

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

(based on mass media reports)

11.03. to 20.03.2024

№8

In the period from 11 to 20 March 2024, based on information from the mass media law enforcement agencies and security services of CARICC Member States seized **124.055 kg of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including: heroin - 2.6 kg, opium - 1.2 kg, cannabis group drugs - 149 kg, synthetic drugs - 142.24 kg and potent substances - 0.36 kg.**

Drug seizures in CARICC Member States

Type of drug (in kg)	Azerbaijan	Kazakhstan	Kyrgyzstan	Russia	Tajikistan	Uzbekistan
Heroin	2.6	0	0	0		
Opium	1.2	0	0	0		
Cocaine	0	0	0	0		
Cannabis group drugs	110.48	29.9	4.715	4		
Synthetic drugs	9.775	3.22	0.056	129.19		
Potent substances	0	0	0	0		0.36
Total	41.7	23.933	22.733	36.897		0.36

During the period, other countries seized **19 tons 742 kg of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including 9 tons 87 kg of cocaine, 10 tons 510 kg of cannabis-group drugs and 145 kg of synthetic drugs.**

CARICC MEMBER STATES

AZERBAIJAN

11.03.2024 As a result of operational activities carried out by police officers, more than 43 kg of narcotic drugs were detected in Azerbaijan on 9 and 10 March. More than **2 kg of heroin, 37.2 kg of marijuana, about 1.2 kg of opium and 2.9 kg of methamphetamine**, as well as 452 packages of **methadone** were seized.
<https://ru.oxu.az/society/847846>

12.03.2024 An unknown person violated the state border from the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRI) in the direction of Azerbaijan on 6 March at 19:50 in the service territory of the border guard unit "Geitepe" of the Border Service of the State Border Service of Azerbaijan. Border guard was immediately mobilized, the area was cordoned off, and the border guard detained the intruder.

During investigation, it was found that an IRI citizen, Aghamuhammed Tohid Mirmehabbetali (born 1983), was detained. During examination of the bag the man was carrying, they found

and seized drugs totaling 6 kg 275 g (**4.995 kg of methamphetamine, 1.28 kg of marijuana**). <https://ru.oxu.az/society/848347>

16.04.2024 Officers of Liman division of Lankaran district police department detained a local resident suspected of drug trafficking. During a search, in his car they found **6 kg of marijuana**. <https://ru.oxu.az/society/850087>

18.03.2024 Fizuli District Police Department detained suspected drug traffickers from Shirvan city. During personal examination, they found and seized **10 kg of marijuana and opium, as well as 100 methadone tablets**. <https://ru.oxu.az/society/850603>

18.03.2024 Officers of Sheki District Police Department detained a drug courier who was engaged in the sale of drugs purchased from foreign drug dealers. A resident of Shamkir district was detained as a result of conducted measures. **7 kg of marijuana, 600 g of heroin, 500 g of methamphetamine and 120 methadone tablets** were found in his possession. <https://ru.oxu.az/society/850615>

18.03.2024 Two residents of the capital were detained during operations conducted by officers of the Khatai District Police Department against drug trafficking. More than **10 kg of marijuana** was found. <https://ru.oxu.az/society/850793>

19.03.2024 A resident of the city of Ganja was detained on suspicion of drug trafficking as a result of operational activities carried out by officers of the Dashkesan District Police Department. During a search, they found more than **1 kg of marijuana and heroin** on him, which he had purchased for sale. <https://ru.oxu.az/society/851049>

19.03.2024 A resident of Baku, suspected of drug courier, was detained as a result of operative measures carried out by officers of the Saatli District Police Department. During personal search they **found 8 kg of marijuana and heroin**. <https://ru.oxu.az/society/851061>

19.03.2024 On 19 March, as a result of cooperation between the coast guard of the State Border Service (SBS), technical observation points and a border vessel, drug smuggling was prevented in the southern part of the Azerbaijani water area of the Caspian Sea. As a result, a resident of Baligchilar settlement of Lankaran district was detained near the territory of Gizilagaj State Nature Reserve, who tried to moor a boat equipped with Yamaha-25 engine. During inspection of the boat, they found almost **30 kg of marijuana**, a Baikal hunting rifle, 24 cartridges, a Garmin GPS device, Samsung Galaxy A5 and KGTEL cell phones. <https://ru.oxu.az/society/851259>

