

CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY

(based on mass media reports)

23.11-29.11.2020**№ 48****CARICC MEMBER STATES****REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN**

18.11.2020 Border guards in service area of the Lankaran border guard detachment of GPS of the Republic of Azerbaijan near the Kapchimekhelle village of the Astara district have detected signs of violation of state border of the Republic of Azerbaijan from the Islamic Republic of Iran. Two residents of Rudekeren village of Astara district were detained on suspicion of violating state border. During search of a house **500 g of heroin and 115 pills of "Methadon-40"** were seized. A criminal case was initiated. Perpetrators are charged and arrested. <https://news.day.az/society/1293427.html>

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

25.11.2020 Employees of PD of Aktobe region during investigation "Pravoporyadok" in Aktobe stopped a taxi in which a 33-year-old passenger, a citizen of the Republic of Uzbekistan, was carrying **2 kg of marijuana**. Later, during search of a place of temporary residence of the man in a private house in the Kirpichny settlement more than **8 kg of marijuana** was found and seized. A pre-trial investigation is being carried out on the fact. The man was detained. <https://aktobe.city/novosti-aktobe/08-12-20-u-grazhdanina-uzbekistana-policzejskie-v-aktobe-obnaruzhili-10-kg-narkotikov>

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

23.11.2020 Investigative Department of MVD of Russia initiated criminal proceedings against four leaders and 14 members of an international criminal association specializing in illegal production of synthetic drugs on a particularly large scale in the Moscow region and the Ivanovo region. Illegal substances were sold in wholesale consignments in different regions of Russia. This criminal association was created no later than September 2019 and operated until February 2020. It consisted of Ukrainian citizens who were engaged in drug production in three laboratories. The role of customers, packers and couriers, who delivered drugs in large wholesale amounts to various regions of the Russian Federation in cars, was played by citizens of Moldova and Russia. Illicit products manufactured in the laboratory were sold through a store set up by organizers of the criminal association in Darknet. Sales and distribution of drugs among accomplices took place in a non-contact way through caches. Coordination of actions was carried out with the use of Internet messengers. Police officers found location of three clandestine drug laboratories, where they seized more than **1 ton of drugs of synthetic origin, precursors and chemicals with a total mass of about 10 tons** as well as laboratory equipment. Leaders and members of the criminal community face punishment of up to life imprisonment. During preliminary investigation, involvement of 10 other citizens of Ukraine and Russia in criminal community was established; four of them were engaged in illegal production of synthetic drugs on a large

scale in an illicit laboratory, and another six - in their sale through an online store on the territory of the Vladimir region. All members of the criminal network are in custody. A criminal case against them was initiated earlier and was investigated by Investigative Department of the Russian MVD. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/21909784>
<https://iz.ru/1090811/2020-11-23/bolee-tonny-sintetiki-iziali-u-krupnogo-postavshchika-narkotikov-v-rf>

23.11.2020 Investigative Department of UMVD of Russia in the Vologda region sent to court a criminal case against 14 members of a criminal group, who sold drugs through the Internet remotely. The suspects aged from 19 to 40, acting as part of a criminal group, for the purpose of generating income during existence of an Internet store in the Vologda, Yaroslavl and Vladimir regions sold more than 7 kg of drugs to an indefinite number of people. Participants of OCG received income from criminal activity in the amount of more than 2 million rubles. The criminal proceeds were laundered by converting cryptocurrencies into Russian rubles through exchanges. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/21935043>

23.11.2020 Employees of UNK UMVD of Russia in the Orenburg region detained two residents of St. Petersburg aged 28 and 32 who were transporting **314 g of heroin** in a Volkswagen Polo with the purpose of selling. A criminal case was initiated against the suspects and the court selected a measure in the form of detention. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/21934384>

