



INFORMATION RELEASE

ABOUT PAST EVENTS
IN THE ANTI-DRUG SPHERE
(according to the media)
19-31.08.2024

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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», #13, 2024

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In the period from 19 to 31 August 2024, 16 counter-narcotics activities were covered based on information from mass media in CARICC Member States (*Azerbaijan - 2, Kazakhstan - 7, Kyrgyzstan - 1, Russia - 4, Uzbekistan - 1*).

Published articles reflect information on prevention activities carried out in the regions (*Azerbaijan*), on preventive activities conducted by police officers, on the training seminar on investigation of drug crimes in the DP of Akmola region, on dangerous trends in drug trafficking, on the analog of the American Targeting Center (*Kazakhstan*), on transfer of equipment to the CNS of MIA of the Kyrgyz Republic (*Kyrgyzstan*), on anti-drug events held in the regions of the Russian Federation (*Russia*), on the Senate's meeting with UNODC delegation (*Uzbekistan*), and the Colombian authorities' plans to replace coca cultivation with licit crops (*Colombia*).



REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN



A TRAINING “LET’S SAY NO TO DRUG ADDICTION!” WAS HELD FOR THE YOUTH OF MASALLA



Training under the title “Say NO to drug addiction!” was organized in Masalli district within the framework of the mobile youth service project organized by the Youth Foundation of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The opening day of the event was attended by Director General of the Youth and Career Development Center of the Republic of Azerbaijan Azer Aliyev, Chief Advisor of the Standing Working Group of the State Commission Shahin Ismayilov, Head of Masalli District Executive Authority Araz Ahmedov and representatives of other state structures.

During the training, in order to raise youth awareness of the problem of drug addiction, detailed information was provided on the risk factors of drug use, properties of psychoactive substances and their harmful effects on health, on the effective organization of youth leisure activities, on the direction of the hotline “802” and other issues, discussions were held on issues of interest to young people.

In conclusion, the youth were provided with the necessary promotional materials “know the truth about drugs”, “the truth about marijuana” and “the truth about psychotropic substances” prepared by the standing working group of the State Commission.

<https://nmdk.gov.az/page/post/3266/Masalli-gencleri-ucun-Narkomaniyaya-yox-deyek-adli-telim-kecirilib?lang=ru>



REGULAR TRAININGS OF THE MOBILE YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT ORGANIZED IN MASALLA DISTRICT



Regular trainings were held within the framework of the mobile youth service project. During 6 days in 10 villages of Masalli district 400 schoolchildren participated in training sessions on “youth policy and statehood”, “Let’s say NO to bad habits”, “choice of profession and career” and “healthy and safe lifestyle” topics.

Trainings, conducted with a presentation by the responsible officer of the permanent working group of the State Commission on raising awareness of young people on the problem of drug addiction, provided extensive information on risk factors for the use of narcotic drugs, properties of psychoactive substances and their harmful effects on health,

stages of drug addiction, the importance of anti-drug propaganda, methods of combating drug addiction and gave answers to questions of interest to participants. In addition, young people looked at the exhibition dedicated to the “Year of Solidarity for a Green World”, drawings and paintings created with the help of artificial intelligence tools, and then practically learned how to write a “resume”.

In conclusion, the youth were provided with necessary promotional materials “know the truth about drugs”, “the truth about marijuana” and “the truth about psychotropic substances” prepared by the standing working group of the State Commission.

<https://nmdk.gov.az/page/post/3267/Masalli-rayonunda-Seyyar-Gencler-Xidmeti-layihesinin-novbeti-telimleri-teskil-edilib?lang=ru>

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN



A CAMPAIGN AGAINST DRUG USE WAS HELD IN THE ABAY REGION



A drug crime prevention campaign with the support of the Elimai soccer club was organized by the Department for Combating Drug Crime of the DP of the region.

Organizers say that countering drug trafficking is a prerequisite for creating a safe society, and maintaining a healthy lifestyle is a shared responsibility of the country's citizens.

- Everything is there for this in the beautiful world... But in our society there are people suffering from drug addiction. I believe that we should not remain indifferent and we must warn

everyone that drugs are bad," said 9-year-old Altair Amrenov, a mini-police officer from the Abay region who actively participates in prevention activities.

