

CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY

(based on mass media reports)

21-27.01.2019

№ 4

CARICC MEMBER STATES

THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

21.01.2019 Officers of the State Customs at the Bilasuvar post detained two Iranian citizens while passing through customs control in an attempt to smuggle intracavitarily **49 g of psychotropic substance methamphetamine and 287 g of heroin**, and **236 g of heroin** from the other. Investigation is underway. <https://media.az/society/1067723718/grazhdanki-irana-pytalis-vvezti-v-azerbaydzhan-narkotiki-foto/>

THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

24.01.2019 In the Almaty region, police officers detained two villagers suspected of drug trafficking via the Internet. A drug lab found during the arrest of drug dealers, in which operatives also discovered a large amount of **marijuana mixed with a substance of synthetic origin, with a total weight of 6 kg**. Drug dealers packaged goods there. Traffickers used the Internet to distribute ready goods. After thoroughly examining this channel of narcotic drugs supply, police officers uncovered identities of both suspects and detained them. Pre-trial investigation into the fact is carried out by investigators of the regional police.

<https://ru.sputniknews.kz/regions/20190124/8997665/narkotiki-laboratoriya-almatinskaya-oblast.html>

THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

21.01.2019 Employees of UKON Directorate on Transport of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the North-West Federal District jointly with colleagues from the city of St. Petersburg and the Leningrad region and the North-Western Operational Customs revealed a case of drug smuggling on a large scale. On January 12, the ship "Maersk Niamey" delivered cargo by sea from Ecuador to Petrosport, St. Petersburg via Bremerhaven. It was about 300 containers loaded with bananas. On January 16, police officers found 47 briquettes containing **50 kg of cocaine** in a warehouse of a commercial company in the village of Shushary of the Pushkinsky district under the lining of a container where boxes of bananas were located. The retail price of the shipment is 500 million rubles (about 7 million US dollars). Criminal Investigation Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the North-West Federal District opened a criminal case. Operational-search measures and investigative actions are being carried out aimed at identifying persons involved in drug trafficking and their detention. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15553624>

<https://en.crimerrussia.com/drugmafia/7-000-000-worth-of-drugs-comes-to-st-petersburg-in-banana-boxes-from-ecuador/>

22.01.2019 Officers of the Main Directorate for Drugs Control of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia, together with the Division for Drugs Control of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the Krasnogorsk urban district, Moscow region, suppressed activity of a

group that organized an extensive distribution network for drugs and weapons in the Russian Federation. Members of the criminal business in Moscow and cities of the Moscow region rented 10 garage boxes used for storage and packaging of narcotic drugs. Settlements with customers were carried out through an online store using electronic payment systems through caches. Two accomplices were detained and more than 190 kg of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances were found and seized, including **144 kg of hashish, 18 kg of marijuana, 13.7 kg of mephedrone, 15 kg of amphetamine, and also cocaine, 10 thousand MDMA tablets, 4 thousands of brands of LSD and others.** In addition, a foreign-made pistol with a device for silent and flameless shooting, a revolver of the Nagant system, a signal pistol with signs of alterations for firing real ammunition, over 1.7 thousand cartridges of various caliber were also confiscated. Court elected a measure in the form of detention against the defendants. Further investigative measures and investigative actions are being carried out aimed at establishing all circumstances of the illicit activity. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15564508>

22.01.2019 Officers of UKON GU Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the Novosibirsk region detained a 46-year-old local resident suspected of drug trafficking. During a personal search, about **100 g of heroin** prepared for further marketing were found and seized. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15561853>

22.01.2019 Police officers of the OMVD of Russia in the city district of Istra, Moscow region, detained two residents of St. Petersburg at the age of 31 and 29 who were suspected of drug trafficking in a forest area. Policemen discovered two caches, which the perpetrators used to store and transfer drugs. In one of them was a roll with **cocaine with a total weight of 300 g**, in the second - **more than 1 kg of MDMA.** <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15568580>

