



# INFORMATION RELEASE

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

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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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In the period from 26 February to 10 March 2024, 14 events in counternarcotics were covered by mass media in CARICC Member States and other countries (*Azerbaijan -4, Kazakhstan - 3, Kyrgyzstan - 3, Russia - 1, Tajikistan - 1, Turkmenistan - 1, Uzbekistan -1*).

Published articles include information on a preventive talk to schoolchildren at a winter camp about the harm of drugs, an educational event at Penitentiary No. 2, a preventive event at Penitentiary No. 17, and a talk to students about the harm of drugs (*Azerbaijan*), on a lecture given to college students by MIA officers, on a preventive lecture on teenage drug addiction in Pavlodar, on a speech by a deputy about the growth of drug business (*Kazakhstan*), a training session with personnel of the security service of the Oktyabrsky district, a talk with drivers of heavy vehicles on responsibility for drug transportation, a meeting of competent authorities of Central Asia and USA (*Kyrgyzstan*), on increasing numbers of drug screenings among adolescents in St. Petersburg (*Russia*), on increased checks on the border with Uzbekistan (*Tajikistan*), on meeting of delegations of the Russian Federation and Turkmenistan (*Turkmenistan*), on adoption of draft law against drugs (*Uzbekistan*).

## REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN



### YOUTH AT THE SHAMAKHI CAMP WERE INFORMED ABOUT RISK FACTORS FOR DRUG USE



In accordance with the Plan of joint actions signed between working group of the State Commission and the Youth Foundation to strengthen anti-drug propaganda, public association «social integration of boarding school graduates» organized a winter camp for children left without parental care in Shamakhi district from 23 to 26 February, and trainings were held for graduates of boarding schools with integration education among students.

At the training, responsible employees of the State Commission's working group, in order to raise awareness among young people about the problem of drug addiction, provided extensive information on risk factors of drug use, properties of psychoactive substances and their harmful effects on health, stages of drug addiction formation, the importance of anti-drug propaganda, methods of combating drug addiction, as well as discussed issues of interest to participants.

At the same time, the camp participants were provided with necessary promotional materials «know the truth about drugs», «the truth about marijuana» and «the truth about psychotropic substances», prepared by the working group of the State Commission.

<https://nmdk.gov.az/page/post/3147/Samaxida-kecirilen-dusergede-gencler-narkotik-vasitelerden-istifadenin-risk-amilleri-barede-melumatlandirilib>



**AN EDUCATIONAL EVENT WAS HELD IN PENITENTIARY INSTITUTION NO. 2.**



As part of the implementation of the Action Plan signed between the Penitentiary Service of the Ministry of Justice and the permanent working group of the State Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs, an educational event on the fight against drug addiction was organized in Penitentiary Institution No. 2.

The event was attended by the deputy head of working group of the State Commission, a medical expert from the Main Department for Combating Drugs of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the State Committee for Family, Women and Children, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, a psychologist from the Republican Centre for Narcology of the Ministry of

Health, and an official from the Department for Organization of Educational Work of the Penitentiary Service of the Ministry of Justice.

The meeting provided detailed information on the prevention of drug-related crimes, as well as on the devastating effects of drugs on the human body, the social disasters they cause and the role of the state in organizing the fight in this direction, the rehabilitation and reintegration into society of convicts affected by drugs, and the spread of AIDS and a number of infectious diseases.

Extensive discussions around the issues were held at the end and the necessary advocacy materials prepared by the State Commission's working group were distributed to the participants.

<https://nmdk.gov.az/page/post/3148/Penitensiar-Xidmetin-2-sayli-cezacekme-muessisesinde-maariflendirici-tedbir-kecirilib>



**ANOTHER EDUCATIONAL EVENT AGAINST DRUG ADDICTION WAS ORGANIZED IN PENITENTIARY INSTITUTION NO. 17**



As part of the implementation of the Action Plan signed between the Penitentiary Service of the Ministry of Justice and the permanent working group of the State Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs, a regular educational event on the topic of combating drug addiction was organized in Penitentiary Institution No. 17 on 28 February this year.

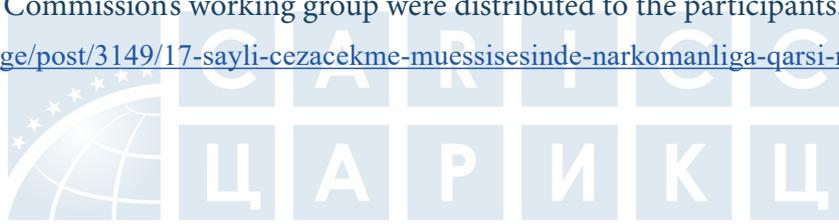
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The meeting provided detailed information on the prevention of drug-related crimes, as well as on the devastating effects of drugs on the human body, the social disasters they cause and the role of the state in organizing the fight in this direction, the rehabilitation and reintegration into society of convicts affected by drugs, and the spread of AIDS and a number of infectious diseases.

