

Unofficial translation

CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY

(based on mass media reports)

01.02-07.02.2021

№ 5

CARICC MEMBER STATES

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

03.02.2021 Officers of GUBN MVD of the Republic of Azerbaijan detained a resident of the Binagadi settlement located in Baku as a result of an operation carried out in the Binagadi district. A search of his house revealed and seized **55 kg of heroin, 10 kg of marijuana, 2.7 kg of opium, 13 kg of psychotropic substances and methamphetamine, 500 methadone pills** and an electronic scale. In addition, employees of the Yardimli police detained two male suspects in drug trafficking. They seized **14.410 kg of heroin, 5.695 kg of marijuana, 90 g of opium, 4.205 kg of methamphetamine, and 4323 methadone pills**. Criminal cases were launched against the detainees in connection with these events. Investigation is under way. <https://haqqin.az/news/200607>

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

27.01.2021 Employees of SBNON MVD of the Kyrgyz Republic department in Bishkek stopped a criminal group, which was supplying and selling large amounts of precursors (sulfuric acid). Investigative actions and search procedures were conducted at the place of work of a citizen born in 1976 as part of a pre-trial investigation, which resulted in the seizure of **520 kg of sulfuric acid** used in production, manufacture and processing of heroin. Seized amount of sulfuric acid is enough to produce about 1.5 tons of heroin. <https://knews.kg/2021/01/27/narkobortsy-bishkeka-izyali-krupnuyu-partiyu-prekursorov-dostatochnoj-dlya-proizvodstva-1-5-kg-geroina/>

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

04.02.2021 Officers of UMVD of Russia in Odintsovsky urban district of Moscow region detained a 21-year-old resident of Saratov region suspected of attempted sale of drugs and seized about **0.5 kg of N-methylephedrone**. A criminal case was opened in respect of the detained. A measure in the form of detention was selected for the suspect. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/22907482>

05.02.2021 Employees of GUNK MVD Russia together with colleagues from GU MVD of Russia in Moscow region and OMVD of Russia in Taldomsky urban district dismantled a drug laboratory located in the village of Burtsevo, Moscow region. Police found and seized containers with about **10 kg of mephedrone**, scales, and laboratory equipment in a utility room. In addition, in a wooded area near the site there was found a camouflaged storage set up in a pit, with **20 canisters of colorless liquid over 15 liters in volume**. A 40-year-old resident of Vladikavkaz was detained and remanded in custody. The laboratory's production capacity allowed to produce about 30 kg of synthetic drugs each month. Sale of

manufactured mephedrone was planned through caches. A criminal case was initiated against the detainee. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/22934677>

04.02.2021 In Surgut officers of UNK UMVD of Russia for the Khanty-Mansi Autonomous Region - Ugra detained three local residents aged from 30 to 38 suspected of attempted sale of cannabis group drugs of plant origin. **1.7 kg of marijuana and about 800 g of hashish** were seized. In addition, an explosive device - a grenade and a fuse - was found and seized in the garage of the suspect. The suspects, acting as part of an organized group, purchased drugs through an anonymous trading platform for the purpose of further sale. It is established, that they layed a large amount of drugs in caches in the Sverdlovsk region. Criminal cases were initiated.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/22916655>

05.02.2021 Officers of UNK GU MVD of Russia for Moscow region together with colleagues from OMVD of Russia in Chekhov urban area detained a 44-year-old resident of Moscow who had organized an illicit laboratory for cultivation of plants containing narcotic drugs in a house of Barantsevskoe rural settlement. **212 cannabis plants weighing about 2 kg** were found and seized in the suspect's laboratory and home. A measure in the form of a written commitment not to leave the country and to behave properly was chosen in respect of the suspect. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/22933617>

05.02.2021 Officers of UMVD of Russia in Nizhny Novgorod detained two 21-year-old local residents who were illegally selling drugs contactless. Police found two caches, from which they recovered **99.63 g of a-pyrrolidinovalerophenone and 199.73 g of mephedrone**. A criminal case was initiated on this fact. Searches carried out at places of residence of the suspects resulted in the discovery and seizure of **8.6 kg of drugs of synthetic origin**, as well as items used in criminal acts and cash in the amount of 105 thousand rubles derived from drug sales. Also 28 drug caches were discovered on the territory of Nizhny Novgorod. A measure in the form of detention was chosen in respect of the suspects. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/22928890>