Gathering his peers, the future generation of Elimai's soccer heritage, Altair and his senior colleagues conducted a social survey among the population to find out what drives teenagers to start taking drugs.

- Most adults and many parents prefer not to bring up this topic in the family, adhering to the position "the less we talk about it, the calmer we are". I, as a teenager, want to say that this is a misconception and it hinders in reliable protection of us from negativity, drugs, etc. We need to be studied, to know our inner world, to inform us, to tell us about the harms and consequences of this topic, not to let our upbringing go to waste!, - the ardent soccer fan addressed the adults, naming one of the reasons as a protest against the existing relationships (in particular in the family - between parents and close people).

Meanwhile, against the background of this public problem, citizens actively participated in the preventive event, adults advised to toughen the punishment for drug distribution, young people liked to participate in the promotion of a healthy lifestyle.

At the end of the event at the stadium "Spartak" more than 4 thousand fans supported the initiative action, in one voice with the presenter sloganized "We are for Elimai, we are against."

<https://polisia.kz/ru/v-oblasti-abaj-proshla-aktsiya-protiv-narkopotrebleniya/>



POLICE CONDUCTED AN ANTI-DRUG CAMPAIGN IN A DISTRICT OF TURKESTAN REGION



As is known, drug addiction is one of the most pressing problems of modern society, threatening human health and the future generation. In order to raise public awareness of the harm caused by drug addiction, police officers constantly organize various preventive activities.

Police officers, together with representatives of the procurator's office and the Youth Resource Centre, organized an action entitled "No to drug addiction and synthetic drugs!" in the Mactaral district as part of the "Karasora" OPM aimed at creating a stable anti-drug awareness among the population

and young people.

During the event, video clips were shown in public places and on the streets of the district center, as well as leaflets were distributed and explanations were given on the responsibility for the use and distribution of illicit substances, including synthetic drugs, and their health consequences.

As the police noted, such drug prevention events, designed to attract the attention of residents to lead a healthy lifestyle, to choose the right path and refuse bad habits, will be held in the future.

<https://polisia.kz/ru/antinarkoticheskuyu-aktsiyu-provela-politsiya-v-odnom-iz-rajonov-turkestanskoj-oblasti/>



PREVENTIVE WORK IN CHILDREN'S CAMPS CARRIED OUT BY DRUG ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS OF ALMATY REGION



Large-scale preventive work in children's camps was carried out by the drug police of Almaty region.

In order to draw attention to the global problem of the modern world and to form a negative attitude towards the use of narcotic drugs among the population, especially young people, drug police officers of the region organize various actions on a regular basis.

- This time we, together with authorized agencies, held preventive actions in 12 camps with more than

two thousand children and teenagers as part of the "Future without Drugs" campaign. The purpose of such meetings is to form a negative attitude towards drug addiction among schoolchildren, to convince children that drug addiction is a terrible disease," said the regional department for combating drug crime.

Drug police officers talked to the children about a healthy lifestyle and the impact of bad habits, including drugs, on the body. The children were shown video clips, after which they were able to determine what character qualities a person should have in order to resist temptation.

<https://polisia.kz/ru/profilakticheskuyu-rabotu-v-detskih-lageryah-proveli-narkobortsy-almatinskoj-oblasti/>

230 COUNTER-NARCOTICS LEAFLETS DISTRIBUTED BY POLICE OFFICERS IN KENTAU



Police officers of Turkestan region handed out about 230 leaflets within the framework of the campaign “No to drug addiction!”.

Law enforcement officers on a regular basis carry out work to prevent distribution of narcotic drugs, combating drug addiction and drug trafficking. Thus, police officers of Kentau city together with volunteers of the center “Youth Resource” conducted explanatory work on the prevention of drug addiction, compliance with safety

rules and precautions.

The aim of the event was to draw public attention to the problem of drug addiction and prevention of drug use, to raise awareness among young people about drug-related problems and to form a critical attitude towards the use of psychoactive substances. Stores, food outlets, public places and street intersections were also not left unattended.

In addition, in order to prevent drug-related crime, police officers reminded citizens that no illegal action related to drug trafficking will go unpunished. They also handed out about 230 leaflets on the theme “No to drug addiction, drugs and tramadol!”.