23.01.2019 Officers of the UNK GU MVD of Russia in the Chelyabinsk region in Magnitogorsk detained 27 participants, including an alleged head of structural units of a criminal community, who are suspected of illegal trafficking of narcotic drugs. The wrongdoers organized a network of online stores through which drugs were sold on the territory of the Chelyabinsk region. Communication between the accomplices was carried out through various messengers. During searches in the malefactors' places of residence and in caches, about **10 kg of synthetic narcotic substances**, devices for their production, money, cars of various makes, computers and telephones were seized. The circumstances of 87 episodes related to illegal sale of narcotic substances have been established. Estimated amount of income from their illegal activities exceeded 10 million rubles. Court chose a measure in the form of detention for defendants. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15580925>

23.01.2019 UKON officers in the Udmurt republic detained a 26-year-old local resident and his 29-year-old spouse in Izhevsk. During a personal search, two convolutions with **drugs of synthetic origin with a total mass of more than 1.2 kg** were found and seized from the detainees. The suspects purchased drugs via the Internet, the consignment was collected from a wasteland for the purpose of subsequent sale. During a search in the apartment where the couple lived with two small children, police found and seized more than **250 g of synthetic drugs** prepared for marketing along with packing material and scales. It has been established that the spouses have been engaged in illegal distribution of

drugs since July 2018, and are regional “warehouse” of an online store. The Investigation Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs for the Udmurt republic initiated criminal cases on an attempt of illegal sale of drugs on a large and especially large amount. The suspect is placed in a detention facility, his spouse is under house arrest. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15580048>

23.01.2019 In the course of a special operation, officers of the Main Directorate for Drugs Control of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia together with officers of UKON of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation for the Novosibirsk region stemmed activity of a synthetic drugs production laboratory. A 25-year-old resident of Novosibirsk organized production of the drug mephedrone at home and distributed it in Novosibirsk. During a search, laboratory glassware was found in the room as well as personal protective equipment needed for working with chemical reagents. In addition, **102 g of mephedrone** were found and seized. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15575871>

23.01.2019 Traffic police officers of the Internal Affairs Directorate in the city of Sochi at the stationary post Magri stopped a car driven by a 28-year-old resident of St. Petersburg. During an inspection of the vehicle, police found and seized polymer bags of **cocaine weighing about 60 g and 2 kg of mephedrone** prepared for marketing by means of stashes in Sochi. Officers of the OKON of the Department of Internal Affairs in the city of Sochi detained three residents of the Moscow region aged 22 to 28 years who were involved in the commission of this illegal act. During searches in places of residence of the suspects, more than **150 g of mephedrone and marijuana** were found and seized. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15584369>

24.01.2019 Officers of the Ministry of Interior in the RNO-Alania detained three Beslan residents aged 26 to 37 years and a 27-year-old born in the Rostov region suspected of selling tramadol, who, acting as part of an organized group, distributed **280 tablets of potent substance tramadol** in the republic. As a result of inspection of households the defendants lived in, more than **2000 tablets of tramadol** were found and seized, which the accomplices stored for further marketing. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15587521>

25.01.2019 Police officers in Ivanovo detained two young people and during a personal search seized several convolutions with hashish. During a search at the place of residence of one of the detainees, another **1 kg of hashish** was discovered, intended to be sold through caches to drug addicts in the regional center. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15612817>

25.01.2019 Officers of the UKON GU of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in the Novosibirsk region stopped activity of a group of persons who sold drugs of synthetic origin in the territory of Novosibirsk. The group consisted of two women aged 29 and 30. One of the suspects coordinated communication with suppliers, was engaged in collection and distribution of funds, and her accomplice took the bulk of the drugs, carried out their storage and packaging. Women sold drugs through caches. Both suspects were detained during a special operation. More than **5.5 kg of “synthetics”** were seized from the detainees. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15607763>

