen and a 23-year-old Colombian citizen - were detained. Various documents, mobile and satellite phones, a radio transmitter, a tablet, \$16,000 and 59,000 Colombian pesos were found in the plane as well as several meters of cable with spotlights to illuminate a runway.

<https://sputniknews.com/latam/202011101081112842-plane-with-tonne-of-cocaine-aboard-crashes-in-guatemala/>

GEORGIA

12.11.2020 Georgian MVD GUBNON revealed an unprecedented pattern of illicit drug production and trafficking in Georgia. As a result of investigation carried out in Tbilisi and Batumi, a citizen of Kazakhstan born in 1993 was detained in Tbilisi. The detainee was part

of a criminal group of drug dealers and had been involved in drug trafficking via the Internet and mephedrone production. Police found a drug laboratory producing mephedrone in a house. During search in the laboratory they seized **2.3 kg of mephedrone, chemicals** necessary for its production, **precursors** and relevant laboratory equipment. Seized drugs cost 1.2 million GEL. This fact is under investigation. <https://police.ge/ge/politsiam-internetit-narkotikebis-realizatsiis-danashaulebrivi-sqema-gamoavlina-amoghebuli-narkotikuli-sashualebebis-ghirebuleba-ets-shav-bazarze-1-200-000-lars-sheadgens/14123>

IRAN

11.11.2020 Yazd provincial police seized more than **2 tons of opium** in a joint operation with counter-narcotics police after intelligence operations. Two offenders were arrested and brought to trial. <https://en.mehrnews.com/news/165772/Police-confiscate-over-2-tons-of-narcotics-in-Yazd>

14.11.2020 Sistan and Balochistan provincial police forces, in an operation conducted in the border areas of Mirjava, intercepted activities of a smuggling gang whose members tried to smuggle **1.184 tons of opium** from the southeast to the central and northern parts of the country. Smugglers fled to the highlands using dark hours of the day. <https://en.mehrnews.com/news/165861/Over-1-ton-of-illicit-drugs-seized-at-Mirjaveh-border>

ITALY

11.11.2020 During Operation Rebus, carried out by the Financial Guard of Rome together with employees of the Department of Customs and Monopolies at Leonardo da Vinci International Airport in Fiumicino, more than **52 kg of drugs** were seized and 18 drug couriers were detained. Drugs were moved by drug couriers in their luggage and intracavitarily:

- 1) A Dominican Republic citizen from Spain hid in his luggage more than **3 kg of cocaine** concealed in bottles with cosmetics;
- 2) A Pakistani passenger was carrying **6 kg of heroin** in his luggage;
- 3) An Italian citizen was detained attempting to smuggle about **3 kg of cocaine** from Sao Paulo (Brazil) in his luggage;
- 4) An Italian citizen was detained attempting to smuggle more than **10 kg of heroin** hidden in double bottom of a suitcase;
- 5) A Nigerian citizen was detained trying to smuggle more than **1 kg of heroin** from Uganda. Criminal organizations could generate about 18 million euros in revenue from the sale of seized drugs. <http://www.gdf.gov.it/stampa/ultime-notizie/anno-2020/novembre/operazione-rebus-sequestrati-oltre-52-chili-di-stupefacenti>
 Video: https://www.ilmessaggero.it/video/roma/roma_sequestrati_oltre_52_chili_di_cocaina_eroina_fiumicino-5579549.html

MEXICO

11.11.2020 Mexican Navy units, together with the Attorney General's office in the port of Ensenada, Lower California, searched the cargo ship Happy Dover, which arrived at the dock of the Port Authority (API) and was carrying the sailing boat Quest. During search, about **200 kg of cocaine** were found on the sailboat. The shipment was valued at 56 million pesos. The crew was detained and handed over to the Federal Prosecutor's Office to initiate

an investigation. <https://www.eluniversal.com.mx/nacion/decomisan-200-kg-de-cocaina-en-buque-que-transportaba-yates-de-lujos-en-ensenada>

UAE

28.09.2020 Officers from the Abu Dhabi Police Anti-Narcotics Directorate arrested four members of a criminal group who organized delivery and transportation of a shipment of **573 000 Captagon tablets** destined for distribution in the Emirates. The criminal group was led by an individual residing outside the UAE. Captagon shipment was confiscated and suspects will be brought before the court. <https://www.thenationalnews.com/uae/courts/abu-dhabi-police-arrest-gang-with-573-000-captagon-pills-1.1085091>