05.02.2021 Officers of UNK UMVD of Russia for the Lipetsk region detained a citizen of a neighboring foreign country in Elts. The man was staying in Russia illegally. During a personal search of the detainee and at his place of residence, they found and seized about **2 kg of heroin** prepared for further sale in three subjects of the Central Federal District in the Lipetsk, Voronezh and Tambov regions. A criminal case was instituted. In addition, the foreign citizen was prosecuted for violating migration law. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/22937579>

OTHER COUNTRIES

AFGHANISTAN

08.02.2021 Officers of Counter Narcotics Police carried out 90 operations from 2 to 8 February and detained 98 people. They **seized 1.528 tons of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including 33 kg of heroin, 979.715 kg of hashish, 43.607 kg of methamphetamine, 132.235 kg of opium, 598 MDMA tablets, 410 kg**

of cannabis. They confiscated currency amounting to 4014 USD, 29 cell phones, 23 vehicles, and 19 weapons. Two police officers were injured¹.

BRAZIL

29.01.2021 Federal Police (PF) during a routine inspection at the cargo terminal (TECA) of Pinto Martins International Airport, in the capital city of Ceará, seized about **32 kg of cocaine**. Drug was found in seven shipments destined for export from Fortaleza to Mozambique with a stop in Lisbon, Portugal. The shipments included work equipment and tools used in civil engineering (pliers, sockets, tape measures, and plumb bobs). Seized drug was sent to the regional office of the federal police.

<https://www.gov.br/pf/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/02/pf-apreendeu-32-quilos-de-cocaina-dentro-de-prumos-de-construcao>

02.02.2021 Federal Police (PF) surveillance of a suspicious truck that was transporting a container to container terminal of the port of Paranaguá seized **170 kg of cocaine** and arrested two men red-handed as the suspects were placing five bags of cocaine in a container. Two prisoners and seized drugs were taken to a federal police station in Paranaguá.

<https://www.gov.br/pf/pt-br/assuntos/noticias/2021/02/pf-apreende-cerca-de-170-de-cocaina-no-porto-de-paranagua>
<https://paranaportal.uol.com.br/cidades/pf-prende-dupla-que-transportava-170-kg-de-cocaina-em-paranagua/>

GERMANY

29.01.2021 Employees of the General Customs Office in Kiel stopped a car driven by a 40-year-old driver on Autobahn 7 in the Datgen recreation area who was transporting **40 kg of hashish** in a cache set up in the vehicle. For a detailed inspection, the car was taken to customs container inspection point in Hamburg by tow truck. To open the secret compartment under the trunk, it was necessary to activate a special mechanism. This required starting the engine, turning on the rear window heater and inserting a magnetic object in charging cable into the cigarette lighter. Hard trunk floor was then opened. The driver was detained. A criminal case has been opened on this fact. The man is currently in custody at the request of the prosecutor of Kiel. Further investigations are conducted by the Hamburg customs investigation office - Kiel office - and the prosecutor's office in Kiel.

https://www.zoll.de/SharedDocs/Pressemitteilungen/DE/Rauschgift/2021/z83_aufwendiges_schmuggelversteck.html

HONDURAS

03.02.2021 An operation conducted by the National Narcotics Police Directorate (DNPA) in conjunction with Honduran Navy agents found 65 bales of **cocaine** totaling **1.3 tons** while inspecting a ship in Puerto Castilla, Trujillo municipality. One Colombian and six Honduran nationals were detained. Bales of drugs were hidden in different compartments on board the ship.

<https://www.policianacional.gob.hn/noticias/9605>
<https://www.policianacional.gob.hn/noticias/9599>
<https://proceso.hn/hallan-droga-en-fondo-falso-en-una-embarcacion-en-colon/>
<https://twitter.com/ProcesoDigital/status/1357038502458896387>
<https://twitter.com/JuanOrlandoH/status/1357078689406734338>
https://twitter.com/MP_Honduras/status/1357124417688645634

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



<https://www.mp.hn/index.php/author-login/172-febrero2021/7032-encuentra-65-fardos-de-supuesta-cocaina-en-embarcacion-procedente-de-colombia>

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

07.02.2021 Agents of the National Narcotics Control Directorate (DNCD), with the support of military security service of the multimodal port of Caucedo, intelligence agencies and coordinated by the State Ministry, seized **12 kg of cocaine** found inside cooling system of a refrigerated container with a shipment of bananas. The container was destined for shipment from the Caucedo terminal to the port of Rotterdam, Netherlands.