25.01.2019 Officers of the UGIBDD of the Main Administration of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia for the Moscow region at a stationary post located on the 111 km of the M-4 “Don” highway stopped a foreign-made car driven by a 28-year-old resident of the



Rostov region suspected of drug trafficking. During an inspection of the vehicle, more than **700 g of "spice"** were found and seized. <https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/15592896>

THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

26.01.2019 Officers of the State Security Service of Uzbekistan in the Sariasiy district of the Surkhandarya region detained a citizen in an attempt to import a narcotic substance on a large scale from the Republic of Tajikistan. A 25-year-old suspect received **23 kg 333 g of opium** packaged in 30 plastic bags from a Tajik citizen named "Hoji" («Хожи») for delivery to his accomplices in Uzbekistan. On this fact, the Department of State Security Service of the Surkhandarya region initiated a criminal case, investigation is underway.

<https://uz.sputniknews.ru/incidents/20190126/10636674/Narkokurer-pytalsya-vvezti-opiy-v-Uzbekistan-iz-sosedney-respubliki.html>

OTHER COUNTRIES

AUSTRALIA

25.01.2019. Australian Border Force (ABF) in Sydney found 400 packages of **heroin with a total weight of 154 kg** as a result of inspection of a sport equipment and supplements consignment coming from Malaysia. The cargo contained various handicrafts and wooden souvenirs and was subjected to X-ray examination, which noted anomalies in packed boxes. During a subsequent deconstruction of the consignment, packages with drugs were found. Market value of heroin is estimated at more than 77 million US dollars. Investigators from the New South Wales Police Force (NSWPF), together with the Organized Crime Unit, the Australian Border Force (ABF), the NSW Crime Commission (NSWCC) and the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission (ACIC) have joined forces to investigate illegal imports. As a result of this work, a 31-year-old suspect in Chippendale, a 23-year-old man in Stratfield and a 29-year-old man in Condell Park were arrested. A fourth suspect, aged 26, is arrested in Newcastle. After the arrests, the police executed six search warrants for houses located in Arncliffe, Burwood-Chippendale, Croydon Park and Lidcombe. During the searches, police confiscated another **7.5 kg of heroin, 35 kg of methylamphetamine (ice)**, more than \$ 200,000, items and documents relevant to the investigation. In total, police confiscated drugs, the total potential street value of which is more than 107 million US dollars.

<https://newsroom.abf.gov.au/releases/four-arrested-after-100-million-of-heroin-and-ice-seized>

ALGERIA

27.01.2019 As part of the fight against smuggling and organized crime, a detachment of the Navy of the Ministry of Defense of Algeria in the province of Skikda, 450 km from the coastline, found **307.2 kg of cocaine** hidden in 11 backpacks. The seized cocaine packs were left by unidentified persons on the high seas. <https://menafn.com/1098030142/Algeria-forces-seize-over-300-kg-of-cocaine-in-Skikda>

AFGHANISTAN

26.01.2019 The Afghan Ministry of Interior Affairs jointly with the General Command of the Police Special Units and the Afghan Air Forces, during a special anti-drug operation in the eastern province of Nangarhar, destroyed two heroin laboratories in the village of Margi

Tarmi in the Shirzad district of eastern Nangarhar province. As a result of the operation, **1.6 tons of liquid opium, 561 kg of ammonium chloride** and some amount of the chemical substance used in production of heroin were found and destroyed. In addition, 960 rounds of AK-47 cartridges were discovered and seized by joint forces. <https://www.khaama.com/afghan-counter-narcotics-special-operation-police-destroy-heroin-labs-in-nangarhar-03186/>

BRAZIL

25.01.2019 Agents of the Federal Revenue in the port of Paranagua seized **1.106 tons of cocaine hydrochloride**. The drug was concealed inside a cargo on pallets intended to be sent to the port of Rotterdam in the Netherlands. It will be sent to the Federal Police in Curitiba for further investigation. <http://idg.receita.fazenda.gov.br/noticias/ascom/2019/janeiro/receita-federal-realiza-apreensao-de-1-1-tonelada-de-cocaina-no-porto-de-paranagua>