11.03.2024 Officers of UPN detained 35 and 33-year-old residents of Taraz engaged in the sale of synthetic drugs in Zhambyl region in the course of the republican OPM "Darmek", and as a result of search seized more than **320 g of mephedrone**.
<https://polisia.kz/ru/sintetiku-na-20-mln-tenge-iz-yali-v-zhambylskoj-oblasti/>

12.03.2024 Capital city police officers detained a 32-year-old man, during a search of his car in the glove compartment found and seized a plastic bag with a substance with a specific odor. At the suspect's place of residence they found and seized 76 plastic bags with a substance of white-beige color with a specific odor and electronic scales. According to expert conclusion, the substances seized from the resident of the capital are narcotic drugs **mephedrone**, cannabis resin and marijuana. The total weight of the seized drugs amounted to **2.6 kg**.
<https://polisia.kz/ru/2-5-kg-narkotikov-iz-yato-v-stolitse/>

14.03.2024 Officers of the Department for Combating Drug Crime of the Balkhash City Police Department prevented sale of a shipment of synthetic drugs by detaining a 23-year-old resident of the region on suspicion of transportation and storage of narcotic drugs on a particularly large scale. This happened at the entrance to Balkhash near a café. During inspection police seized from the man a substance of white color weighing about 1 g. In addition, about **200 g** of the same substance was found in a dead drop, which he managed to make. Expert examination found that the substance was **ephedrone**.
<https://polisia.kz/ru/200-doz-sintetiki-iz-yali-v-zakladke-narkodillera-politsejskie-balhasha/>

15.03.2024 In Zhambyl region police stopped illegal activities of a 42-year-old resident of Shu city. He was detained on suspicion of possession of narcotic drugs on a particularly large scale. During inspection of the house officers found a cache of illegal substances in hayloft. Three bags and one bag contained **28.92 kg** of dried **marijuana** and **980 g of hashish**.
<https://polisia.kz/ru/krupnyu-partiyu-marihuany-i-gashisha-iz-yala-politsiya-u-zhitelya-zhambylskoj-oblasti/>

19.03.2024 On 16 March, officers of Aktyubinsk UPN DP within the framework of OPM "Law and Order" in the area of dacha areas stopped a car Skoda Rapid under the control of a young man, next to an acquaintance. During a personal search of the passenger police seized three packages with powdery substance. In the course of search with participation of a search dog police seized 124 rolls with powdery substance from the glove compartment of the above-mentioned car. At the driver's place of residence, they found and seized nine rolls of powdery substance. According to conclusion of expert examination, the seized substance is a narcotic substance "**mephedrone**" with a total weight of more than **100 grams**.
<https://polisia.kz/ru/bolee-500-doz-narkotikov-iz-yali-politsejskie-v-aktobe/>

KYRGYZSTAN

11.03.2024 Officers of CNS MVD together with SIN successfully carried out a special operation to stop activities of a drug trafficker who was engaged in drug distribution in detention centers. In the course of special investigative actions, a Toyota Corolla car driven by S. J. R., born in 2003, was stopped in the Moskovsky district of Chui province. During inspection of the car under the right front seat, they found and seized three rolls wrapped with green-colored scotch tape with a specific smell of cannabis. According to forensic chemical examination, the substance seized was **hashish**, the total weight of which amounted to **3.1 kg**.

https://kaktus.media/doc/497294_sotrydniki_sbnon_zaderjali_myjchiny_kotoryy_perebrasy_val_narkotiki_na_territoriyu_kolonii.html

14.03.2024 On 26 February 2024, during a foot patrol in the park police officers detained a guy who was taping some packages to trees with duct tape. During detention he voluntarily handed over 37 packages wrapped with yellow colored duct tape containing a substance of unknown origin. The detainee was A. B., born in 2005. The packages contained a **psychotropic substance** weighing **56 grams**.