26.11.2020 Employees of UNK UMVD of Russia in the Bryansk region detained two 19-year-old foreign nationals from neighboring countries who were suspected of distributing drugs by setting up drugs caches. During search they seized 160 convolutions with **heroin weighing 250 g**. A criminal case was initiated. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/21977159>

26.11.2020 Employees of UNK MVD of the Chuvash Republic at a traffic police post in Yadrinsky district detained an inter-regional drug courier - a 43-year-old resident of the Samara region, who was transporting **3 kg of N-methylephedrone** in his car. The detained drug courier picked up large amounts of drugs in the Moscow region and sold through caches in regions of the Volga Federal District. The court remanded the suspect in custody as a preventive measure. A criminal case was initiated. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/21974799>

27.11.2020 In Sochi, Krasnodar region, transport police officers arrested two women from Moscow and during a personal search confiscated about **150 g of cocaine and 330 g of mephedrone**, which were intended for further sale via caches. Criminal proceeding was initiated against the women. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/21980657>

30.11.2020 Employees of MU MVD of Russia "Orenburg" in Orenburg detained two 19-year-old foreign citizens from neighboring countries and seized **70 g of heroin** prepared for further sale. A criminal case was opened against the suspects and the court selected a preventive measure in the form of detention. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/22020068>

OTHER COUNTRIES

AUSTRALIA

23.11.2020 Australian Federal Police (AFP), with assistance from Australian Border Force (ABF) and Victoria Police, detected more than **560 kg of liquid methamphetamine** inside a shipment of mustard bottles delivered to Melbourne by air from Chicago, USA. More than 1600 plastic mustard bottles contained methamphetamine in the shipment. Four alleged members of a transnational crime syndicate operating in Melbourne were detained. They face drug smuggling charges. Value of the methamphetamine exceeds 123 million U.S. dollars. <https://spaces.hightail.com/space/N5q0lioDyb>
<https://newsroom.abf.gov.au/releases/four-nabbed-over-victoria-s-largest-liquid-meth-import-worth-123m>

AFGHANISTAN

28.11.2020 During a police operation in Badakhshan province, two suspects were detained carrying **535 kg of narcotics, including 445 kg of opium, 86 kg of hashish and 4 kg of heroin** in a vehicle. <https://pajhwok.com/2020/11/28/535kg-of-drugs-seized-2-suspects-detained/>

30.11.2020 Counter-narcotics police officers carried out 60 operations in 19 provinces between 23 and 30 November. As a result of investigations 87 people were detained, **9.481 tons of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances were seized, including 33.4904 kg of heroin, 8.222 tons of hashish, 0.729 kg of methamphetamine, 497.044 kg of opium, 151 tablets of MDMA and 350 liters of precursors**. Currency in the amount of 1306 U.S. dollars, 24 cell phones, 13 vehicles and 3 weapons were confiscated. One police officer was killed during the anti-drug operation. Confiscated were drugs and property for a total amount (value) of 1.147 million US dollars¹.

BRAZIL

23.11.2020 An operation conducted by Federal Police (PF) officers in Porto do Pesen in Greater Fortaleza found and seized more than **300 kg of cocaine** hidden in the hull of a boat. The seizure followed an anonymous report to the police. The cocaine shipment was destined for Europe. <https://g1.globo.com/ce/ceara/noticia/2020/11/23/pf-apreende-mais-de-300-kg-de-cocaina-escondidos-em-casco-de-embarcacao-no-porto-do-pecem-na-grande-fortaleza.ghtml>
<https://diariodonordeste.verdesmares.com.br/seguranca/pf-apreende-300-quilos-de-cocaina-em-casco-de-navio-no-porto-do-pecem-1.3014496>
<https://cn7.com.br/policia-federal-apreende-mais-de-300-quilos-de-cocaina-no-pecem/>
Video: <https://www.facebook.com/almeidaqap/videos/706823076925097/>

26.11.2020 Federal Revenue Service (IRS) Customs at the Port of Santos found and seized **298 kg of cocaine** in a container with a shipment of paper. The shipment was transiting through the port of Gioia Tauro in Italy to its final destination in Israel. Drugs were concealed in paper packages. The container was selected by customs for inspection using objective risk analysis criteria and use of scanners and sniffer dogs. The cocaine shipment was handed over to the Federal Police, which will continue its investigation based on information provided by Customs.