27.01.2019 Federal authorities in the port of Santos on the coast of Sao Paulo seized about **400 kg of cocaine**. Traffickers tried to hide the drug for shipment on board a ship bound for Europe. The incident occurred in a container terminal, when port security officers detected a truck in an unauthorized location using surveillance cameras. When a port security agent attempted to block the truck, he collided with a tree at the exit of the terminal. At the scene of the accident, the truck driver stated that four unknown persons approached him and forced him to enter the terminal with drugs. Drug traders managed to escape following open shooting to security agents. Federal police supported the port guards, who discovered bags of cocaine packs hidden in the cab of the truck. Part of the drug consignment was already in a container that was opened by criminals inside the port terminal. Truck driver was arrested. Federal police launched an investigation. The opened container was to be sent to Spain. <https://g1.globo.com/sp/santos-regiao/porto-mar/noticia/2019/01/27/traficantes-atiram-contra-guardas-ao-tentarem-despachar-400-kg-de-cocaina-no-porto-de-santos.ghtml>

BELGIUM

27.01.2019 Employees of the Colruyt supermarket in Sint-Truiden in the province of Limburg found **10 kg of cocaine** in boxes of bananas. Bananas were transported from the port of Antwerp, and the staff at Colruyt were unloading goods when drugs were discovered. Police were notified immediately. An investigation is underway to determine the circumstances of the smuggling supply. Street value of the consignment of drugs is estimated at 500 thousand euros. Tropical fruits often become a cover for smuggled drugs. <http://www.brusselstimes.com/belgium/justice/13884/10kg-of-cocaine-found-among-the-bananas-at-colruyt>

UNITED KINGDOM

25.01.2019 Police in a house in the Walton area in Liverpool discovered about **20 kg of cocaine** along with other Class A and B drugs. Three men aged 23, 29 and 54 years and a 57-year-old woman were arrested on suspicion of drug trafficking. <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-england-merseyside-47000732>

VIETNAM

24.01.2019 Border police agents in the north-central part of Vietnam detained three Vietnamese citizens in an attempt to smuggle **42 kg of heroin** from Laos. The smugglers entered Vietnam by car when they were stopped by the police at the Cau Treo International Border Gate in Huong Son district, Ha Tinh province. Drugs were packed in paper boxes and were intended for marketing in Vietnam. Police are investigating this case.

<https://e.vnexpress.net/news/news/three-vietnamese-nationals-arrested-for-smuggling-heroin-from-laos-3873285.html>

THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

24.01.2019 The National Drug Control Directorate (DNCD) agents at Punta Cana International Airport in Altagracia province arrested a Dutch citizen on suspicion of smuggling a large amount of cocaine. The agents of DNCD, with the support of the Airport Security Specialized Body and coordination Public Prosecutor's Office stationed at the terminal, after checking a baggage of a 23-year-old passenger following a flight to Amsterdam (Netherlands), found 6 packs of **cocaine weighing about 6 kg**. The man was handed over to authorities of the Public Ministry of the province of La Altagracia. Confiscated drugs were transferred to the National Institute of Forensic Sciences (INACIF) for examination. <https://elnacional.com.do/ocupan-seis-paquetes-de-cocaina-a-holandes-en-aeropuerto-de-punta-cana/>

IRAN

26.01.2019 As a result of several operations, police of the province of Hormozgan seized **1,398 kg of opium and 635 kg of hashish**. 13 smugglers and 6 vehicles were arrested. <http://en.mehrnews.com/news/141895/Police-seize-2-tons-of-drugs-in-southern-Iran>

