

**CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY
 ON SEIZURES OF NARCOTIC DRUGS,
 PSYCHOTROPIC SUBSTANCES AND THEIR PRECURSORS**

(based on mass media reports)

01.03. to 10.03.2024

№7

In the period from 1 to 10 March 2024, based on information from the mass media law enforcement agencies and security structures of CARICC Member States seized **125.26 kg of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including: heroin - 17.7 kg, cocaine - 11 kg, cannabis group drugs - 72.93 kg and synthetic drugs - 23.63 kg.**

Drug seizures in CARICC Member States

Type of drug (in kg)	Azerbaijan	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Russia	Tajikistan	Uzbekistan
Heroin	15	1		1.7		
Opium						
Cocaine				11		
Cannabis group drugs	26.7	21.4	22.733	2.098		
Synthetic drugs		1.533		22.099		
Potent substances						
Total	41.7	23.933	22.733	36.897		

During the same period, other countries seized **15 tons 535 kg of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including: heroin 0.98 kg, cocaine 14 tons 9 kg, cannabis-group drugs 145 kg, synthetic drugs 1 tons 221 kg and potent substances 160 kg.**

CARICC MEMBER STATES

AZERBAIJAN

05.03.2024 Officers of the Main Police Department of Ganja city carried out a number of effective measures to identify persons involved in drug trafficking in the city. As a result of operative-search activities carried out by the officers of the Drug Control Division of the Main Police Department based on received intelligence, a resident of Samukh district was detained. During examination of his bag, they found **heroin** with a total weight of about **15 kg** worth about 500 000 manat.

A large shipment of narcotic drugs was seized as a result of operational activities carried out by officers of the Criminal Investigation Department of the Main Directorate. **18.4 kg of marijuana** was found in the bag of local resident Yashar Abbasov. <https://ru.oxu.az/society/845619>

06.03.2024 As a result of operative-search measures conducted jointly by the operative apparatus of the Penitentiary Service and the Ministry of Internal Affairs, in the basement of

a residential house located in the territory of Lokbatan settlement of Garadagh district, they found and seized **8.3 kilograms** of dried **marijuana**. <https://media.az/society/1067952321/v-podvale-zhilogo-doma-v-baku-obnaruzhenno-bolee-8-kg-narkotikov/>

KAZAKHSTAN

05.03.2024 "Synthetics" in a particularly large amount was transported from Almaty by a passenger of an intercity cab. Suspicious behavior of the man was reported to police by the driver. The drug courier, who realized about the call, got out of the car at the nearest traffic light and fled in an unknown direction, leaving a travel bag in the trunk of the car. In the bag the police officers found a roll wrapped in duct tape, inside of which there were three bags with "powder". An expert examination confirmed that the seized substance was the psychotropic substance **mephedrone** with a mass of almost **1.5 kg**. As a result of investigation activities operatives of the Police Department's UPN identified and detained the suspect on the territory of Almaty. <https://polisia.kz/ru/mef-na-30-mln-tenge-obnaruzhili-v-taksi-v-shymkente/>

05.03.2024 In the course of operational-search activities, police officers of Pavlodar city detained a 33-year-old man and a 37-year-old woman on suspicion of drug trafficking. It was preliminarily established that before detention the criminals had managed to place dead drops with prohibited substances. During inspection of the place of incident, police seized packages with narcotic drugs and sent for examination, as well as equipment for packing, including electronic scales and bags with a fixer. In total, police seized more than **33 g of synthetic narcotic substance** <https://polisia.kz/ru/sintetiku-iz-yali-u-dueta-zakladchikov-v-pavlodare/>

05.03.2024 A local resident organized a phytolaboratory in a two-room apartment. During a search, police seized **cannabis** plants weighing **12.5 kg**. There was also special equipment: light and diode lamps, thermometers, fans, humidity measuring devices. Two men were detained by officers of the Department for Combating Drug Crimes of the Kostanai Region DP. <https://polisia.kz/ru/12-5-kg-konopli-vyrashhivali-v-fitolaboratorii-v-kostanae/>