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

<https://g1.globo.com/sp/santos-regiao/porto-mar/noticia/2020/11/26/receita-federal-apreende-298-kg-de-cocaina-em-carga-de-papel-no-porto-de-santos-sp.ghtml>
<https://www.gov.br/receitafederal/pt-br/aceso-a-informacao/acoes-e-programas/acoes-da-receita-federal/noticias/2020/novembro/8a-regiao-fiscal/receita-federal-apreende-298-kg-de-cocaina-no-porto-de-santos>

27.11.2020 Federal Police (PF) officers in São Gonçalo do Amaranto, in Greater Fortaleza, found a sealed bag containing **37.3 kg of cocaine** attached to the hull of a ship.

<https://g1.globo.com/ce/ceara/noticia/2020/11/28/pf-faz-nova-apreensao-de-cocaina-em-casco-de-navio-em-sao-goncalo-do-amarante-na-grande-fortaleza.ghtml>

<https://cn7.com.br/pf-apreende-mais-37-quilos-de-cocaina-no-casco-de-navio-ancorado-no-porto-do-pecem/>

Video: <https://g1.globo.com/ce/ceara/video/policia-federal-apreende-373-quilos-de-cocaina-em-casco-de-navio-no-porto-do-pecem-9059677.ghtml>

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/TplpbxR-Xsk>

GREECE

25.11.2020 In an operation conducted by the Thessaloniki Police Narcotics Squad with the assistance of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Greek Coast Guard, more than **230 kg of cocaine** were seized in the Attica region. A 38-year-old man was arrested. The shipment was organized by an international organization specializing in cocaine shipments from Latin America to Europe. It was destined for the Greek market.

https://www.thenationalherald.com/archive_general_news_greece/arthro/greek_police_confiscate_230_kg_of_cocaine_in_internationally_coordinated_operation-1247864/

INDIA

23.11.2020 Customs officers at Indira Gandhi International Airport in Delhi detained a Tanzanian national arriving from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, attempting to smuggle **990 g of cocaine**. Cocaine was worth about 6 crore. <https://www.hindustantimes.com/delhi-news/tanzanian-held-with-1kg-cocaine-worth-rs6-crore-at-delhi-s-igi-airport/story-7zWMJDb3LggknRUMgcqgK.html>

25.11.2020 In an operation conducted by the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) on the high seas south of Tutukudi (Tuticorin) off the coast of Tamil Nadu, a Sri Lankan boat named Shenaya Duva, coming from Pakistan, was intercepted with a large amount of drugs on board. A total of 99 bags of **heroin weighing 100 kg and 20 bags of synthetic narcotics** were found. Six Sri Lankan nationals on board were detained and reported that drugs had been delivered to their vessel by a Pakistani boat sailing from Karachi. Drugs were concealed in an empty fuel tank on the boat belonging to a man from Negombo, Sri Lanka, and were destined for Australia and other Western countries. Five 9mm pistols were seized in addition to drugs. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/videos/city/chennai/100kg-heroin-seized-by-coast-guard-from-sri-lankan-boat-off-tamil-nadu/videoshow/79413182.cms>

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/coast-guard-seizes-100kg-heroin-from-sri-lankan-boat-off-tamil-nadu/articleshow/79411428.cms>

25.11.2020 As a result of joint action of the District Anti-Narcotic Special Action Force (DANSAF) and the Ernakulam Police, Kerala, three residents of Idukki, aged 22, 34 and 37, were detained while transporting shipments of **marijuana** totaling **140 kg** in two vehicles. Investigations are underway into this case. Police also detained three students and seized 45 stamps of LSD from Perumbavoor. <https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/big-drug-bust-140-kg-ganja-seized-kerala-s-ernakulam-138396>

IRAN

25.11.2020 In Sistan and Baluchistan province, after reconnaissance operations, anti-narcotics police neutralized two groups of drug traffickers in the cities of Iranshahr, Khash and Zabol. The operations seized **1006 kg of opium and 266 kg of hashish**. Four smugglers were arrested and handed over to judicial officials.

