



INFORMATION RELEASE

ABOUT PAST EVENTS
IN THE ANTI-DRUG SPHERE
(according to the media)
11-24.03.2024

#5

Almaty - 2024



INFORMATION RELEASE CARICC

Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination
Centre for combating the illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs,
psychotropic substances and their precursors

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«Information Release about past events in the anti-drug
sphere», №5, 2024

Circulation in PDF format

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In the period from 11 to 24 March 2024, 25 events in counternarcotics were covered by mass media in CARICC Member States and other countries of the world (*Kazakhstan - 5, Kyrgyzstan - 4, Russia - 7, Tajikistan - 6, Turkmenistan - 1, Uzbekistan -1, and USA -1*).

Published articles reflect information about meeting of drug police officers with university students in Akmola region, about meeting of police officers with children in Abay region with a story about harmful effects of drugs, about destroying drug graffiti by future doctors in Akmola region, about participation of delegation from Kazakhstan in the UN Commission on Drugs session, about meeting of Zhetisu police officers with schoolchildren with a story about harmful effects of drugs (*Kazakhstan*), about meeting of head of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation in Vienna, about participation of head of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic in the 67th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna, about meeting of head of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic with the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, about holding event by delegation of the Kyrgyz Republic at the 67th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (*Kyrgyzstan*), about conducting anti-drug activities in Kuban by police officers together with medical workers, about a number of informational and preventive events held by police officers and members of the Public Council of the Department of Internal Affairs of Russia in Vladimir, about a preventive event held in Magadan by police officers, about an event held in the Saratov region entitled «Report where death is sold», about a preventive event held by police officers and public activists in Mordovia for residents of the republic, about a preventive lesson in Smolensk held by police officers for schoolchildren as part of the All-Russian action «Report where death is sold», about a preventive lesson in Smolensk held by police officers for schoolchildren as part of the All-Russian action «Report where death is sold» (*Russia*), about meeting of delegations of the GUNK MVD RF and the DCA RT on the sidelines of the 67th Session of the CND, about statement of the Director of DCA RT at the 67th Session of the CND on drug stockpiles in Afghanistan, about a high-level meeting within the framework of the 67th Session of the UN Commission, about bilateral meeting within the framework of the 67th Session of the UN Commission, about participation of the Tajik delegation in side event of Kazakhstan, about speech of the Director of the Agency at high-level meeting within the framework of the 67th Session of the UN Commission (*Tajikistan*), participation of delegation of Turkmenistan in UNODC events in Vienna (*Turkmenistan*), about active participation of delegation of Uzbekistan in the 67th Session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna (*Uzbekistan*), and about US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken's speech at the 67th Session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (*USA*).

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN



DRUG POLICE OFFICERS MET WITH UNIVERSITY STUDENTS IN AKMOLA REGION



Akmola drug police emphasize informing teenagers and their parents about the harms of drug use and the legal consequences of drug distribution.

Every day, in Akmola region police officers together with qualified specialists carry out various drug prevention activities. The main goal is to create natural conditions of resistance to the factors that contribute to drug use.

One of the main goals of anti-drug propaganda is to inform society about the Comprehensive Plan to

Combat Drug Addiction and Drug Trafficking, which is in effect until 2025. It is being implemented under the control of the government of the RK. Educational institutions - schools, gymnasiums, lyceums, institutes, colleges and universities - are involved in many activities.

The Comprehensive Plan focuses on informing schoolchildren, students, and their parents about the problems

of teenagers' involvement in the drug environment and various schemes to involve them in the distribution of narcotic and psychotropic substances.

During the conversation between students and drug police officers, the children in an accessible and interesting format with live examples receive information on the legal consequences of teenagers' involvement in drug trafficking, drug advertising and promotion, distribution of dead drops, etc.

Former drug addicts are also involved for a better perception of information, as their life stories are more closely perceived by the audience. Also invited are cynologists from the Center of cynological service with a search dog, which in front of teenagers finds previously hidden by one of the teenagers imitators of narcotic drugs. Such events cause a flurry of positive emotions and interest.

On 12 March, officers of the Department for Combating Drug Crime and the center of the canine service of the Department of Internal Affairs held a regular meeting with students of Polytechnic University, during which the service dog Rex unmistakably found the hidden «drug», which surprised the audience..

At the end of the event, students asked their questions and received answers. Such meetings bring positive results. Since the beginning of the year, 11 pawners of illegal substances have already been detained, none of them minors.

<https://polisia.kz/ru/narkopolitsejskie-vstretilis-so-studentami-universiteta-v-akmolinskoj-oblasti/>



POLICE OFFICERS TOLD CHILDREN IN THE ABAY REGION ABOUT DANGERS OF DRUGS



Police officers of Abay region told students of «Nazarbayev Intellectual School» about the harm of drugs.

The problem of drug addiction is becoming more and more acute every day in modern society. Today, more than ever, it is important to pay as much attention as possible to the prevention of adolescents' addiction to drugs.

Recently, drug addiction has become much «younger». Therefore, the staff of the Department for Combating Drug Crime of the Abay region continues a cycle of preventive lectures in the educational organizations of the region.

An officer of the specialized unit for combating drug trafficking together with a senior inspector of the juvenile police group of the local police department of the Zatonsky police department visited the branch «Nazarbayev Intellectual School» of Semey city.

A lecture on «Legal Responsibility for Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances» was held for high school students, and the topics of bullying, Internet fraud, sexual inviolability of minors, and suicide prevention were touched upon. A video material was demonstrated. A total of about 400 high school students listened to the informational material.