05.03.2024 KNB operatives stopped a drug supply channel. Two suspects were detained at Aktau airport, both of them foreign citizens. X-rays showed the presence of suspicious objects in their stomachs. Thirty containers with **heroin and synthetic drugs** were extracted. The total weight of the prohibited substances amounted to almost **1 kilogram**. <https://liter.kz/kilogramm-narkotikov-nashli-v-zheludkakh-inostrantsev-v-aktau-1709616085/>

07.03.2024 North Kazakhstan police seized two bags of dried marijuana from the house of a 55-year-old resident of Akkayin district. In the kitchen, behind the gas stove, they found two bags of substances of herbal origin. The total weight of the seized substance was **8.9 kg of marijuana**. <https://polisia.kz/ru/dva-meshka-marihuany-iz-yali-iz-doma-55-letnego-sel-chanina-v-sko/>

KYRGYZSTAN

04.03.2024 In Bishkek, SBNON officers detected a marijuana cultivation laboratory. During investigative and operational-search activities, the SBNON officers and with the support of special forces of the PSN MIA detained Z. R., born in 1999, and T. U., born in 1993. With the help of a search dog, SBNON officers in the basement of the garage found pots with bushes of herbal origin with a specific odor of **cannabis**. The total weight together with the packaging amounted to **15 kg**.

https://kaktus.media/doc/496898_kak_v_djentlmenah_gaia_richi_bishkekchane_vyrashivali_marihyany_v_podvale_garaja_video.html

07.03.2024 Officers of the SBNON of MIA of the Kyrgyz Republic received intelligence that a certain resident of Jeti-Oguz district of Issyk-Kul region was engaged in manufacture and storage of narcotic drugs on a large scale, for the purpose of further sale. Under the criminal case, during a search of the house of Mr. K.M. with the help of a search dog they found and seized narcotic substances in the attic. The weight of the seized narcotic substance amounted to more than 6 kilograms. According to conclusion of expert examination, the seized narcotic substance is **marijuana 4.212 kg and hashish 2.09 kg**.

<https://mvd.gov.kg/rus/news/2969>

07.03.2024 In Jeti-Oguz district, as part of operational and investigative measures officers of SBNON of MIA of the Kyrgyz Republic during a search of the place of residence in the chicken coop found a bag inside of which there was a substance of dark brown color with a specific smell of wild cannabis. A total of 22 pieces of briquettes of the narcotic drug **hashish** were seized. The total weight amounted to **1.433 kg**. <https://mvd.gov.kg/rus/news/2974>

RUSSIA

01.03.2024 Law enforcement officers detained a 30-year-old Volgograd resident on the Nizhny Novgorod-Yoshkar-Ola highway. The man had with him more than 4.5 kg of drugs. During inspection of the car, police officers found four bags with unknown filling in the luggage compartment. A similar substance was found under the driver's seat. The items were sent for examination. As a result, it turned out to be the drug **N-methylephedrone** weighing **4.66 kg**. <https://newsnn.ru/news/2024-03-01/bolee-4-5-kg-zelya-nashli-nizhegorodskie-politseyskie-5013827>

01.03.2024 St. Petersburg customs officers foiled smuggling of a large shipment of drugs on the territory of the Bolshoi Port. The Federal Customs Service reported that in a box among bananas they found **11 kg of cocaine** worth more than 165 million rubles. The shipment arrived at the St. Petersburg port from Belgian Antwerp. <https://news.ru/regions/tamozhenniki-peterburga-obnaruzhili-kokain-na-165-mln-rublej-sredi-bananov/>

03.03.2024 Police officers in the Rostov region are investigating a criminal case concerning an organized criminal group engaged in sale of drugs on the territory of the Don region. It has been found that four residents of Rostov and Aksai district, aged 10 to 46, were part of the organized group of online store. All of them were detained by police officers. Synthetic

drug - **mephedrone** with a total mass of about **300 grams** and **marijuana** with a total mass of more than **2 kilograms**, which the defendants sold by contactless method on the territory of the city of Rostov and the region, were seized.