https://kaktus.media/doc/497481_v_bishkeke_zaderjan_18_letniy_paren_po_podozreniu_v_zakladke_narkotikov_video.html

18.03.2024 As a result of a long operational development, officers of the SCNS MVD conducted a large-scale special operation against suspects in manufacture and sale of drugs in Batken region. Reportedly, three alleged members of the criminal group were detained in Kyzyl-Kiye. During a search they found **1.615 kg of hashish**. https://kaktus.media/doc/497706_v_dome_jitelia_kyzyl_kii_nashli_narkolaboratoriu_i_priton.html

RUSSIA

11.03.2024 Police officers in Penza district stopped a case of illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs. When working out operational information, it was established that a local resident was involved in crime. During personal inspection of the man a gripper-pack with powdery substance of white color was found and seized. Police officers conducted a scene inspection at the rented apartment of the suspect, during which they seized a polymer roll and 28 gripper packets with powdery substance of white color. Seized substance was sent for examination. According to expert conclusion, the substance is a narcotic drug **mephedrone**, weighing about **150 grams**. <https://russia58.tv/news/677699/>

11.03.2024 In Tver region police officers stopped activities of a large drug laboratory and seized **19 kg of mephedrone**. According to investigation, one of the criminals bought a house in the village of Zaprudye in the Kalyazinsky municipal district. Later, he and his accomplice organized production of mephedrone there - footage shows special equipment installed in premises. Suspects in the organization of a drug shop were detained. Police seized kilograms of mephedrone, equipment and containers with liquids. <https://www.gazeta.ru/social/news/2024/03/11/22522237.shtml>

12.03.2024 Officers of the drug control department of the Khabarovsk LU MVD of Russia for Transport detained a 25-year-old woman addicted to drugs. During a personal search, they found about 50 grams of N-methylephedrone intended for sale. During a search at her place of residence, police officers found more than 650 grams of synthetic drugs. In total the police seized more than **700 grams of N-methylephedrone**. <https://news.mail.ru/incident/60345691/?from=swap&swap=2>

12.03.2024 In a forest belt on Kambarskaya street in the capital of Udmurtia, police detained an 18-year-old student from the Perm region. In his backpack they found **1.5 kg** of suspicious powder, which, as expert examination showed, was a synthetic drug (**mephedrone**). <https://izhlife.ru/criminality/osobo-krupnyuyu-partiyu-narkotikov-izyali-na-ul-kambarskoy-v-izhevske.html>

13.03.2024 Police in the Kirishi district of the Leningrad region foiled activities of a clandestine laboratory producing synthetic drugs. They seized containers with 19 kg of powdery substance, including at least **6.5 kg of mephedrone**. <https://tass.ru/proisshestviya/20218291>

13.03.2024 In the Moscow region, the FSB uncovered a drug laboratory and seized 86 kg of mephedrone. The incident took place in Chekhov. Law enforcement officers found a clandestine drug laboratory where foreign citizens were engaged in manufacture of illegal substances. **86 kg of mephedrone** were seized from the shop. They also found laboratory equipment and chemicals used for manufacture of drugs. <https://www.gazeta.ru/social/news/2024/03/13/22540447.shtml>

15.03.2024 In Primorsko-Akhtarsk, traffic police officers seized 1 kg of drugs from a guest from Rostov region. "Lada Granta" under the control of a 46-year-old man was stopped on the outskirts of the city. GU MVD in Krasnodar Krai said that the man, noticing police officers, threw a package with a powdery substance into forest belt. Expert examination showed that the package contained about **1 kg of mephedrone**. <https://www.kommersant.ru/amp/6577471>

15.03.2024 In the Kemerovo region FSB officers seized more than **15 kilograms of synthetic drugs** and their precursors worth more than 20 million rubles from a drug laboratory. In this way law enforcers suppressed activities of a darknet store with illegal substances and the laboratory itself for the production of synthetic drugs. As part of this operation, law enforcers detained residents of the region who were part of an interregional criminal group. Criminal proceedings are under consideration with regard to three detainees. <https://lenta.ru/news/2024/03/15/iz-rossiyskoy-narkolaboratorii-iz-yali-zapreschennyh-veschestv-na-20-millionov-rublej/>