The police reminds that the Department for Combating Drug Crime has a hotline with the number 8-747-877-16-69, where anyone can contact if they know anything about people using narcotic drugs, as well as places of their distribution.

<https://polisia.kz/ru/o-vrede-narkotikov-rasskazali-politsejskie-detyam-v-oblasti-abaj/>

FUTURE MEDICS CONTRIBUTED TO ERADICATION OF DRUG GRAFFITI IN AKMOLA REGION



Drug police officers together with students of Akmola Medical College discussed the harmful effects of psychoactive substances on the human body.

On 14 and 15 March of the current year, officers of the Department for Combating Drug Crime met with students of the Higher Medical College.

On the first day of the meeting, students were reminded of the legal consequences for drug offenses. Taking into account the profile of the students' education, the drug police officer together with the students discussed the issues of harmful

effects of psychoactive substances on the human body, myths and reality.

The discussion was very lively, the topics of nasvay, snus, plant-based drugs were touched upon, the reasons that can induce a person to use and the consequences that threaten after detection or detention of the offender were discussed.

On the second day, activists of the medical college, together with officers of the Department for Combating Drug Crime of the DP of the region and neighborhood police inspectors, went to the streets to destroy inscriptions advertising drug websites.

Koktem microdistrict was chosen as the place for «cleaning». More than 10 inscriptions were painted over and informational booklets were placed on the entrances of houses.

Despite the sub-zero temperatures, folks were very pleased for their contribution to a good cause.

<https://polisia.kz/ru/budushhie-mediki-vnesli-svoj-vklad-v-unichtozhenie-narkograffiti-v-akmolinskoj-oblasti/>

KAZAKHSTAN DELEGATION PARTICIPATED IN UN COMMISSION ON DRUGS SESSION



Kazakhstan delegation headed by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Murat Nurtleu participated in the high-level segment of the 67th Session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

The Commission was attended by more than 1,000 delegates, including more than 100 of the first 100 heads of agencies of different countries that are responsible for countering drug trafficking issues.

During the session, delegates discussed international cooperation for an integrated and balanced strategy to counter the world drug problem.

Deputy Minister Aidos Rysbaev participated from the Ministry of the Interior. During his presentation, he focused on the measures taken by the Government of Kazakhstan to combat drug trafficking at the national, regional and international levels.

Aydos Rysbaev said that the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre, headquartered in Almaty, makes an important contribution to the fight against illicit trafficking of drugs, psychotropic substances

and precursors in Central Asia. Moreover, for 7 member countries, 16 observer countries and international organizations over the years, the Centre has become a universal platform for addressing the most pressing issues and problems of interaction.

It was emphasized that within the framework of the UN Security Council Kazakhstan actively promotes regional security strengthening, as well as the priority direction - countering the spread of psychoactive substances and other synthetic drugs.

As a result, it was noted that Kazakhstan is ready for joint work aimed at improving mutually beneficial anti-drug cooperation and achieving practical results.

<https://polisia.kz/ru/kazahstanskaya-delegatsiya-prinyala-uchastie-v-sessii-komissii-oon-po-narkotikam/>



ZHETISU POLICE OFFICERS TOLD SCHOOLCHILDREN ABOUT HARMFUL EFFECTS OF DRUGS



Officers of the Regional Department for Combating Drug Crime together with representatives of the Regional Center for Mental Health organized a preventive event on the harm of drugs for pupils of secondary school No. 17 in Taldykorgan city.

- It is important for us to dispel these myths and convey to every teenager that drugs are evil. There are no «light» or «heavy» drugs. All drugs have the same properties: when consuming any of them, the mental state of a person is broken, and to achieve a state of stupefaction, the next dose must always be higher than the previous one. When using drugs, addiction is bound

to develop, first mentally, then physically. And remember: before the law, all drugs are equal,» said Meruert Iskakova, an operative of UPN DP.

The event was attended by about 120 students. The police officers showed the children anti-drug videos about the harm of drug use. In turn, the police officers encouraged the children to play sports and lead a healthy lifestyle.

They also explained to the students the legal side, i.e. what responsibility is threatened for distribution and sale of drugs.

<https://polisia.kz/ru/o-pagubnom-vliyanii-narkotikov-rasskazali-shkol-nikam-politsejskie-zhetisu/>

KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

**HEAD OF THE INTERIOR MINISTRY AND RUSSIAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER MEET IN VIENNA**

Minister of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic Ulan Niyazbekov met with Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Russia Sergey Vershinin on the sidelines of the High-Level Segment of the 67th Session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) in Vienna (Austria).

During the meeting Ulan Niyazbekov noted the dynamically developing interaction not only bilaterally, but also in the format of multilateral cooperation, especially within the CSTO, SCO, UNODC and CARICC..

In addition, the head of the Ministry of Internal Affairs emphasized that a UNODC project on introduction of new technologies in the fight against drugs, with a budget of 1

million 800 thousand dollars, is currently being implemented with funding from the Russian Federation.

The project has made Kyrgyzstan one of the first countries in the region to successfully use drones in countering drug trafficking.

During implementation of this project, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, in cooperation and collaboration with specialized agencies of Russia and Belarus, managed to acquire quite a lot of experience in the use and application of unmanned aerial vehicles.

The parties discussed topical aspects of cooperation in the fight against crime. Mutual willingness to further strengthen Kyrgyz-Russian relations in the spirit of alliance and strategic partnership was confirmed.