SPAIN

23.01.2019 National Police agents dismantled one of the largest cocaine laboratories in Europe. In six provinces - Madrid, Malaga, Toledo, Valencia, Valladolid and Pontevedra, 11 people were arrested and multiple searches were conducted. About **8500 liters of various controlled chemicals** that are difficult to obtain for the production of cocaine hydrochloride have been seized. A laboratory was equipped in a separate building in an inaccessible, permanently protected place. In the laboratory, "chemists" or "cooks" specially brought from Latin America worked to instruct the criminal organization on how to prepare a narcotic drug from a disguised base in cocaine hydrochloride. In the port of Marin (Pontevedra), 12 containers loaded with coconut flour (palm kernel flour) were intercepted - a product in which a preparation was disguised to pass through customs and sanitary control. The volume of cargo after its processing in an underground laboratory would allow more than **3 tons of cocaine**. The criminal organization consisted of citizens of Spain, Colombia and Albania, engaged in the supply of large quantities of the basis for manufacture of narcotic substances disguised as various legal products to Spain, with the aim of subsequently creating clandestine laboratories and extracting coca paste from these products. Its ultimate goal was to procure and distribute drugs, for which a large business structure was used, responsible for the import of sea containers. The investigation was carried out with the involvement of large police forces, more than 100 police officers

participated in a special operation in different provinces of Spain, and 11 people were simultaneously arrested. Four members of the criminal organization were arrested in Valencia, three in Madrid, one each in Valladolid, Vigo, Valencia and Toledo, including the leader of the organization and its participants responsible for logistics and infrastructure. The organization was more mobile because its main leaders traveled throughout Spain, living in a luxurious villa on the Costa del Sol, from where they coordinated the organization's activities and gave instructions. Police seized 6 vehicles - 4 cars, 1 van and 1 motorcycle, weapons, various computer equipment, mobile phones and cash.

https://www.policia.es/prensa/20190121_1.html#

https://www.policia.es/videos/wmv/20190121_1.mp4

CHINA

22.01.2019 Police arrested two men and seized **30 kg of cocaine** during a search in an apartment used for illegal drug possession. In a further investigation, Hong Kong customs officers arrested a 32-year-old man, a former manager of a Hong Kong bank, who had **650 g of crack cocaine** in his backpack. As a result of a search in an apartment of the suspect in a residential complex, which was used as a drug store and for the production of crack cocaine, **2.55 kg of crack and 4.8 kg of cocaine** were found and seized as well as items and equipment for packing drugs. The total street value of the seized drugs is about 11 million Hong Kong dollars (1.4 million US dollars). <https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/law-and-crime/article/2183131/hong-kong-customs-officers-arrest-ex-bank-manager>

LEBANON

24.01.2019 Internal security forces (ISF) stopped a smuggling of liquid cocaine from Belgium into Lebanon. Officers of the Directorate General of Internal Security Forces, when viewed inside a car, found a hidden metal box with a dense liquid weighing 75 kg. Examination of a liquid sample showed that 90% of it is **cocaine, which is equivalent to 65 kg**. Thanks to careful monitoring, a suspicious vehicle imported from Belgium to Lebanon was identified. The ISF received information in detail that an international network plans to smuggle large quantities of liquid cocaine into Lebanon, hidden in vehicles that were sent to Lebanon through the port of Beirut. This network is headed by one of the most dangerous drug dealers of Lebanese descent, born in 1979. <http://nna-leb.gov.lb/en/show-news/99796/ISF-foils-attempt-to-smuggle-25-kg-of-liquid-cocaine-from-Belgium-into-Lebanon>

25.01.2019 The Rafik Hariri International Airport police prevented an attempt to smuggle **11 kg of cocaine** by two Turkish citizens who arrived from Brazil via Addis Ababa aboard Ethiopian airlines. Drug traffickers tried to conceal drugs by placing packages of cocaine under clothes on their bodies. <http://www.naharnet.com/stories/en/255640-airport-police-confiscate-11-kg-of-cocaine>