<https://taganrog.bezformata.com/listnews/rostovskoy-oblasti-zaderzhali-bandu/128512836/>

04.03.2024 Transport police detained a young man with more than 50 drug rolls in a carriage of the Savelovo-Zvenigorod train at Savelovskaya station. Examination showed that it was **mephedrone** with a total mass of **198 grams**. <https://oinfo.ru/news/?id=79123>

04.03.2024 On the highway "Tyumen-Khanty-Mansiysk" police officers detained a 16-year-old resident of Surgut with a package in which they found a **synthetic drug** weighing almost **500 grams**. https://snegir86.ru/news/news/v_hmao_zaderjali_podroстка_zakladchika_s_krupnym_vesom_sinteticheskikh_narkotikov

04.03.2024 В In Kurgan police detained a 10-year-old boy for dealing in illegal substances. He was concealing drug packages together with an adult "colleague". According to the Telegram channel, the child and a 32-year-old man were caught in the entrance of a residential building. The schoolboy had with him about **100 grams of carfentanil**. The man has already been convicted for drug distribution. He also had **carfentanil** in possession, but only **11 grams**. <https://petrozavodsk.bezformata.com/listnews/malchika-zaderzhali-zatorgovlyu-narkotikami/128539736/>

05.03.2024 A large shipment of narcotic substances was seized in Semyonovsky District, the press service of the Nizhny Novgorod GU MVD reported. According to information, a car with a man born in 1991 and a woman born in 1992 was stopped on highway. Police officers found a bag with an unknown substance. Expert examination found that inside the package were **hashish** weighing **98 g** and **synthetic drug** weighing **200 g**. <https://www.niann.ru/?id=601951>

05.03.2024 Near Volgodonsk, at the beginning of the Rostov highway, officers of the General Directorate for Drug Control together with their Don colleagues and State Automobile Inspection officers stopped a car carrying, according to intelligence, a large shipment of drugs. Information was confirmed - the 37-year-old driver, a resident of the Krasnodar region, admitted that in the trunk were prohibited substances. As the police found out, the package contained such a synthetic drug as **N-methylephedrone** with a total weight of **6 kilograms**. <https://bloknot-volgodonsk.ru/news/voditelya-s-krupnoy-partiey-narkotikov-zaderzhali--1708076>

05.03.2024 In Balashikha near Moscow, police officers detained a thirty-two-year-old native of a neighboring foreign republic who was concealing drugs in a yoghurt box. Inspectors of traffic police at a stationary post located on Shchelkovsky highway stopped a carsharing car to check documents. Officers inspected the vehicle, in the interior of which on the left rear mat they found a yogurt box, which contained a package with a powdery substance inside. According to conclusion of expert examination, contents of the package were a narcotic drug - **mephedrone**, with a total weight of more than **300 grams**. <https://mosregtoday.ru/news/sec/sprjatal-narkotiki-v-korobku-iz-pod-kefira-muzhchinu-perevozivshego-narkotiki-zaderzhali-v-balashihe/>

06.03.2024 Law enforcers found a large shipment of "synthetics" in the cabin of a cab during an inspection at a traffic police post in the Kushchevsky district of the Krasnodar region. It was found that a 27-year-old resident of Moscow Region was transporting about **4 kg of mephedrone**, which he had bought over the Internet. <https://kub-inform.ru/news/2024-03-06-taksist-perevozil-narkotiki-v-shashechkakh-na-kryshe-avto-po-territorii-kubani/>

06.03.2024 Two residents of Ulyanovsk were detained by operatives of the Drug Trafficking Department of the regional UMVD together with officers from GUNK MVD of Russia. In a car owned by a detainee, police seized packages with a powdery substance, which, according to a subsequent examination was a synthetic drug **mephedrone** weighing **289 grams**. <https://punkt-a.info/news/novosti-kratko/v-astrakhani-zaderzhali-zakladchikov-iz-ulyanovska-kotorye-privezli-narkotik-iz-podmoskovya>

07.03.2024 About 500 grams of synthetic drugs were found by Moscow Region police officers in the car of a 25-year-old visitor from the Stavropol Krai. The car was stopped for inspection at the 111th km of the M4 "Don" highway. On the back seat police officers found a package with a powder weighing more than **440 grams**. Expert analysis showed that the powder was drug **mephedrone**. <https://radio1.ru/news/proisshestviya/v-mashine-na-podmoskovnoi-trasse-nashli-pochti-polkilo-narkotikov/>