<https://mvd.gov.kg/rus/news/3010>

**HEAD OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF KYRGYZSTAN PARTICIPATES IN THE 67TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS IN VIENNA**

The Minister of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, Police Lieutenant General Ulan Niyazbekov, is participating in the high-level segment of the 67th Session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna, the capital of Austria. During the event, the current state and further steps in strengthening international cooperation in combating the drug threat are discussed, and the role of Central Asia in countering the spread of synthetic drugs is highlighted.

In 2024, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) is conducting a midterm review to assess the implementation of all international drug policy

commitments. The two-day high-level segment (14 and 15 March 2024) of the midterm review will be followed by a five-day regular session (14 and 15 March 2024).

The head of the law enforcement agency of Kyrgyzstan, welcoming the participants of the segment, expressed his sincere gratitude to the organizers for the high level of preparation.

«I would like to take this opportunity to summarize the position of the Kyrgyz Republic in the field of drug control, to familiarize you with the progress in fulfilling international obligations, as well as to voice our proposals for determining the ways of joint activities until 2029.

The Kyrgyz Republic expresses its determination to implement the norms laid down in the fundamental international conventions and, on their basis, to implement a system of measures at the global, regional and national levels to reduce the demand for and supply of controlled substances in accordance with the purposes and principles of the United Nations..

I would like to mention that as a result of painstaking work, today the legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic in the field of drug control fully complies with the norms of international law, and also takes into account the recommendations of specialized international institutions.

Despite difficult drug situation, we have managed to reduce the dynamics of drug use among the population by strengthening prevention. Thus, the number of visits to drug treatment facilities of the Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic in the last five years has a steady downward trend,» said Ulan Niyazbekov.

At the end of his speech, the Minister of Internal Affairs of Kyrgyzstan expressed his readiness to facilitate the processes of interaction at the global, regional and national levels.

<https://mvd.gov.kg/rus/news/3009>



INTERIOR MINISTER ULAN NIYAZBEKOV MET WITH THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE UN OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME GHADA WALY IN VIENNA



The Minister of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic Ulan Niyazbekov met with the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Ghada Waly during the High-Level Segment of the 67th Session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (UNODC), which takes place on 14-15 March 2024 in Vienna, Austria.

During the meeting, the parties discussed cooperation in combating drug trafficking, organized crime, and cybercrime.

Ulan Niyazbekov noted that the law enforcement agency of Kyrgyzstan together with the Programme Office of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime has prepared a number of project proposals and is working with various partner

countries that are interested in developing cooperation under the auspices of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

In addition, the head of the Ministry of Internal Affairs offered to pay an official visit to Kyrgyzstan, which will undoubtedly draw attention to the work being done in the region, topical issues, mechanisms of practical cooperation and will allow to expand the project portfolio of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime in the Republic of Kyrgyzstan..

In her turn, Mrs. Gada Vali highly appreciated the reforms carried out in the country, including those aimed at modernizing the law enforcement system.

<https://mvd.gov.kg/rus/news/3013>



THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC HELD A SPECIAL EVENT ON THE SIDELINES OF THE 67TH SESSION OF THE CND IN VIENNA



On 20 March in Vienna on the margins of the 67th Session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs the Kyrgyz Republic together with the Russian Federation and UNODC held a side event on the theme: «Integration of Artificial Intelligence Technologies and Unmanned Aerial Systems for Countering Drugs».

The event was attended by more than 70 representatives of UN Member States and relevant international organizations. Welcoming remarks were delivered by Mr. Ulanbek Sultanov, Head of Delegation of the Kyrgyz Republic, Mr. Bo Mathiasen, Acting Director

of Operations of UNODC Vienna, and Mr. Ashita Mittal, UNODC Regional Representative for Central Asia.

The event demonstrated achievements of the Kyrgyz Republic in the use of innovative approaches to controlling illicit drug trafficking, as well as a constructive exchange of views and proposals among the participants of the event on further improvement of anti-drug activities.

<https://mvd.gov.kg/rus/news/3039>

RUSSIAN FEDERATION



POLICE OFFICERS TOGETHER WITH MEDICAL WORKERS ORGANIZE ANTI-DRUG ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN KUBAN

Officers of the drug control department, juvenile affairs inspectors of the Belorechensky OMVD of Russia together with representatives of the Youth Patrol realized the anti-drug action «Paint the Danger». The police officers talked to the volunteers and explained the methods by which criminals involve young people in illegal activities related to the illicit trafficking of illegal substances. Law enforcement officers emphasized that offers of easy and high-paying part-time work can often be linked to drug dealing. The participants of the event inspected the neighborhoods and facades of buildings and painted over the walls with inscriptions containing advertisements and propaganda of illegal substances. Thanks to coordinated work, young people discovered and eliminated more than 30 inscriptions. At the end of the event, the activists asked the police officers questions and received comprehensive answers and discussed the benefits of a healthy lifestyle.

In the city art school officers of the Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia for the Abinsky district held a talk for students aimed at preventing delinquency and crime among teenagers. The children were told about the specifics of work and the role of service dogs in the police by a junior inspector-cynologist, who together with his four-legged partner demonstrated elements of professional training. Alexander Naumov, a district deputy and senior emergency medical technician, explained to the audience the benefits of leading a healthy lifestyle and the harm caused to the body by alcoholic beverages and illegal substances. At the end of the event, the young artists invited the speakers to an exhibition of drawings «Against Drugs», and the police officers presented the children with souvenirs.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/48015214>



POLICE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC COUNCIL OF UMVD OF RUSSIA IN VLADIMIR HELD A NUMBER OF INFORMATIONAL AND PREVENTIVE ACTIVITIES



In cooperation with police officers, members of the Public Council of the Department of Internal Affairs of Russia for the city of Vladimir carry out active preventive work. They prioritize countering remote fraud and the involvement of teenagers in destructive activities, as well as activities aimed at preventing drug addiction among young people and promoting a healthy lifestyle.