<https://polisia.kz/ru/230-antinarkoticheskikh-pamyatok-razdali-politsejskie-v-kentau/>

A TRAINING SEMINAR ON INVESTIGATION OF DRUG CRIMES HELD IN THE DP OF AKMOLA REGION



Police officers with inquiries functions were trained to detect and investigate drug offenses. A seminar with the participation of officers of investigative and operational units, neighborhood police inspectors and patrol police, with the invitation of representatives of the regional prosecutor’s office and the Institute of Forensic Expertise was held at the site of the police department. Employees of regional departments of the department participated in the seminar via videoconference mode.

The purpose of the working meeting was to develop a set of measures aimed at preventing violations of the rule of law that police officers may commit when

seizing drugs.

The meeting was moderated by the Deputy Head of the Department, Mr. Daniyar Bek. He noted that the number of registered crimes related to drug trafficking continues to grow, and the fact that such crimes are committed using the Internet creates additional difficulties.

The invited deputy prosecutor of Akmola region, Erbolat Zhusin, also spoke out, expressing hope that the training seminar would help to counter drug-related crime more effectively, as well as reduce the number of violations in the seizure of narcotic drugs, which could lead to individuals avoiding criminal liability.

During the seminar, the chief expert of the Institute of Forensic Expertise was given the floor, who gave a number of recommendations necessary when seizing narcotic drugs and appointing expert examinations.

In their reports, heads of the Investigation Department and the Department for Combating Drug Crime of the Department of Internal Affairs emphasized the algorithm of actions in identifying criminal drug offenses, misdemeanors and their investigation.

In general, the event was fruitful, the employees vested with the functions of inquiry raised problematic questions, which were answered. At the end of the event, it was decided to conduct more targeted training sessions with this category of employees on a regular basis.

<https://polisia.kz/ru/obuchayushhij-seminar-po-rassledovaniyu-narkoprestuplenij-proshel-v-dp-akmolinskoj-oblasti/>



YOUTH IN CROSSHAIRS: POLICE EXPOSE DANGEROUS TRENDS IN DRUG TRAFFICKING



The problem of drug addiction and drug trafficking in the modern world is no longer a problem of the marginalized and criminalized strata. It has come close to the middle class of society. This is facilitated by the development of high technology, which allows the major players of the drug market to go into the shadows, as well as the spread of new psychoactive substances, which are used in a very “harmless” way - through smoking and are not perceived as something dangerous, as “heavy” injecting drugs have

always been perceived to be.

Prevention is the most important direction of anti-drug policy. In determining its effectiveness, world scientists say that it is necessary to work in two directions: reducing the supply of drugs and reducing the demand for drugs.

In modern Kazakhstan, these two directions are coordinated and implemented by the police authorities.

- Drug crime, unfortunately, is now getting younger. The production of new drugs does not require strong criminal connections abroad, as it was in the days of heroin distribution. Now they are produced from authorized components and require minimal knowledge of chemistry. Young people, sometimes even teenagers, are involved in the distribution of drugs. It is very easy to influence them and then to keep them in the illegal business, intimidating them with consequences. Therefore, the main vector of attention in the organization of preventive work is aimed precisely at teenagers and young people, - noted the Department for Combating Drug Crime of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

In the first seven months of this year, more than two thousand people were detained, 30 of whom turned out to be minors, which is a small percentage of the total number of detentions.

Law enforcement agencies realize the importance of preventive work, prevention of social disadvantage and early intervention to prevent further involvement of minors in drug offenses.

In total, since the beginning of 2024, police officers have conducted 9738 events. They covered 725 000 teenagers and young people. This work is extremely multifaceted and targeted at different age groups. This includes involving children in sports and cultural activities, which helps to distract them from destructive behaviors and

help them discover their potential. It is also the development of thematic interactive educational programs. Role models and social experiments that help to understand the consequences of drug crime and drug addiction, where options for refusing offers to try drugs or plant drugs are practiced, resonate with adolescents.

- Taking into account that the police deal with offenses already committed, much attention is paid to working with parents. It is very important to see the signs of drug use in time. If there are suspicions that a child is involved in criminal activity, the first sign of which is the appearance of money or expensive purchases, we teach parents how to build a dialog with the teenager to find out all the circumstances and not to push the child away. It often happens that a teenager is tricked into getting a dose of drugs once and then blackmailed with publicity,” the police added.