PAKISTAN

27.01.2019 Kassesay police arrested a well-known drug dealer and seized more than **1 kg of smuggled heroin**. Drug dealer intended to sell heroin in a nearby town. <https://nation.com.pk/26-Jan-2019/drug-peddler-held-with-1-40kg-heroin>

PERU

23.01.2019 The Los Sinchis division of operation against drug trafficking from Mazamari during an operation, near Alto Anapati Native Community, San Martin de Pangoa region, Satipo province, Junin province, seized **41.6 kg of cocaine hydrochloride**. Detained were two local residents 28 and 52 years old. As a result of inspection of a vehicle "Motokar" in the caches equipped in the floor and in the passenger seat and in the back of the chair 38 packs of cocaine were found. The vehicle and the detected drugs were transferred to the anti-drug base Sinchis de Mazamari to continue investigation. Drug packages had a logo with an image of an eagle's head, used by the TID drug cartel. Market value of 1 kg of cocaine in Vraem is 1,200 US dollars.

<http://www.inforegion.pe/257179/decomisan-40-kilos-de-cocaina-en-el-vraem/>

PORTUGAL

22.01.2019 Police in the Portuguese port of Leysho in the Atlantic, in boxes with a load of bananas inside two transport containers arrived from Ecuador, found **430 kg of cocaine of high purity**. The cargo was intended for Spain. Street value of the consignment is estimated at 15 million euros. Intelligence came from the Spanish police. The supply was organized by Galician and Colombian gangs based in Spain. Spanish police arrested eight people from Spain, Colombia and Ecuador.

<https://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/portuguese-police-intercept-cocaine-shipment-spain-60539442>

USA

22.01.2019 Pawnee County Sheriff's Office in Larned, Oklahoma, discovered **1.5 kg of methamphetamine** and **1 kg of heroin** in a vehicle as a result of stopping traffic and a subsequent search of a vehicle using a K-9 service dog. In the car were a driver and a passenger who were arrested for illegal possession with intention of selling drugs. They are currently held on a \$ 100,000 bond.

<https://www.hayspost.com/2019/01/22/large-amounts-of-meth-heroin-found-during-larned-traffic-stop/>

THAILAND

21.01.2019 Bangkok police arrested four alleged drug traffickers who managed to smuggle **400 kg of marijuana** into the capital from the north-east.

<http://www.nationmultimedia.com/detail/national/30362661>

TURKEY

22.01.2019 Customs officers at the Turkish-Bulgarian border in Kapikul found and seized **145 kg of heroin**. A heroin consignment was discovered and removed from two separate vehicles, and drivers of the vehicles, citizens of Bulgaria and Iraq, were arrested. In addition, a minibus was stopped by police in the eastern province of Van on suspicion of transporting a consignment of drugs, as a result of which **41 kilograms** of heroin and 10,000 euros were discovered and confiscated. Two people were arrested.

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/security-forces-confiscate-145-kg-of-heroin-in-turkey/1371735>



23.01.2019 In the eastern province of Erzurum, as a result of a special anti-drug operation, security forces seized **1 ton 535 kg of heroin**. A driver of a vehicle used to transport drugs was detained. The head of the criminal group was also detained at Sabiha Gokcen Airport in Istanbul in an attempt to leave Turkey. <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/1-5-tons-of-heroin-seized-in-turkeys-biggest-bust-140805>

ECUADOR

21.01.2019 Agents from the Ports and Airports Information Unit (Uipa) received information that the Quevedo fruit company had intended to transport an empty container to the port area of Guayaquil, where the drugs were hidden. During inspection of the container's refrigeration panels, gendarmes found several packs of cocaine marked in the form of the British flag. In total, during the operation "Tropiquevedo", police agents seized **78.85 kg of cocaine** intended for the European market. <http://www.wqradio.com/78-kilos-de-cocaina-camuflados-en-contenedor-iban-a-holanda/>