On the eve of the current topic of counteraction to crimes committed with the use of IT-technologies, a member of the Public Council at the city Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia Alexander Pisenko together with senior district police officer

Anastasia Mankova discussed on the air of the radio station «Komsomolskaya Pravda - Vladimir». Police Major reminded the audience about the most common schemes that are now used by con artists, gave specific recommendations on how not to become a victim of fraud. Alexander Pisenko, in his turn, told about the participation of community members in preventive work, once again warned local residents against rash

actions when communicating with strangers over the phone.

In continuation of the topic, the Council members held an information campaign «Don't Believe Scammers» in Vladimir's educational organizations. Teachers of schools, colleges and universities, as well as schoolchildren and students, public and police officers tried to convey in maximum detail important information about how swindlers operate, what tricks they use to achieve one single goal - to get hold of the money of a potential victim. Police district commissioner and juvenile affairs inspector who took part in the preventive activities shared examples from their professional practice. The police officers informed the audience about the ways in which criminals can involve young people in illegal activities related to committing crimes remotely.

Victoria Turkova, a member of the Public Council of the Department of Internal Affairs of Russia in Vladimir, and Darya Zadorozhnaya, head of the Department of Internal Affairs of the city, discussed another important topic on the air of the local radio station. This time it was about joint work aimed at preventing juvenile delinquency. Lieutenant Colonel of Police dwelt in detail on the topic of involving young people in activities related to the distribution of illegal substances. Darya Zadorozhnaya noted that through popular messengers attackers send messages offering «quick and easy» earnings, which, as a rule, conceal activities related to illicit drug trafficking.

Public activists do a lot of preventive work in this area. They are the initiators and participants of many thematic events: lectures in schools, colleges and universities, actions with distribution of information leaflets. A series of such events, the key of which was the anti-drug campaign «Zero Tolerance», was successfully carried out by public activists in 2023. This year, as Victoria Turkova noted, the events will be continued, including in new formats.

The day before, Council member Natalya Kulikova together with the head of the Department of Internal Affairs of the City Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia, Darya Zadorozhnaya, met with the school audience and talked directly with teenagers about the harm of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, as well as smoking mixtures on the young body, told about the devastating consequences of their use. The dialog with young people turned out to be trustworthy and constructive. At the end of the event the guys asked various questions of interest. The speakers urged them to live consciously, choose the right live communication and minimize their presence in virtual space.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--plai/news/item/48026085>



POLICE OFFICERS IN MAGADAN TOLD STUDENTS ABOUT THE HARM OF DRUG USE



Police officers meet with young people in Magadan as part of the campaign «Report where death is sold». Tatyana Chernikova, an operative of the Drug Control Department of the Magadan Oblast Department of Internal Affairs, visited the College of Service and Technologies..

Police captain talked to the students about the consequences of drug use, showed a presentation and handed out prevention booklets. Tatyana explained to future cooks, confectioners, computer operators and logisticians the legal norms of criminal and administrative responsibility for illicit trafficking of

prohibited substances.

The operative gave a number of examples from practice, emphasizing inevitability of punishment and impressive sanctions of the articles of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation.

Together with the police captain, young men and women discussed the topic of healthy lifestyles. The college students independently gave strong arguments to the statement «Drugs are the way to nowhere».

At the end of the meeting, Tatyana Chernikova reminded the helpline of the Department of Internal Affairs of Russia in Magadan Oblast: 69-66-55, by calling which you can report facts of illegal sale of narcotic drugs.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/48199531>



IN SARATOV REGION POLICE OFFICERS AND PUBLIC ACTIVISTS CARRY OUT ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ALL-RUSSIAN ACTION «REPORT WHERE DEATH IS SOLD»



The campaign «Report Where Death is Sold» is aimed at involving the public in countering drug trafficking, collecting and verifying relevant information, providing qualified assistance and advice on the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts. The goal is to obtain information on facts of illegal drug trafficking and consumption, as well as questions and suggestions from citizens in the area of improving the effectiveness of activities in the field of drug crime prevention, drug abuse prevention, treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts..

Within the framework of the first stage of the action, Major Oleg Gritsinin of the Drug Control Department of MO MVD of Russia «Balashovsky» and Oleg

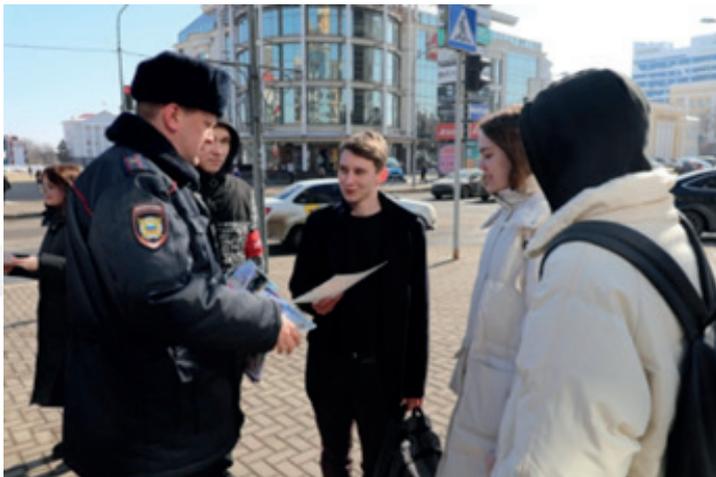
Kulikov, a member of the Presidium of the Public Council at the inter-municipal department, together with specialists from the Education Committee of the Balashov Municipal District Administration held an online conversation «My Choice - Healthy Future» with high school students from 18 schools of Balashov and Balashov District.