10.11.2020 Abu Dhabi Police Anti-Narcotics Directorate arrested three drug dealers and seized **heroin and crystalline methamphetamine weighing more than 45 kg** in total. The drug dealers were supplying drugs from abroad for sale in Abu Dhabi, Dubai and Sharjah. Drugs were distributed contactlessly through caches. The criminal group was led by a person living outside the UAE. The suspects are in custody. <https://www.thenationalnews.com/uae/courts/three-men-arrested-with-45kg-of-heroin-and-crystal-meth-in-abu-dhabi-1.1108910>

PAKISTAN

12.11.2020 Anti-Narcotics Force (ANF) seized large amounts of drugs in several separate operations in Clifton and arrested three drug dealers:

1) A parcel with a thermos for the Netherlands containing **800 g of opium** was found in the office of a courier company. Raids were conducted to detain suspects involved in the case;

2) A suspicious motorcycle was intercepted in Baloch Colony, on which two drug dealers were carrying **7 kg of hashish**;

3) Organizer of smuggling **2550 kg of methamphetamine** to Qatar was detained near the airport of Karachi. Cases have been registered, investigation is under way. <https://www.urdupoint.com/en/pakistan/anf-arrests-three-drug-peddlers-recovers-hug-1084324.html>

PANAMA

13.11.2020 Intelligence units of the National Police Intelligence Directorate in the Pacific Port seized about **661 kg of cocaine**. The shipment was valued at \$40 million. Drug was inside a container in 19 bags, which were found in a cargo from Colombia in transit through Panama to Belgium. The final destination of the cargo was Israel.

<https://www.telemetro.com/nacionales/2020/11/13/decomisan-paquetes-presunta-contenedor/3455084.html>
<https://twitter.com/ProtegerServir/status/1327331419643895811>

USA

10.11.2020 Border Patrol agents from the Yuma Sector, Arizona, at immigration checkpoint on Highway 95, detained a U.S. citizen attempting to smuggle more than **24.04 kg of methamphetamine** in a Jeep Grand Cherokee. The shipment of methamphetamine was concealed inside a spare tire at the rear of the cargo bay. Seized methamphetamine is worth 132 thousand dollars. The driver was arrested, drugs and the car were seized.



<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/blythe-agents-intercept-second-meth-smuggling-attempt-vehicle-spare>

10.11.2020 Customs and Border Protection (CBP) OFO officers at the Hidalgo International Bridge, Texas, detained two U.S. citizens, a 21-year-old resident of McAllen and a 23-year-old resident of Hidalgo, attempting to smuggle **12.4 kg of heroin and 15.38 kg of methamphetamine** in a Honda Accord vehicle. Drugs were hidden in the car's gas tank. Drugs are valued at 1.298 million dollars. Drugs and the car were seized and arrested men were handed over to Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) agents for further investigation. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-field-operations-hidalgo-international-bridge-seizes-12-million>

10.11.2020 Crew of the Coast Guard's boat Seneca and CBP's Air and Maritime Operations partnered (USCG) intercepted a suspicious speedboat with two people on board and confiscated nearly **1 ton of cocaine and 272.16 kg of marijuana** during operations aimed at preventing supply of drugs to the United States by transnational criminal organizations with the assistance of the National Air Security Center (NASOC) P-3 in the Pacific near Jacksonville, Florida. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-air-and-marine-operations-crew-and-partners-seize-nearly-ton>

13.11.2020 K-9 unit in the Fayette County Sheriff's Office seized **78.5 kg of cocaine** at a traffic stop on the 667 mile I-10 Highway near Flatonia, Texas. During a search of a Ford F-150 truck, a shipment of cocaine was found hidden in a spare wheel under the truck body. The seizure value of the drug is 850 thousand dollars. The driver, a 29-year-old resident of New Mexico, was detained. <https://www.fox7austin.com/news/78-5-kilos-of-cocaine-seized-during-traffic-stop-near-flatonia>