<https://en.mehrnews.com/news/166282/Police-bust-over-1-ton-of-narcotics-in-SE-Iran>

07.11.2020 Iranian Anti-Narcotics Police seized **20.675 tons of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances** from 31 October to 6 November, including **87 kg of heroin, 17.689 tons of opium, 57 kg of methamphetamine, 1.865 kg of morphine, 861 kg of hashish, 116 kg of other narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances²**.

SPAIN

28.11.2020 Civil Guard agents at the port of Algeciras found and seized **266 kg of cocaine** in a container of bananas. The shipment arrived from the port of Guayaquil, Ecuador. The shipment was transported using the "Rip-on/Rip-off" method, where drug is placed in container without the exporters/importers knowledge. Seized cocaine is valued at 10 million euros.

<https://www.lavanguardia.com/sucesos/20201128/49769575284/cocaina-droga-narco-trafico-algeciras.html>

CHINA

26.11.2020 Hong Kong police arrested two men aged 35 and 45 and a 29-year-old woman from a triad who were transporting about **18 kg of cocaine** in the trunk of a car. Drugs are valued at 31.8 million Hong Kong dollars.

[https://www.thestandard.com.hk/breaking-news/section/4/159694/Three-nabbed-with-HK\\$31.8m-cocaine-haul](https://www.thestandard.com.hk/breaking-news/section/4/159694/Three-nabbed-with-HK$31.8m-cocaine-haul)

COLOMBIA

05.11.2020 Colombian Navy, supported by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), raided an artisanal shipyard near the Cucurrupi River in the Chocó region, where a fully submersible submarine of up to 6 tons (cocaine) with an electric engine was found, making it very difficult to track. Most of drug submersibles seized by the DEA have been semi-submersibles up to this point. Most of submarines previously captured by the U.S. Navy had a payload capacity of four times less. The boat had a fully enclosed cylindrical hull, a hexagonal inspection hatch with windows for navigation, an electric engine, and four propellers to allow it to submerge. There was enough space on board to hold 10 tons of batteries, which provided the vessel with enough power to stay underwater for up to 12 hours at three knots. Such an electric submarine could cost as much as 1.5 million dollars.

<https://www.fleetmon.com/maritime-news/2020/31729/dea-catches-stealthy-narco-submarine-colombia/>
<https://www.cgfm.mil.co/en/node/7402>

24.11.2020 In an operation conducted by Colombian naval units in conjunction with the Attorney General's Office through the Special Directorate against Drug Trafficking, **320.4 kg**

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

of cocaine were seized at the Santa Marta port in the Colombian Caribbean. The operation was carried out following information provided by intelligence services that warned of drug shipments inside containers of fruit from the banana region of Magdalena. The shipment was destined for Hamburg, Germany. <https://www.cgfm.mil.co/es/blog/armada-nacional-y-fiscalia-incautan-mas-de-300-kilogramos-de-clorhidrato-de-cocaina-en-santa>
<https://www.armada.mil.co/es/content/armada-colombia-y-fiscalia-general-nacion-incautan-mas-300-kilogramos-clorhidrato-cocaina-en>
<https://twitter.com/ArmadaColombia/status/1331015091060428802>

THE NETHERLANDS

23.11.2020 Customs officers, using a mobile scanner and a team of canine, found and seized **475 kg of cocaine** in a container with a shipment of bananas from Ecuador at the port of Vlissingen. The shipment is worth more than 23 million euros. Seized drugs were destroyed. <https://www.belastingdienst.nl/wps/wcm/connect/bldcontentnl/berichten/nieuws/douane/douane-vindt-475-kilo-cocaine-tussen-zending-bananen>