Police officer and public servant told schoolchildren about the dangers of using narcotic drugs, about responsibility for involvement in illegal trafficking of narcotic drugs, explained how criminals involve minors in illegal activities, including through the Internet. The speakers advised to take seriously the choice of social circle, learn to say a firm «no» to dubious offers and always think about the consequences of their actions. At the end of the event, they answered questions from the audience and urged the children to take care of their health and lead a law-abiding and healthy lifestyle.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/48230174>



POLICE OFFICERS AND PUBLIC ACTIVISTS IN MORDOVIA HELD A PREVENTIVE ANTI-DRUG EVENT FOR RESIDENTS OF THE REPUBLIC



Employees of the Drug Control Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Mordovia together with representatives of the Mordovian Republican Youth Center, the Mordovian Republican Public Organization «Law Enforcement Unit» and the rehabilitation center «Vector» launched the first stage of the All-Russian action «Report where death is sold». It will last from March 18 to March 29, 2024 and will be aimed at involving the public in counteracting illicit drug trafficking.

Police officers and public activists in one of the main squares of Saransk talked to the residents of

the city, warning them about administrative and criminal responsibility for offenses in the sphere of illegal drug trafficking and the harmful consequences of using illegal substances. The organizers of the action paid special attention to students, as the well-being of the entire region depends on the health of the younger generation.

In addition, each citizen received a leaflet with reference information and phone numbers to report facts of illegal drug trafficking. Law enforcers urged citizens not to stand aside and contribute to the fight against drug-related crime.

https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/mvd/structure1/Glavnie_upravljenija/gunk/Novosti/item/48249690



AS PART OF THE ALL-RUSSIAN CAMPAIGN «REPORT WHERE DEATH IS SOLD», POLICE OFFICERS ORGANIZED A PREVENTIVE LESSON FOR SCHOOLCHILDREN IN SMOLENSK



Within the framework of the All-Russian action «Report where death is sold», officers of the Department for Drug Control of the regional Department of Internal Affairs together with inspectors of the Department of Internal Affairs of the Police Department No. 1 of the Smolensk Department of Internal Affairs of Russia organized a preventive lesson for more than 40 students of Lyceum No. 1 named after Academician B.N. Petrov of Smolensk city.

During the event, police officers drew attention of schoolchildren to the causes of drug addiction and told them about how various addictions are formed. The

students learned that addictions entail a lot of negative consequences: impaired health, distorted perception of the outside world and problems with the law.

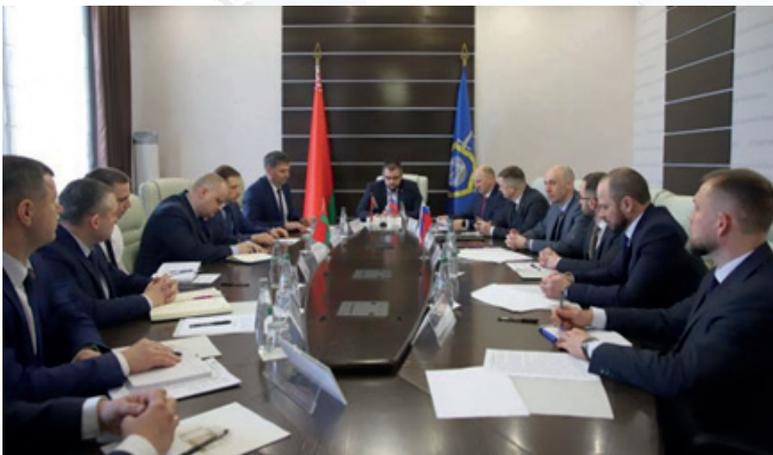
Police officers explained to schoolchildren norms of administrative and criminal responsibility in the sphere of drug trafficking. The schoolchildren were able to ask questions on the topic under discussion and received competent answers.

At the end of the meeting, officers recommended the children to spend more time on useful leisure activities, handed them preventive leaflets, and reminded them of the telephone numbers to which they could report any known facts of distribution of illegal substances.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--plai/news/item/48249976>



DELEGATIONS OF THE RUSSIAN MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND THE INVESTIGATIVE COMMITTEE OF THE REPUBLIC OF BELARUS DISCUSSED JOINT EFFORTS TO COMBAT DRUG CRIME



A working meeting was held in Minsk between officers of the Investigation Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia and GUNK MVD of Russia and representatives of the Investigative Committee of the Republic of Belarus. They discussed joint measures to combat drug trafficking in the Republic of Belarus.

The Russian delegation was headed by Andrei Budyayev, Deputy Head of Division 3 of the Department for the Investigation of Organized Criminal Activity in the Sphere of Illicit Drug

Trafficking and Information and Communication Technologies of the Investigation Department of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs. Anatoly Vasilyev, Deputy Chairman of the Investigative Committee of the Republic of Belarus, made a welcoming speech. He noted the special relevance of the topic under discussion. Modern drug crime is transnational in nature, and only the coordinated use of international cooperation mechanisms can help to realize the tasks facing law enforcement agencies.

Particular attention was paid to the investigation of criminal cases of drug trafficking offenses committed using the Internet. The participants of the meeting discussed the progress of investigation of specific criminal cases in this area and identified a number of measures aimed at exposing and bringing to criminal responsibility members of international groups involved in drug trafficking in Russia and Belarus.

Practical application of criminal and criminal procedural legislation was also discussed. Prospects for further

cooperation between the agencies in the field of combating drug-related crime were outlined.