19.03.2024 As a result of a set of operational and investigative measures, officers of the drug control department of the UVD of the SVAO in Moscow Region detained a 27-year-old resident of the Chelyabinsk Region. During a search at his place of residence operatives found and seized bags with an unknown substance, electronic scales, packaging materials and a box with magnets. Investigation revealed that part of the seized packages with a gross weight of more than **750 g** contained narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances - **N-methylephedrone derivative, amphetamine and d-lysergide** (LSD, LSD-25).

<https://gazeta-otradnoe.ru/bolee-750-g-sinteticheskikh-narkotikov-izyali-u-muzhchiny-iz-otradnogo/>

20.03.2024 Drug Control Department of the Sakhalin Region UMVD received intelligence that a 49-year-old resident of the suburbs of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, who had a previous conviction, was involved in the sale of hashish oil in the regional center. In the course of conducting a set of operational and search measures, drug control officers during personal inspection of the detainees, as well as having examined residence of the drug trafficker, seized almost **4 kg of hashish oil**, which was stored in four polymer bottles. <https://www.interfax-russia.ru/far-east/news/partiyu-qashishnogo-masla-na-17-mln-rublej-izyali-u-zhitelya-yuzhno-sahalinska>

20.03.2024 According to the Siberian Transport Police Department, two 20-year-old residents of Zaeltzovsky District were detained on suspicion of distributing narcotic drugs by contactless method. In the apartment of one of the suspects operatives found and seized almost 120 single doses of **α-PVP** ready for sale. According to the experts' conclusion, the mass of the prohibited substance exceeds **90 grams**. <https://academ.info/news/incidents/43811/>

UZBEKISTAN

19.03.2024 Several citizens were detained in Tashkent in an attempt to sell potent narcotic drugs. According to the Department for Combating Economic Crimes under the General Prosecutor's Office, the criminals were detained right during the transaction. They tried to sell **120 packs of Pregabalin** for 4.8 million soums. This substance has a strong effect on human psyche. They also seized marijuana in small amounts and 750 thousand sums of cash. <https://podrobno.uz/cat/proisshestviya/v-tashkente-zaderzhali-narkotorgovtsev/>

OTHER COUNTRIES

AUSTRIA

16.03.2024 Police in Lower Austria have caught a gang allegedly smuggling and selling huge amounts of drugs around the world. They seized **137 kilograms of cocaine**, 134 kilograms of which were found in wooden planks in container of a cargo ship in Hamburg. This is by far the largest drug seizure in the Lower Austria Criminal Police Directorate and the third largest in the Federal Police, it was emphasized at a press conference on Friday. Street value of the seized drugs is estimated at around 14 million euros. https://austria-today.at/2024/03/krupnejshee-izjatie-narkotikov-v-derevjannyh-doskah-nashli-134-kilogramma-kokaina/#google_vignette

BOLIVIA

20.03.2024 More than seven tons of cocaine worth nearly half a billion dollars have been seized in Bolivia, one of the largest drug shipments in the country's history was to be sent to Europe, Bolivia's drug control service (FELCN) said on Monday. "We can report the seizure of **7.2 tons of cocaine**. The seizure of one of Bolivia's largest drug shipments came about thanks to the monitoring of information by teams of anti-drug analysts who were able to

identify containers in which cocaine was disguised as scrap metal," the service said in a statement on social media. It is noted that during the operation three trucks were found, three people were arrested. The drugs were intended for shipment to Europe. The service to combat illicit drug trafficking estimates the value of the cocaine shipment at 451 million dollars <https://ru.sputnik.kz/20240320/zamaskirovannye-pod-metallolom-7-tonn-kokaina-na-451-mln-izyali-v-bolivii-43018697.html>

MOROCCO

18.03.2024 Arab Weekly reported that Moroccan police seized **10.5 tons of cannabis resin (hashish)** from a fishing boat in Agadir, arresting 13 suspects. According to the police, investigations into potential links to wider transnational organized criminal groups and networks are under way. <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/moroccan-police-new-drug-seizures-sednaglobal-w0dte>