27.11.2020 In the largest ever prosecution of a drug trafficking ring smuggling cocaine from Brazil into Europe, police forces from several countries (in Europe: Portuguese Judicial Police, Belgian Federal Judicial Police, Spanish National Police, Dutch Police and Romanian Police; in South America: Brazilian Federal Police and in the Middle East: Dubai Police and Dubai State Security Authority) coordinated actions and raids against members of a transnational criminal ring supported by Europol. The investigation revealed that the drug syndicate provided annual imports of at least 45 tons of cocaine to major European seaports, profits of which exceeded 100 million euros for 6 months. This international investigation, led by Portuguese, Belgian and Brazilian authorities, was implemented simultaneously by agencies from three different continents, with coordination and assistance from Europol. Investigation resulted in 38 arrested in Brazil, 4 arrested in Belgium, 1 arrested in Spain, and 2 arrested in Dubai (a total of 45 people). 179 house searches were conducted. More than 12 million euros in cash seized in Portugal, 300000 euros in cash in Belgium, and more than 1 million reais and 169000 US dollars in cash in Brazil. In addition, 70 luxury cars were seized in Brazil, Belgium and Spain, and 37 aircraft were seized in Brazil. In Brazil, 163 houses were arrested for a total of more than 132 million reais, 2 houses were arrested in Spain for a total of 4 million euros. Two apartments were confiscated in Portugal worth 2.5 million euros. Also financial assets of 10 individuals are frozen in Spain. Through intelligence work with its operational partners, Europol has developed reliable intelligence on international drug trade and money laundering of a Brazilian organized crime network operating in several EU countries. The criminal drug syndicate had direct contacts with drug cartels in Brazil and other source countries in South America, who arranged for preparation and shipment of cocaine in sea containers destined for major European seaports. The extent of cocaine entering Europe from Brazil under their control and supervision was enormous, and law enforcement authorities seized a total of more than 52 tons of cocaine during investigation. <https://www.europol.europa.eu/track/click/10290/1340>

27.11.2020 Employees of a commercial company found **50 kg of cocaine** while unloading a container from South America in Botlek and reported it to Police. The seizure of cocaine was made by Police in cooperation with Customs. The seized shipment of cocaine was destroyed. Police investigation is under way. <https://www.politie.nl/nieuws/2020/november/27/07-50-kilo-cocaine-aangetroffen-in-de-botlek.html>

UAE

24.11.2020 Dubai Sea Customs Centre Management's Siyaj advanced control system detected a shipment of **narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances totalling 662 kg (306.44 kg of crystal methamphetamine, 32.62 kg of heroin, 201.44 kg of opium and cannabis and 122.72 kg of other drugs and psychotropic substances)** being smuggled aboard a ship in the emirate. Drugs were hidden in a special cache on board the ship. <https://www.khaleejtimes.com/news/dubai-customs-seizes-662kg-illegal-drugs-stashed-in-a-dhow>

PUERTO RICO

27.11.2020 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents and the U.S. Coast Guard intercepted a wooden "yola" trying to enter Puerto Rican waters near Arecibo with **370 kg of cocaine** aboard. Three Dominican nationals on the boat were arrested. Drugs seized are valued at 10 million dollars. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/amo-coast-guard-interdict-vessel-816-pounds-cocaine-attempting-reach>

USA

25.11.2020 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents at the port of entry in Brownsville, Texas, foiled three attempts to smuggle more than 1.5 million dollars worth of drugs from Mexico:

1) On 18 November, a 20-year-old U.S. citizen was detained at the Brownsville and Matamoros International Bridge attempting to smuggle **2.13 kg of cocaine** in a Volkswagen Jetta;