During the working meeting, representatives of Russia and Belarus elaborated on the discussion of the algorithm of actions in the investigation of criminal cases related to drug trafficking within the framework of the signed Resolution on the establishment of a joint investigative and operational group. It provides for investigative and operational activities aimed at combating cross-border crime.

At the end of the event, the representatives of the Russian side presented their colleagues with the agreement on cooperation with their colleagues from the Investigative Committee of the Republic of Belarus signed by the Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation - Head of the Investigation Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia, Colonel-General of Justice Sergei Lebedev.

After the official part, the Belarusian colleagues organized a tour of the building of the central office of the Investigative Committee. During the tour the guests familiarized themselves with the architecture of the historical complex included in the «State List of Historical and Cultural Values of the Republic of Belarus».

The Russian delegation was particularly impressed by the Museum of Preliminary Investigation, where the representatives of the host country told about the history of the development of the preliminary investigation bodies in the Republic of Belarus and demonstrated the expositions with materials of criminal cases dating back to 1929. At the end of the tour, the Russians presented the museum staff with commemorative books published to mark the 60th anniversary of the establishment of preliminary investigation bodies in the system of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--p1ai/news/item/48280690>



REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

**TAJIKISTAN AND THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION INTEND TO STRENGTHEN COOPERATION IN COMBATING DRUGS**

Ivan Gorbunov, head of the Directorate General for Drug Control of the Russian Interior Ministry, noted that «Tajikistan, as a buffer country, plays a key role in combating drug smuggling and illicit drug trafficking»

Strengthening cooperation between Tajikistan and Russia in countering illicit drug trafficking was discussed by Zafar Samad, Director of the Drug Control Agency (DCA) under the President of Tajikistan, and Ivan Gorbunov, Head of the Directorate General for Drug Control of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation. The meeting was held on the sidelines of the 67th Session of the UN Commission on

Narcotic Drugs in Vienna.

According to the report of the republic's anti-drug agency, during the meeting the parties discussed issues of further strengthening cooperation in combating drug trafficking and preventing drug addiction. Head of DCA noted constant support and mutually beneficial cooperation of the Russian Interior Ministry in the implementation of the interagency agreement on cooperation and assistance to the agency in combating illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors. In turn, Gorbunov called cooperation with the DCA important and emphasized that «Tajikistan, as a buffer country, plays a key role in combating drug smuggling and trafficking».

Agreement between the Tajikistan ACN and the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs on cooperation in the field of counter-narcotics for 2023-2025 was signed in November 2023 in Dushanbe. The document provides for an increase in the level of cooperation between the parties, as well as the allocation of about 250 million rubles to increase the capacity of the Tajik anti-drug agency.

Tajik President Emomali Rakhmon, speaking at the 78th session of the UN General Assembly in New York last September, noted that the country has seen an increase in drug smuggling from Afghanistan. According to him, Tajik security forces have seized more than 10 tons of drugs on the border with that country over the past two years.

<https://tass.ru/mezhdunarodnaya-panorama/20291193>



TAJIKISTAN CLAIMS LARGE DRUG STOCKPILES IN AFGHANISTAN



Importing drugs into Europe and Russia via the «Northern route».

There are sufficient supplies in northern Afghanistan. Zafar Samad, Director of the Drug Control Agency under the President of Tajikistan, noted this at the 67th session of UNCAC.

«The increase in the amount of drugs seized in Tajikistan indicates the presence of significant drug stockpiles in the northern provinces of Afghanistan for shipment via the 'northern route',» he said.

The «Northern route» for Afghan drugs to Russia and Europe runs through Central Asia. This smuggling channel began operating in the 1990s after the collapse of the USSR.

According to Samad, the smugglers are «assessing the situation and studying the possibility of transferring drugs to Tajikistan, given the measures taken by the Tajik government to strengthen the Tajik-Afghan border by creating new border facilities».

Central Asian countries such as Tajikistan are struggling to resist Afghan drug trafficking. Opium production in Afghanistan affects the global drug trade. Drugs in the «Northern route» are detrimental to the health and security of countries.

<https://www.caviral.com/v-tadzhikistane-zayavili-o-bolshih-zapasah-narkotikov-v-afganistane/>



HIGH-LEVEL MEETING AT THE 67TH SESSION OF THE UN COMMISSION



The 67th Session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs, chaired by Philbert Akaba Johnson, Permanent Representative of Ghana to the International Organizations in Vienna, began its work at headquarters of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna on 14 March 2024.

The event began with opening remarks by Ms. Dennis Francis, President of the UN General Assembly, and Ms. Ghada Waly, UN Under-Secretary-General and

Executive Director of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

This event is attended by a delegation from Tajikistan led by Major General Zafar Samad, Director of the Drug Control Agency under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan.

The 67th Session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs will continue until 22 March this year with side events and bilateral meetings.

<https://akn.tj/ru/2024/03/14/holding-a-high-level-meeting-within-the-67th-session-of-the-un-commission/>



BILATERAL MEETING DURING THE 67TH SESSION OF THE UN COMMISSION



On 14 March 2024, within the framework of the 67th Session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Major General Zafar Samad, Director of the Drug Control Agency under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, met with the Head of Delegation of the People's Republic of China, Deputy Commissioner of the National Narcotics Control Commission, Mr. Tsan Wei-hung.

Director of the Agency expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Public Security of the People's Republic of China for its fruitful cooperation in supporting the Agency's activities.

During the meeting, the parties discussed strengthening cooperation in combating illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors, as well as drug abuse prevention.