CANADA

19.03.2024 In early March 2024, more than **1.5 tons of cocaine** were seized by CBSA border agents at a container inspection point in Halifax, Nova Scotia (Nova Scotia). The amount seized was estimated at approximately 194 million dollars. Success of this operation can be attributed to effective cooperation between CBSA Atlantic's Operations and Intelligence Division, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) in Halifax, North Carolina, and the United States (U.S.) Homeland Security Investigations. <https://www.canada.ca/en/border-services-agency/news/2024/03/cbsa-border-officers-seize-over-15-tonnes-of-cocaine-at-port-of-halifax0.html>

MALAYSIA

18.03.2024 Police in Malaysia arrested two criminals with **51 kg of methamphetamine**. Police in the Malaysian state of Perak say the arrest of two members of a syndicate and the seizure of more than \$540,000 worth of methamphetamine is a big step in the fight against drug trafficking in the region. Director of the Narcotics Crime Investigation Department (NCID) said that two local men aged 31 and 33 were detained during investigation in the city of Kuala Kangsar. 3 suitcases with 17 packages of illicit substances were found in the suspects' vehicle. <https://www.belta.by/world/view/politsija-malajzii-zaderzhala-dvoih-prestupnikov-s-51-kg-narkoticheskikh-veschestv-621974-2024/>

19.03.2024 Police in Bintulu arrested a man caught with more than 412 000 ringgit worth of drugs. Director of Narcotics Crime Investigation Department said during the raid police discovered and seized **10 kg** of drugs, suspected to be **methamphetamine**, from the man's car. Led by the suspect, police also raided a store and seized 170 juice packets containing ecstasy powder and **577 grams** of **MDMA tablets**. <https://www.theborneopost.com/2024/03/19/bintulu-man-caught-with-drugs-worth-over-rm412000-for-local-market/>

THE NETHERLANDS

20.03.2024 Dutch customs officers in the port of Rotterdam discovered **250 kilograms of cocaine** on the night of Sunday to Monday, 18 March. According to law enforcers drugs were concealed among a cargo of grapes. Cocaine is estimated to be worth more than 18 million euros. The container came from Chile and was destined for a company in the town of Ridderkerk. The company does not appear to have anything to do with the shipment, the report said. <https://www.eurointegration.com.ua/rus/news/2024/03/20/7182086/>

NEW ZEALAND

15.03.2024 Two people have been arrested after Customs found more than 63 kg of methamphetamine and ecstasy in two bags at Auckland Airport. On 13 March, Customs searched the luggage of a 21-year-old woman and found **37.15 kg of methamphetamine** worth 13 million dollars. Later that day, police found **25.71 kilograms of MDMA**, also known as ecstasy, worth up to 7.7 million dollars in a 28-year-old man's suitcase. The two incidents are not believed to be related. <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/511806/customs-seize-20m-meth-and-mdma-in-two-bags-at-auckland-airport>

THAILAND

19.03.2024 A fisherman caught **20 kilograms** of drugs off the coast of Thailand's Rayong province and immediately reported the find to police. Somchai, 54, was fishing between Mun Nai and Mun Klang islands in the Gulf of Thailand on Tuesday, 19 March. As he was working, he noticed a large plastic bag in water holding several rolls packed in black wrapping paper with gold and silver fish and Chinese characters. Somchai suspected he had found drugs, fished out the bag, took it home and called the police. Law enforcement officers who arrived on the call examined the find and confirmed the fisherman's suspicions: packages contained crystals of the illicit drug **methamphetamine**. Moreover, it was found that the markings were the same as on the packages found on a beach nearby a few days earlier. <https://lenta.ru/news/2024/03/19/20kg/>

UKRAINE

20.03.2024 Dnepr police seized more than half a kilogram of drugs from a 28-year-old citizen. The previously convicted man had with him more than **500 grams** of psychotropic substance **PVP**. The man hid a container with the drug in his pocket. <https://www.gorod.dp.ua/news/229381>