<https://www.dncd.gob.do/index.php/noticias1/noticias/item/930-ocupan-12-paquetes-presumiblemente-cocaina-en-puerto-caucedo-serian-enviados-a-holanda>

COLOMBIA

01.02.2021 Anti-narcotics police at the marina of El Zungo village in Uraba Antioqueño, on a merchant ship bound for France found and seized **225.4 kg of cocaine** concealed in 99 boxes of bananas. Cocaine is worth 10.2 million U.S. dollars (about 36 billion pesos).

https://caracol.com.co/emisora/2021/02/02/medellin/1612236701_893771.html

<https://twitter.com/PoliciaUraba/status/1355935085015552000>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?reload=9&v=1f4frIdJe-Q&feature=emb_logo

02.02.2021 Coordinated action by the Ecuadorian National Police, Colombian police, and the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in Colombia resulted in the interception of a container of wood bound for France, with **1050 kg of cocaine** found and seized.

<https://twitter.com/PoliciaEcuador/status/1356703808513056772>

03.02.2021 Two cocaine laboratories equipped with six workshops where 30 people were producing cocaine for the National Liberation Army, the country's largest criminal group, were dismantled in the Colombian jungle. The National Liberation Army produced tons of cocaine that were shipped to Sinaloa, Mexico, for the Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzmán cartel. Soldiers and intelligence officers seized **2.8 tons of cocaine** from a laboratory located in the jungles of the Nariño Department on the Pacific Coast. The laboratories were capable of producing up to 4 billion dollars worth of cocaine a year. Drugs seized were worth at least 95 million dollars. Some of seized packages of cocaine were marked with Maserati logo.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-9215749/Colombian-military-raids-labs-guerrilla-group-produced-4B-cocaine.html>

05.02.2021 Anti-Narcotics Directorate of the National Police, as part of an integrated strategy to combat drug trafficking, with the support of the Attorney General's Office, seized **1.776 tons of cocaine hydrochloride (consignments of 1050 kg, 225 kg, 501 kg)** concealed in export shipments of fruit and plant fertilizer at the port of Cartagena. Drugs were detected by scanner inside three containers, which were going to Le Havre, Dunkirk (France) and Belgium.

<https://www.policia.gov.co/noticia/balance-operativo-puertos-maritimos-del-pais>

<https://twitter.com/PoliciaAntiNar/status/1357728372214882305>

COSTA RICA

03.02.2021 Drug Control Police (PCD) officers of the Ministry of Public Security in Moines de Limón found and seized approximately **2000 kg of cocaine** inside a container that was en route from Costa Rica to Belgium with a shipment of pineapples as legal cargo. This is

the second shipment of drugs seized in containers by the Drug Control Police this year. 16.192 tons of cocaine were seized in 18 containers in 2020 (5.927 tons of cocaine were seized in ten containers in 2019), all at the Limón and Puntarenas docks.

https://www.seguridadpublica.go.cr/sala_prensa/comunicados/2021/febrero/CP0116.aspx

THE NETHERLANDS

04.02.2021 Customs seized two shipments of **920 kg of cocaine**, worth more than 69 million euros, during inspections at the port of Rotterdam. The first shipment, weighing **490 kg**, was found in a container loaded with barrels of chemicals from Chile. The shipment was destined for a company in Antwerp, Belgium. Second container with **430 kg of cocaine** was also loaded in Chile with a wine cargo. Wine was also en route via the port of Antwerp, Belgium, to a company in Rotterdam. Both containers arrived by ship from the Dominican Republic. The companies probably had nothing to do with the smuggling. Smugglers used the "Rip-on/Rip-off" method to conceal drugs. Cocaine packages were in gym bags in easily accessible places inside the containers. The HARC team - Customs, FIOD, the Port Police and the Rotterdam Public Prosecutor's Office - is investigating. Seized drugs were destroyed.

<https://www.om.nl/actueel/nieuws/2021/02/05/douane-onderschept-920-kilo-cocaine-tussen-chemicalien-en-wijn>

USA

01.02.2021 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers at the Port of Entry in Calexico, California, stopped two drug smuggling attempts by preventing more than **181.44 kg of methamphetamine** from entering the United States from Mexico:

1) An 18-year-old Mexican national was detained attempting to smuggle more than **90.7 kg of methamphetamine** concealed in the dashboard, bumper, doors, seats, valve panels, rear panels and firewall of a Nissan vehicle. Estimated value of methamphetamine is 600000 dollars;

2) A 33-year-old U.S. citizen was detained attempting to smuggle **90.72 kg of methamphetamine** concealed in the gas tank, spare tire, side panels, and floor of a Toyota. Methamphetamine is worth 600000 dollars. CBP officers arrested both drivers and turned them over to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)/Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) for further processing. Vehicles and drugs were seized.