2) On 23 November, a 26-year-old U.S. citizen was detained at the Brownsville and Matamoros International Bridge attempting to smuggle **32.4 kg of methamphetamine** in a Nissan Altima;

3) On 23 November, a 41-year-old Mexican national and a 49-year-old U.S. citizen were detained at Veterans International Bridge attempting to smuggle **2.24 kg of cocaine** in a Dodge Journey. CBP officers seized drugs along with the vehicles, arrested drivers and passengers, and turned them over to Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) special agents for further investigation. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/brownsville-cbp-officers-seize-15m-narcotics-three-seizures>

THAILAND

25.11.2020 In two separate operations conducted by teams of police and soldiers in tambon Khok Kong and tambon Khaisi, Muang district, Bung kan province, **8 million methamphetamine pills and 265 kg of crystal methamphetamine** were seized. One person was arrested and three smugglers managed to escape. Drugs were smuggled by boat along the Mekong River and were loaded into cars for onward transport.

<https://www.bangkokpost.com/thailand/general/2025403/>

TURKEY

26.11.2020 Turkish security forces detained 58 suspected drug smugglers and seized more than **450 kg of marijuana** during ongoing operations across the country (Gaziantep,

Malatya, Izmir, Samsun, Mersin and Diyarbakir provinces). Security forces in Diyarbakir province seized **448 kg of marijuana** and two AK-47 as part of operations to combat drug smuggling and terrorism. The raid was part of Operation Yildirim-7, aimed at complete elimination of the Kurdistan Workers' Party terrorist group, banned in Turkey, and neutralization of all terrorists hiding in the region. <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/58-suspected-drug-smugglers-held-in-turkey/2056779>

30.11.2020 Police searched a bus that was stopped on the Anatolian Highway in Kocaeli and found 168 packages of **heroin** weighing a total of **87.15 kg** hidden behind the engine. Seven people were detained during the search. <https://www.haberler.com/kocaeli-de-otobuste-87-kilo-150-gram-eroin-ele-13768328-haberi/>
<https://www.youtube.com/embed/OUJFDnHwq1Q>

UKRAINE

28.11.2020 National police officers in Kharkiv region dismantled a laboratory producing psychotropic substance PVP. A 32-year-old resident of Khmelnytsky and a 33-year-old resident of Kiev rented a country house in Volchansky district of Kharkiv region, where they set up a drug laboratory and manufactured the psychotropic substance. The laboratory capacity allowed to produce up to 3 kg of PVP per day. **PVP containers, 50 canisters with different chemicals**, packaging, electronic scales and laboratory equipment were seized. The laboratory organizers were detained. <https://www.objectiv.tv/operatively/2020/11/28/na-harkovshhine-likvidirovali-narkolaboratoriyu-i-izyali-narkotiki-na-4-mln-griven-foto/>

FIJI

25.11.2020 Fiji police discovered farms with illicit cannabis plantations on Kandavu Island. Raids resulted in the eradication of **1.6 tons of marijuana**. About 30 farmers were detained and taken to court. <https://www.fijitimes.com/officers-uproot-1-6-tonnes-of-marijuana/>

SRI LANKA

25.11.2020 Special Task Force (STF) police arrested three men suspected of drug trafficking and seized **100 kg of heroin** in a raid conducted in the Weligama area. http://www.dailymirror.lk/breaking_news/Three-suspects-arrested-with-100-kg-of-heroin/108-200290

CHILE

23.11.2020 Chilean Navy near Punta de Lobos, in the northern Tarapaca region, intercepted a small fishing boat that was carrying **531.61 kg of cocaine hydrochloride**. The shipment was worth 14 million U.S. dollars. Drugs were shipped to central Chile from Peru. During the operation, three crew members were arrested, and three alleged members of a criminal group operating in Iquique were detained. The detainees were charged with drug trafficking. <https://tntribune.com/chilean-navy-nets-its-largest-drug-haul-half-a-ton-of-cocaine/>