All police services are involved in drug crime prevention. During the briefing of patrolling units, the signs by which drug pawns can be identified are explained. Raids are conducted in educational institutions, dormitories, and delivery services with the use of search dogs to identify possible drug caches. Juvenile police officers and neighborhood inspectors conduct outreach work with the population, identify and destroy advertisements and signs advertising drug sites.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs calls on citizens to provide all possible assistance to police officers and participate in preventive anti-drug work as much as possible.

<https://polisia.kz/ru/molodezh-pod-pritselom-politsiya-raskryvaet-opasnye-trendy-v-narkotorgovle/>



KAZAKHSTAN WANTS TO LAUNCH AN EQUIVALENT OF THE U.S. DRUG CONTROL TARGETING CENTER



Kazakhstan wants to set up a Targeting Center for Precursors and Synthetics Control, reports correspondent of the agency.

“The question of creating a National Interagency ‘Targeting Center’ for precursors and synthetic drugs control (based on the experience of the United States and Lithuania) is being studied. There is a need to strengthen control over importation into the country of precursors and other chemical substances used for production of synthetic drugs,” the Coordination

Council on ensuring law and order and combating crime said.

The Center is expected to serve as an information and analytical hub for monitoring and controlling chemical trafficking.

Prosecutor General Berik Asylov said that the country still lacks a holistic system of combating drug crime. According to data, more than 5000 drug offenses were registered in seven months, including almost 1500 cases of sale. About 3 thousand people were brought to criminal responsibility. More than 7 tons of drugs were seized, including 840 kilograms of “synthetics”. 22 international and 85 regional drug channels were intercepted.

The Prosecutor General’s Office reported that the work of law enforcers will now be evaluated on the basis of main performance indicators and results of sociological studies on the issue of drug use by population.

“At the same time, the assessment is subject not to an individual body, but the entire region, which is aimed at combining the efforts of local law enforcement and executive bodies. These measures will increase the responsibility of the first heads of territorial subdivisions of law enforcement and special agencies for the drug situation”, - the press service of the body reports.

The press service reported that it was decided to shift the focus on identifying the organizers of drug laboratories and the financial flows of the drug business, to revise the system of monitoring the media and Internet resources, including social networks, to prevent drug advertising, to improve the health care system in terms of registering drug addicts, changing treatment protocols, improving the accessibility, quality and anonymity of medical care, among others.

<https://kaztag.kz/en/news/amerikanskiy-analog-targeting-tsentra-po-kontrolyu-za-narkotikami-khotyat-otkryt-v-kazahstane>



KYRGYZ REPUBLIC



THE COUNTERING NARCOTICS SERVICE OF THE MINISTRY OF INTERNAL AFFAIRS RECEIVED 7 NEW VEHICLES



Today, 30 August in front of the central office of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, a ceremony was held to present “Lada Niva Legend” cars and equipment on behalf of the Russian Federation to officers of the Counter Narcotics Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic.

The event was attended by the Minister of Internal Affairs, Lieutenant General of Police Ulan Niyazbekov, Plenipotentiary Ambassador of the Russian Federation to the Kyrgyz Republic Sergey Vakunov, representative of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs in the Kyrgyz Republic Anton Kochetov,

Deputy Ministers of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, heads of services, main departments, directorates and personnel of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

Another batch of vehicles and equipment worth more than 15 million soms was transferred within the framework of the Russian Program of Assistance to the CNS of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic in the fight against drugs for the period 2023-2025.

It should be reminded that in January of the same year, 28 vehicles worth 60 million soms were handed over to the CNS.

In addition, as part of the implementation of the Programme, there is effective cooperation in operational and investigative activities, and regular working meetings and training seminars are held to exchange information and experience between our drug control units.