<https://akn.tj/ru/2024/03/15/bilateral-meeting-within-the-framework-of-the-67th-session-of-the-un-commission/>



PARTICIPATION OF TAJIK DELEGATION IN SIDE EVENT OF KAZAKHSTAN

In the course of activities within the framework of the 67th session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs, on 14 March the delegation of Tajikistan under the leadership of the Director of the Agency Zafar Samad took part in the side event of the Government of the Republic of Kazakhstan «CARICC capabilities in countering modern challenges of synthetic drugs distribution» as well as combating illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors.

The event was attended by heads and representatives of competent authorities of CARICC member states, observer states, UN Office on Drugs and Crime and other international organizations.

The participants were given a presentation on the activities of CARICC, which operates in Almaty under the auspices of the United Nations as an interstate body to assist in the organization and coordination of international operations to combat illicit drug trafficking.

During the event, representatives of CARICC participating states expressed their views and exchanged opinions.

<https://akn.tj/ru/2024/03/16/participation-of-the-tajik-delegation-in-the-side-event-of-kazakhstan/>



STATEMENT BY DIRECTOR OF THE AGENCY AT THE HIGH-LEVEL MEETING OF THE 67TH SESSION OF THE UN COMMISSION



On 15 March this year, during the high-level meeting held within the framework of the 67th session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs, the Director of the Drug Control Agency under the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, Major General of the Drug Control Service Zafar Samad made a report on the anti-drug policy of the Republic of Tajikistan, on the work done by the authorized bodies of the country in the fight against illicit drug trafficking and prevention of drug use.

It should be noted that heads of anti-drug agencies of the countries of the world took part in this work; topical issues of international anti-drug cooperation were discussed.

<https://akn.tj/ru/2024/03/16/the-speech-of-the-director-of-the-agency-at-the-high-level-meeting-within-the-framework-of-the-67th-session-of-the-un-commission/>



TURKMENISTAN

ORIENT DELEGATION OF TURKMENISTAN PARTICIPATES
IN UNODC EVENTS IN VIENNA

A delegation of Turkmenistan, headed by the Deputy Minister of Internal Affairs, participated in the side events dedicated to the activities of the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Center for Combating Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and their Precursors (CARICC). The side events were organized within the framework of the high-level segment and the regular, 67th session of

the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs, which takes place from 14 to 22 March 2024 at the UN Headquarters in Vienna.

The meeting was also attended by heads and staff of anti-drug authorities of CARICC member states, representatives of UNODC Headquarters and Tashkent Office, Interpol experts and other international organizations. The participants exchanged views, experiences, achievements and upcoming challenges in combating illicit drug use, and assessed the role of CARICC in this regard.

In their statements, the delegates from Turkmenistan emphasized the importance of the Centre in advancing the objectives aimed at preventing drug-related problems and strengthening effective cooperation between the parties.

As the current Chair country, Turkmenistan attaches great importance to the active work of CARICC.

Also on 19 March delegation of Turkmenistan headed by the country's Ambassador in Vienna participated in a meeting of CARICC Director A. Yazlyyev with UNODC Executive Director G. Waly, the organization's website reports.

A side event with partners of the Central Asian Drug Action Programme (CADAP) took place in Vienna on 18 March in the framework of the 67th session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

The Turkmen delegation noted in its speech the areas of cooperation established under the CADAP program, the accumulated experience, and the healthy lifestyle actively implemented in the country.

<https://orient.tm/ru/post/70101/delegaciya-turkmenistana-uchastvuet-v-meropriyatiyah-unodc-v-vene>

REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN



UZBEKISTAN ACTIVELY PARTICIPATES IN THE 67TH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS IN VIENNA



Uzbekistan takes an active part in the 67th Session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) taking place in Vienna from 14 to 22 March.

Diplomatic delegation presented the country's position on combating drugs and sharing experiences with other countries. As part of the event, they participated in discussions on strategies and initiatives to overcome drug-related challenges and took part in side events.

Ambassador of Uzbekistan emphasized the importance of the role of the CND in the global fight against drugs and expressed appreciation for the partnership with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

He also emphasized importance of the national drug strategy as a key priority for the country.

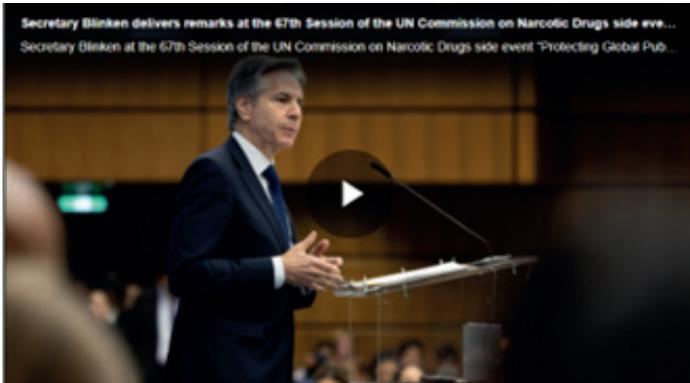
The session featured a side event on combating synthetic drugs, organized by the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre for Combating Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs.

The UN Permanent Representative in Vienna emphasized the global threat of synthetic drugs and appreciated CARICC's efforts, calling for intensified efforts and expressing Uzbekistan's readiness for further cooperation.

Ambassador of Uzbekistan expressed support for strong measures and called for further cooperation at the international level in the fight against drugs.