13.11.2020 Officers from the Bexar County Sheriff's Office, Texas, in a joint investigation with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), found a large methamphetamine laboratory in San Antonio. A 39-year-old laboratory organizer was arrested. They seized **88 kg of methamphetamine, 4 kg of heroin and more than 136.08 kg of methamphetamine in liquid form** (10 full buckets, each of which can yield more than 50 kg of methamphetamine). Seized drugs are worth more than 29 million U.S. dollars. Ingredients for manufacture of methamphetamine and precursors arrived at the laboratory in liquid form in plastic buckets, where they were processed into a solid form. Laboratory equipment and chemicals (burners, large amounts of acetone) were found in the house. The facility was not used as a dwelling. <https://cbsaustin.com/news/local/man-found-with-10-kilos-of-meth-2-children-in-car-leads-deputies-to-massive-meth-lab>

SINGAPORE

13.11.2020 Officers from the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) seized **14.151 kg of heroin, 2.853 kg of crystalline methamphetamine and 7.553 kg of cannabis, more than 323 g of ecstasy, 1008 tablets of Erimin-5** and 12.6 thousand Singapore dollars in cash. Seized drug value is 2 million Singapore dollars. Five people - three men and two women - aged 29 to 55 years were detained. Investigation is under way. <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/singapore/cnb-14kg-heroin-largest-drug-haul-2-million-ice-cannabis-13533166>

THAILAND

12.11.2020 A total of **11.5 tons of ketamine** were seized by the combined Thai security forces as a result of investigations into a criminal organization and cooperation with the Airport Interdiction Task Force (AITF) and Seaport Interdiction Task Force (SITF) projects. The joint investigation by NACC and the Customs Department was launched following the discovery of a smuggling consignment of **300 kg of ketamine**, a psychotropic substance intended for export from Thailand on board a vessel. Further investigation identified a warehouse located in the sub-district of Ta Kham, Chachoengsao province, where 457 bags of ketamine each weighing 25 kg were found. The total weight of the shipment amounted to about 11.5 tons. Ketamine is estimated to cost 29 billion baht. Investigation is under way and measures are being taken to locate assets and seize property acquired on proceeds of criminal actions. <https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/4052858>
https://www.oncb.go.th/_layouts/15/FSBTSP2013/NewsDisplay.aspx?NewsID=2205&DisplayScope=internet%20and%20intranet&NewsList=board1&NewsListDisplayName=board1&ColumnName=Title,image,VisitedCounts.FormatDate,DateCreate&Newssite=https://www.oncb.go.th/&Comment=yes

TURKEY

13.11.2020 Police in Bolu province arrested four members of a criminal group who were carrying **83.5 kg of marijuana** in their car. Drug was found during a vehicle search that had been stopped for inspection on the Bolu highway. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/turkey-4-suspects-held-with-over-80-kg-of-marijuana/2042599>

MONTENEGRO

03.11.2020 About 2 tons of marijuana were seized during a joint action by the Customs and Police Directorate aimed at reducing international drug smuggling route from Albania through Montenegro to Western Europe. At the Bozaj border crossing, 9 pallets of **marijuana** weighing about **2 tons**, were identified during inspection of a truck transporting a shipment of vegetables and fruits to Western Europe. The truck was driven by an Albanian citizen. This fact is under international investigation with participation of Albanian authorities and police forces of EU Member States. <https://upravacarina.gov.me/en/news/235162/Joint-press-release-of-the-Customs-Administration-and-the-Police-Administration-about-2-tons-of-marijuana-were-seized.html>

ECUADOR

08.11.2020 Agents of the National Information Departments of Ports and Airports (UNIPA), Canines (UNAC) and Special Mobile Anti-Drug Units (UNEMA) during one of the control operations at pre-shipment site of the seaport of Guayaquil revealed a container with a cargo of cocoa beans waiting to be shipped on a merchant ship to Europe, which found **546.750 kg of cocaine**. The final destination of the cargo was Estonia. Cocaine consignment was inside 14 bags. <https://www.policia.gob.ec/en-el-puerto-maritimo-de-guayaquil-la-policia-encuentra-contenedor-contaminado-con-mas-de-media-tonelada-de-cocaina/>

JAMAICA

12.11.2020 A police patrol in Kingston stopped and inspected a car and found a metal container attached to the chassis of the car by a magnet under the bottom. Inside the



container there were **11 bags of cannabis (no weight indicated)**. The driver, a 22-year-old man, was arrested on suspicion of possession for the purpose of selling class B drugs. This fact is under investigation. https://news.met.police.uk/news/cannabis-found-in-magnetic-hide-under-car-after-vehicle-stop-in-kingston-415088?utm_source=rss&utm_medium=rss&utm_campaign=Subscription&utm_content=news