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-officers-seize-400-lbs-meth-two-smuggling-attempts-calexico-port>

02.02.2021 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Office of Field Operations (OFO) officers at the International Bridge Farr, Texas, cargo facility found and seized **43.08 kg of cocaine and 4.64 kg of fentanyl** in an attempt to smuggle fresh produce into the United States from Mexico in a commercial trailer truck. Drugs are valued at 890000 dollars. CBP seized drugs, the tractor-trailer and arrested the Mexican citizen driver. The man was turned over to Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) agents for further investigation.

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-officers-intercept-890k-hard-narcotics-pharr-international-bridge>

UKRAINE

03.02.2021 In Odessa region SBU officers in Belgorod-Dnistrovskiy district detained a 40-year-old organizer of a large drug laboratory for production of amphetamine. Amphetamine manufactured was distributed on the territory of Odessa region. The group had been operating for more than a year. More than **2 kg of amphetamine** were found and seized during searches in the laboratory. One of the suspects also had a large arsenal of weapons in his house, including **two Kalashnikov assault rifles, 24 Makarov, TT and Nagan pistols, over 1.5 thousand cartridges of different caliber, 15 kg of gunpowder, various parts of weapons, etc. SBU also found ammunition-making and firearms alteration machines, smoke bombs, electric detonators, fuses, a mortar shell and a grenade shell.** Weapons were sent for forensic examination. Investigation is being conducted under criminal proceedings for illegal production, possession and distribution of drugs, illegal handling of weapons and explosives. <https://dumskaya.net/news/v-odesskoy-oblasti-sbu-zaderzhala-organizatorov-136263/>

07.02.2021 Kiev customs in cooperation with SBU and air security service of Boryspil international airport have prevented an attempt to smuggle a large consignment of drug "Lirika". A citizen of Kuwait, who tried to take to Istanbul (Turkey) two suitcases with **151.2 thousand "Lirika"** capsules worth 2 million hryvnias, was detained.

<https://www.facebook.com/KYIVcustomsUA/posts/3866576130069820>

<https://bykvu.com/ru/bukvy/u-borispoli-inozemec-namagavsja-vivezti-2-valizi-narkotichnih-preparativ-pfizer/>

FRANCE

04.02.2021 Customs officers in the Loire-Atlantique, near the port of Nantes-Chevre, found **366 kg of cocaine** in a container with a shipment of sugar and seized it. Drugs were handed over to the Nantes judicial police responsible for the investigation.

<https://tekdeeps.com/record-discovery-of-more-than-350-kg-of-cocaine-in-the-port-of-nantes/>

<https://actu17.fr/saisie-record-de-366-kg-de-cocaine-au-port-de-nantes/>

ECUADOR

06.02.2021 An inspection of a truck by police near the port of Guayaquil revealed that the platform structure had a double bottom; when cache was opened, three citizens and 20 jute bags containing **1190 kg of cocaine** were found inside. The shipment of cocaine was confiscated and men were detained. The truck was carrying the container to the port of Guayaquil. One of the detained smugglers already had a criminal record for drug trafficking.

<https://www.eluniverso.com/noticias/2021/02/06/nota/9615843/droga-incautada-puerto-guayaquil-policia-narcotrafico>

Video: <https://twitter.com/i/status/1358136365091799040>

RSA

06.02.2021 The Hawks Serious Organised Crime Investigation Team, together with personnel from the Crime Intelligence Covert Office, Customs Dog Unit and Sea Border Port of Entry, during a joint operation conducted at the port of Ngqura, found and seized **30 kg of cocaine** in a container with a shipment of frozen beef. The shipment was en route from



Brazil to China transiting through the port of Ngqura. Drugs are worth 14.1 million rand. Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation is investigating the case.

<https://www.saps.gov.za/newsroom/msspeechdetail.php?nid=30831>

SOUTH KOREA

06.02.2021 Coast Guard seized **35 kg of cocaine** while inspecting a container ship in the southern port city of Busan. The shipment is estimated to be worth 105 billion won (93.94 million U.S. dollars). The cocaine shipment was found on a Liberian-flagged ship that arrived from Colombia at the New Port of Busan on 19 January. Cocaine packages had the logo marking of a scorpion, which is commonly used by Colombian drug cartels. The cargo ship had previously stopped in Busan several times and had come from a South American country via the United States and the Panama Canal, transiting South Korea to China. The ship's crew consisted of Greek, Russian and Ukrainian nationals, who were questioned by the Coast Guard regarding the seized shipment of cocaine.

https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/nation/2021/02/251_303691.html

<https://aju.news/en/%EC%A0%84%EA%B5%ADcocaine-confiscated-from-a-ship-arriving-at-busan-port.html>

Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EZ9FuFGi77Y&feature=emb_logo