<https://tafsilar.info/novosti-uzbekistana/uzbekistan-aktivno-uchastvuet-v-67-j-sessii-komissii-po-narkoticheskim-sredstvam-v-vene/>

USA

**STATEMENT BY SECRETARY OF STATE ANTHONY BLINKEN AT THE 67TH SESSION OF THE UN COMMISSION ON NARCOTIC DRUGS**

Anthony Blinken, U.S. Secretary of State
Vienna International Center

Vienna, Austria

15 March 2024

STATE SECRETARY BLINKEN: Good afternoon. Executive Director Waly, Ambassador Johnson, representatives of Member States. Today, the U.S. Secretary of State is attending a session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs for the first time.

I do so because fulfilling the mission of this institution is more important than ever to the safety, welfare, and health of the American people and the people of each of our countries.

Since the last high-level session of this commission three years ago, the number of Americans who have died from synthetic opioid overdoses has nearly doubled, with 74 000 deaths that year. More than 40 percent of Americans personally know someone who has died from an opioid overdose. Synthetic drugs are the leading cause of death for Americans between the ages of 18 and 45.

Many of you are here for similar reasons. Of course, in your countries, different types of synthetic drugs are a problem. In some countries it may be methamphetamines or ketamine, in others it may be tramadol, captagon, fentanyl. The extent of the problem may also be different.

But synthetic drug use, addiction and overdose deaths are skyrocketing in all regions.

I would like to call everyone here to action. If we are to change the dynamics of this crisis, there is only one way to succeed - by working together.

For each of us, for each nation, including the United States, that journey must begin at home. Over the past three years, we have invested a record 169 billion dollars in tackling dangerous drugs.

Under President Biden's leadership, the United States for the first time began devoting more resources to reducing drug demand than to combating drug supply.

The result is increased resources for public awareness, health services to prevent drug abuse and reduce drug use, overdoses and other harmful consequences, and measures to prevent, detect and interdict the illicit production of and trafficking in drugs.

This reflects a fundamental fact: untreated substance use and increased trafficking are two sides of the same coin. The more we help people break out of the cycle of use and addiction, the smaller the illicit drug market will become. The more we can reduce the illicit supply of drugs, the less they will be used.

While our efforts to fight synthetic drugs, to fight the synthetic drug crisis, must start with our country, they cannot end there. Simply put, no country can solve this problem alone.

The criminal groups that produce these drugs are resourceful. When one country disrupts the production of synthetic drugs or the chemical precursors used to manufacture them, criminals quickly move production elsewhere. When one drug trafficking route is shut down, they create a new one.

Criminal groups are also constantly developing new drugs. Every year they produce about 80 new synthetic drugs, many of which are more potent than those already in circulation. They are constantly looking for new markets and new users to increase their profits.

If we want to protect our populations, we cannot act alone. I would like to suggest four ways in which we can work together to take effective action.

First, we can strengthen controls over the trafficking and use of precursor chemicals that are used in the illicit production of synthetic drugs. We will have a chance to do this next week when the CND votes to add new and emerging precursors to the list of chemicals we already control. This puts the onus on governments to better control the production of and trade in these chemicals to limit their use for illicit purposes, which in turn will make them harder to traffic in.

We call on all members to support these efforts - and to fulfill their obligations to control these substances.

Second, we can redouble our efforts to reduce overdose deaths. There is a growing body of evidence showing how we can combine prevention, harm reduction, treatment and rehabilitation to save lives.

Next week, we will introduce a resolution calling on countries to take similar measures.

Thirdly, we can deepen cooperation with key players outside Government, because no country can solve this problem alone, just as Governments cannot solve it alone. Public health workers, civil society groups, affected communities, academics and other experts have long been working to find effective solutions.

We can do more - we must do more - to collaborate with them and with the private sector, especially given the central role that private sector platforms and products play in the illicit production, trafficking and distribution of synthetic drugs.

The United States and UNODC recently joined forces with Meta, Snap and others to stop synthetic drug activity online and instead encourage these platforms to focus their efforts on educating users about the risks. We hope you all will also take part in this initiative, and encourage more platforms to participate.

Finally, I invite you to join the 151 countries and 14 international organizations participating in the Global Coalition to Address Synthetic Drug Threats. Since last July, when this coalition was launched, we have been working to identify ways to collaborate to prevent synthetic drug production and trafficking, identify emerging threats, and strengthen public health measures.

Together, the coalition has developed specific recommendations for actions that countries can take and identified more than 120 initiatives to support these efforts. We are now beginning to implement these actions and call on everyone to «Partner with us!».

I started by highlighting the catastrophic rise in overdose deaths in the United States, and in many ways we have become the canary in the coal mine, particularly when it comes to fentanyl. It has hit us hard, hit us first, but unfortunately not last, and we are seeing its devastating effects begin to spread to other countries as well.

However, the story doesn't end there. We have fresh data that suggests that for the first time in years, the number of Americans who have died from overdose has not increased significantly. The numbers haven't changed.

Today, when still one American dies from an overdose every five minutes, our work is far from over.

But these changes show that the steps we are taking - many of them in partnership with the countries here in this room - are making a difference, and things are beginning to change dramatically.

So we will continue to make efforts like the ones I've described today. And for the health, safety and prosperity of the people in your countries, I hope that you will join us, and that we can continue and truly deepen our work together.

I am extremely grateful to each and every one of you for your extraordinary dedication to this task, a task that I am confident will benefit people around the world. And now I'm pleased to announce that the United States is committing to significantly expand our assistance to combat the threats posed by synthetic drug trafficking around the world, and we're going to raise approximately 170 million to advance these efforts next year. Thank you. (Applause.) Thank you very much.

<https://www.state.gov/secretary-antony-j-blinken-at-the-67th-session-of-the-un-commission-on-narcotic-drugs-side-event/>



Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination
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