<https://mvd.gov.kg/rus/news/3619>

RUSSIAN FEDERATION



LIPETSK POLICE OFFICERS, PUBLIC FIGURES AND ACTIVISTS OF THE “MOVEMENT OF THE FIRST” ORGANIZED A PREVENTIVE EVENT FOR PUPILS OF A SUMMER CAMP PROFILE SHIFT



Within the framework of the All-Russian action of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia “Vacations with the Public Council”, employees of the Department for Drug Trafficking Control of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia for the Lipetsk region together with volunteers of the Council of Leaders of the Lipetsk region and activists of the “Movement of the First” organized a preventive event for holidaymakers of the profile shift of the summer camp.

The meeting between law enforcement officers and young recreationists was organized in the format of a legal game. Talking to teenagers, police officers

raised their legal literacy, explaining the norms of current legislation in the field of committing offenses and crimes related to illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs. The law enforcers also touched upon the important topic of bullying. In the course of the discussion, each participant was able to propose his or her own option for resolving conflict situations, draw the right conclusions for himself or herself, and think about the legal responsibility of those involved in such conflicts.

Several interactive stations were presented by volunteers from the Lipetsk Region Leadership Council. In order to pass them, the event participants had to show their wit, ingenuity and team spirit.

The guests of the event were pupils of the Cossack military-patriotic club “Plastun”. They showed the young participants the special equipment they use during training, as well as explained the basics of first aid. With great interest the children tried on bulletproof vests and protective helmets. Many participants confidently demonstrated their strength and endurance by performing physical exercises.

Another guest of the meeting were activists of the “Movement of the First”. The guys told the campers about their youth organization, and also offered to perform several interactive tasks.

A psychologist from the Center for Psychological, Pedagogical, Medical and Social Assistance prepared several tests for the children, which helped them to establish relationships with their peers and get to know each other better.

Preventive talks were held in a trusting atmosphere. Children learned not only a lot of useful and important information, but also were able to get acquainted with organized forms of leisure activities. At the end of the meeting, the participants of the specialized shift promised the law enforcement officers to lead a healthy lifestyle, play sports and grow up to be law-abiding citizens.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--plai/news/item/54262123>



IN THE REPUBLIC OF MARI EL POLICE OFFICERS ORGANIZED THE WORK OF THE ANTI-DRUG PLATFORM IN THE YOUTH FORUM “LEARN. DEVELOP. CREATE”



Youth Forum “To learn. Develop. Create” was held within the framework of the All-Russian contest of programs of complex development of youth policy of the Russian Federation ‘Region for the Young’.

Officers of the Drug Control Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Mari El organized the work of the anti-drug platform “Youth and habits”. Young activists and youth leaders of Kuzhnersky district had an interactive conversation about the consequences of actions related to drug trafficking, discussed the questions “How

to protect the younger generation from drugs?”, “My arguments against the use of psychoactive substances”.

Natalia Otmakhova, Head of the Department of Interagency Cooperation in Prevention and Administrative Practice of the Drug Trafficking Control Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Mari El, told the audience about the dangers of using psychotropic and narcotic drugs and explained how to behave in order not to be involved in crimes related to drug trafficking. In addition, the policewoman reminded the audience of the administrative and criminal responsibility for participation in drug distribution and called for law-abiding behavior.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--plai/news/item/54281245>



POLICE OFFICERS AND PUBLIC ACTIVISTS ORGANIZED AN ANTI-DRUG EVENT FOR CHILDREN’S CAMP DETACHMENTS AS PART OF THE “VACATIONS WITH THE PUBLIC COUNCIL” CAMPAIGN IN THE LIPETSK REGION



As part of the All-Russian campaign of the Russian Ministry of Internal Affairs “Vacations with the Public Council”, officers of the Drug Control Department of the Lipetsk Regional UMVD, together with a team of volunteers from the Lipetsk Regional Council of Leaders, organized an anti-drug event dedicated to leading a healthy lifestyle for young campers at the Berezka camp. The talk was organized in the format of an interactive game. The participants had to toss dice and, based on the number that fell out, pass the playing field. After that

they pulled out a sheet with a task and discussed possible variants of its solution. Having answered correctly, the players moved forward, receiving advice from a police officer. The police officers explained to the children how destructive the influence of illegal substances is for the health and life of the younger generation.

The creative task for the campers was to make a poster “Me and a healthy lifestyle”. All children took this work very seriously. In a colorful form, the participants told about the harm caused to the human body by drugs and urged everyone through their drawings to follow the daily regimen, healthy eating and active sports activities.