07.03.2024 Penza police detained a 37-year-old citizen of a neighboring republic with a large shipment of drugs. She wanted to sell the item in the city on the Sura River. The woman brought the illicit substance in a suitcase. Police officers seized 10 plastic bags containing about 1000 rolls of duct tape. Inside was about **1.7 kilograms of heroin**. https://www.penzainform.ru/news/crime/2024/03/07/v_penze_zaderzhali_zhenshinu_s_tisy_achej_svertkov_geroina.html

09.03.2024 In Magnitogorsk police detained a 30-year-old dead dropper of mephedrone. Police officers detained the suspect for attempted sale of narcotic drugs. At the place of residence of the criminal operatives conducted searches, where they found a similar powdery substance with a total mass of about **400 grams**. Expert analysis showed that the seized substance was a drug of synthetic origin, **mephedrone**. <https://ura.news/news/1052741472>

OTHER COUNTRIES

BELARUS

06.03.2024 Drug control officers of Brest region detained a 45-year-old drug courier. More than **2 kg** of especially dangerous psychotropic substance **Alpha-PVP** was found and seized in his apartment. During further actions police detained the man's accomplices: a 25-year-old resident of the regional center and a 24-year-old resident of Zhabinka. <https://news.zerkalo.io/accidents/62754.html>

06.03.2024 Operatives of Pershamaiski ROVD of Vitsebsk detained a drug dealer. Law enforcers detained him near a residential building in the regional center. The dead dropper was a 24-year-old local resident. He took **hashish** weighing more than **500 grams** in a dead drop in Vitsebsk. Then the criminal divided the shipment of psychoactive substance into small

portions and spread it in other places. <https://www.belta.by/incident/view/v-vitebske-zaderzhan-24-letnij-zakladchik-narkotikov-619740-2024/>

09.03.2024 Drug control operatives of Vitsebsk region detained a 21-year-old native of the capital, who was distributing a particularly dangerous psychotropic substance - mephedrone in the regional center. The day before the arrest, he took more than **300 g of mephedrone** from a dead drop in the woods. The rest of the psychotropic substance, packaging material and scales were also found and seized at his place of residence. <https://www.belta.by/incident/view/v-vitebske-s-polichnym-zaderzhali-zakladchika-narkomarketa-620254-2024/>

UNITED KINGDOM

04.03.2024 A Royal Navy warship seized £290.66 million worth of cocaine and drugs in two major strikes against drug traffickers in the Caribbean. British sailors, Royal Marines and a US Coast Guard team on HMS Trent intercepted a speedboat suspected of smuggling south of the US Virgin Islands. Smugglers began throwing illicit cargo overboard as they headed for land, but the Trent, her speedboats and a US patrol aircraft gave chase and eventually recovered 94 bales of **cocaine** weighing a total of **2757 kg** and valued at £220.56 million. <https://www.royalnavy.mod.uk/news-and-latest-activity/news/2024/march/04/240304-trent-300m-drug-busts>

INDIA

05.03.2024 On the night of 4-5 March, officials of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) and the Coast Guard of India Zone in Chennai ambushed and intercepted a boat heading towards Sri Lanka. The boat along with the contraband was taken to Coast Guard Station Mandapam for further investigation. **99 kg of hashish** was seized during examination of the boat. Later, DRI officials arrested the organizer of the smuggling operation at his house. <https://www.indiatoday.in/india/story/tamil-nadu-hashish-drugs-seized-sri-lanka-smuggling-racket-dri-2510950-2024-03-05>

PORTUGAL

04.03.2024 In Portugal law enforcers foiled activities of a criminal network engaged in international drug trafficking. It is reported that law enforcement officers seized more than **1.3 tons of cocaine**, which was in a shipment of frozen fish. According to police, drugs were delivered to Portugal from Ecuador. Seven people were detained in connection. Firearms were also found during searches. <https://www.belta.by/world/view/politsija-portugalii-izjjala-13-tonny-kokaina-sprjatannogo-v-zamorozhennoj-rybe-619373-2024/>