At the end of the event, volunteers introduced the participants to the process of plastic recycling, and then each of them made a souvenir on a bicycle shredder.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--plai/news/item/54317019>



POLICE OFFICERS CARRY OUT PREVENTIVE MEASURES IN CHILDREN’S HEALTH CAMPS IN THE REPUBLIC OF MARI EL WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CAMP - HEALTH TERRITORY CAMPAIGN



Officers of the Drug Control Department hold events aimed at popularizing healthy lifestyles.

The main purpose of the events is to inform children about the harmful effects of bad habits, prevent the spread of drug addiction among minors and promote a healthy lifestyle.

Officers of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Mari El, together with representatives of prevention organizations, carry out anti-drug activities in children’s health camps. In August of this year, such events were held in the children’s health camp “Lesnaya Skazka” and

the social rehabilitation center “Zhuravushka”.

Employees of the Drug Control Department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Mari El told the teenagers about the rules of safe behavior and provided information about the legal consequences of actions related to illegal drug trafficking. Specialists of the Republican Narcological Dispensary demonstrated to the minors the consequences of using psychoactive substances. Volunteers also told the children about healthy lifestyle skills and clearly demonstrated forms of active pastime.

At the end of the event, an employee of the Center of Canine Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Mari El demonstrated the tactics of the service dog to search for drugs, after which everyone was able to ask questions and get comprehensive answers to them.

<https://xn--b1aew.xn--plai/news/item/54552143>

REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

UZ DAILY

MEETING WITH UNODC DELEGATION
TAKES PLACE IN THE SENATE

Dilorom Tashmukhamedova, Deputy Chairperson of the Youth, Culture, and Sports Committee of the Senate of the Oliy Majlis, met with Milos Stojanovic, Regional Health Advisor of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and Vadih Maalouf, Head of the UNODC PTRS Program on Prevention, Treatment, and Rehabilitation.

During the meeting, the parties discussed the reforms being implemented in Uzbekistan to combat the negative impact of illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances on the health and genetic pool of the population.

Dilorom Tashmukhamedova provided information about the laws adopted by the Senate to prevent the use of drugs and psychotropic substances among youth and children, strengthen their mental health, and the results of control and analytical activities.

Milos Stojanovic and Vadih Maalouf presented prospective projects and new areas of cooperation, as well as plans for further development of collaboration with Uzbekistan in the fields of drug prevention, addiction treatment, and combating drug-related diseases.

Representatives of the Republican Psycho-Pedagogical Center, the Republican Specialized Narcological Scientific and Practical Medical Center, and the Republican AIDS Center also participated in the discussions. They shared their opinions and suggestions regarding joint plans and international activities.

The meeting concluded with a detailed exchange of views on the plans for the joint implementation of initiatives by the Senate of the Oliy Majlis and UNODC.

<https://www.uzdaily.uz/ru/v-senate-proshla-vstrecha-s-delegatsiei-unodc/>

COLOMBIA

COLOMBIAN AUTHORITIES DEVELOP PROJECTS
TO REPLACE COCA WITH LICIT CROPS

The Colombian government is developing initiatives to shift farmers from coca cultivation to legal crops in order to combat drug trafficking. This is reported by the Prensa Latina news agency.

According to it, Colombia is implementing programs to replace coca plantations with licit crops in order to provide farmers with alternative sources of income and reduce dependence on the illicit business.

In the first phase, the Colombian authorities have allocated about 20 million dollars. It is indicated that part of this amount will be used for the supply of equipment and tools, as well as technical support and marketing.

It is reported that cacao production is being considered as an alternative to coca cultivation by farmers. In this way, the Colombian government is trying to help farmers integrate into the legal economy by guaranteeing a stable income.

Colombian President Gustavo Petro came to power in 2022. At that time, he emphasized that the years-long fight against drugs waged by Washington and Bogota had failed. He said he would find a new approach to solve the crisis. According to the UN, in 2022 the area of land planted with coca in Colombia rose to 230 000 hectares, which could lead to the production of a record 1700 tons of cocaine in a year.

<https://rg.ru/2024/08/25/vlasti-kolumbii-razrabatyvaiut-proekty-po-zamene-koki-zakonnymi-kulturami.html>



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