SINGAPORE

07.03.2024 On 5 March 2024, the Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) conducted two separate operations in which two Singaporeans were arrested on suspicion of drug trafficking. Two operations resulted in the seizure of a total of approximately **5651 g of marijuana, 975 g of heroin, 195 g of Ace, 10 tablets of Erimin-5 and 2 bottles of methadone**. <https://www.cnb.gov.sg/newsandevents/news>

SYRIA

06.03.2024 Syrian authorities seized **470 kg of Captagon** tablets (a narcotic psychostimulant drug) in a major operation to prevent drug trafficking in the northern city of Aleppo. The tablets, totaling 2.82 million pieces, were found in two warehouses in the city, the agency said. The substances came from a "neighboring country." It is reported that those involved in the smuggling have been arrested. <https://www.belta.by/world/view/na-severe-sirii-izjjato-470-kg-narkoticheskikh-veschestv-619691-2024/>

USA

01.03.2024 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers discovered fentanyl concealed in the dashboard of a vehicle at the San Ysidro Port of Entry on Sunday. CBP officers seized approximately 561 000 **fentanyl** pills weighing a total of **56 kg** (123.6 pounds). The subject was turned over to the Homeland Security Investigations Division for further investigation. Drugs and vehicle were seized by CBP officers. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-s-colossal-discovery-results-over-11-million-worth-fentanyl-pills>

01.03.2024 A California resident is facing drug charges after U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers found nearly **40 kg** (88 pounds) of **hashish** in his checked luggage Monday at Washington's Dulles International Airport. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/dulles-cbp-intercepts-88-pound-hash-load-destined-brazil-va-state>

04.03.2024 San Diego Customs and Border Protection officers made 42 drug seizures between 19 and 25 February. Officers seized **252 kg** (554 pounds) of **cocaine**, **104 kg** (229 pounds) of **fentanyl**, and **748 kg** (1 650 pounds) of **methamphetamine**. <https://twitter.com/CBP/status/1764380434182344797>

08.03.2024 A Houston Air Force-Marine Corps Houston Marine Patrol aircraft detected a suspicious vessel while working with Interagency Task Force South and international partners in the source area of drug smuggling and transit. The aircrew maintained constant surveillance and communication with Marine crews. International partner crews intercepted the vessel, arrested five individuals, and seized approximately **1400 kg** (3,081 pounds) of **cocaine**. <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/national-media-release/air-and-marine-operations-and-partners-seize-15-tons-cocaine>

UKRAINE

06.03.2024 A woman was detained on Srednefontanskaya str. as soon as she took a parcel with food products from post office. During inspection among pasta and sweets law enforcers found a bag with **amphetamine** weighing more than **150 grams**, which is considered to be a particularly large shipment. <https://grad.ua/ru/news/criminal/98931-narkotiki-pochtoj-v-odesse-zaderzhali-poluchatelja-sladostej.html>

FRANCE

05.03.2024 In a series of operations from 20 to 29 February the French Navy dealt a major blow to drug trafficking in Caribbean waters. Under the command of the Prefect of Martinique, representing the Government's maritime affairs, the surveillance frigate GERMINAL and the patrol vessel LA COMBATTANTE, operating in the area of the Antilles and Guyana, made major seizures totalling more than **8.3 tons of cocaine**.

In the first seizure on 20 February, GERMINAL intercepted a Panamanian-flagged fishing vessel 1100 nautical miles southeast of Martinique and seized more than 3 tons of cocaine. Two days later, another notable seizure took place 830 nautical miles east of Martinique, where the GERMINAL seized more than 3.1 tons of cocaine aboard a Venezuelan fishing vessel. Crew members and drugs were handed over to appropriate authorities, a significant victory in combating drug trafficking.

However, crackdown on this scourge did not end there. On 26 February, patrol vessel LA COMBATTANTE seized more than 1.1 tons of cocaine 340 nautical miles southeast of Martinique from a Jersey-flagged sailboat. Then, on 29 February there was another interdiction off the coast of Dominica, where the same patrol vessel intercepted a yacht with three passengers and seized more than 1 ton of cocaine.
<https://maritimescrimes.com/2024/03/05/french-navy-seize-over-8-3-tons-of-cocaine-in-the-caribbean/>