Extensive discussions around the questions were held at the end and the necessary «know the truth about drugs», «the truth about marijuana» and «the truth about psychotropic substances» advocacy materials prepared by the State Commission's working group were distributed to the participants.

<https://nmdk.gov.az/page/post/3149/17-sayli-cezacekme-muessisesinde-narkomanliga-qarsi-novbeti-maariflendirme-tedbiri-teskil-olunub>



## STUDENTS WERE INFORMED ABOUT DANGERS OF DRUGS



On joint initiative of permanent working group of the State Commission on Combating Drug Addiction and Illicit Drug Trafficking and branch No. 4 of the Surakhani District Centralized Library System of the Main Department of Culture of Baku City, the Mirzaagi Aliyev House of Culture of Govsan settlement held an action «Save our future from white death! Mirzaagi Aliyev House of Culture of Govsan settlement named after Mirzaagi Aliyev held an action «Save our future from white death!».

Executive officers of the working group of the State Commission,

executive authorities of Surakhani district, Surakhani district police department and other speakers delivered speeches at the event, where they talked about upbringing and education of teenagers and youth, increasing their interest in science, education and sports, importance of protecting them from bad habits, addiction caused by drug use and as a consequence, dependence of a person on family, society and turning him/her into a useless person for the society, he provided extensive information about the State Commission's working group, the executive authorities of Surakhani district, Surakhani district police department and other speakers.

At the same time, the camp participants 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 working group of the State Commission.

<https://nmdk.gov.az/page/post/3150/Sagirdler-narkotik-vasitelerin-saglamliga-vurdugu-zererler-barede-maariflendirilib>

## REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN



## MIA OFFICERS GAVE A LECTURE ON THE HARM OF DRUGS TO COLLEGE STUDENTS



As part of preventive work on combating drug crime, officers of DPN MVD in the College of Management, Business and Education of Astana held a regular lecture on «Distribution and use of narcotic drugs and consequences».

Lecture classes are held on an ongoing basis under the motto «Together for a drug-free future» as part of the implementation of preventive measures of the Comprehensive Plan to Combat Drug Addiction and Drug Trafficking for 2023-2025.

The purpose of this event is to prevent and suppress the spread of drug addiction among young people and to raise awareness of the inevitability of consequences for committing drug offenses.

The lecture showed video materials about the harm of synthetic drugs and psychotropic substances, their severe consequences for human health and life.

Students were interested in the work of the canine service of the police, learned about the possibilities of using service dogs in the fight against drug trafficking. The students were also shown the work of service dogs in detecting drug odor imitators bookmarks.

- Such events are one of the ways to instill anti-drug immunity in young people, as well as to raise their legal awareness of the measures of criminal responsibility for participation in drug trafficking, advertising or propaganda of drug use,» explained Almas Kuntuov, head of the canine unit of the Department for Combating Drug Crime of the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

<https://polisia.kz/ru/lektsiyu-o-vrede-narkotikov-proveli-studentam-kolledzha-sotrudniki-mvd/>

## PREVENTION OF TEENAGE DRUG ADDICTION: A MEETING WITH STUDENTS WAS HELD AT A SCHOOL IN PAVLODAR



A meeting with Nurzhan Baiburinov, Head of the Department for Combating Drug Crime of the Pavlodar City PD, was held at the end of February at the secondary school No. 39 of innovative type with gymnasium classes.

Smoking, alcoholism and drug addiction in today's world are too «young». Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that yesterday a very modest and polite child from a well-to-do family will not take the wrong path. The influence of teachers and mass media is of great importance today

in the prevention of teenage drug addiction.

- The greatest value in a family is the health and well-being of the child. But the reality is that more and more children are getting involved in psychoactive substances. Since elementary school, at class hours, at various extracurricular activities, we touch upon this problem, talk about the consequences and deal with certain situations,» says Shynar Zhangazina, deputy head of educational work.

Various lectures, open dialogues, interactive classes, contests, actions, round tables, during which videos and documentaries on the harm of drugs are shown, are organized on a regular basis by the police in educational institutions of the region. At the end of February, a regular meeting with students of grades 9-11 was held at the secondary school No. 39 of innovative type with gymnasium classes. Mr. Nurzhan Baiburinov, Head of the Department for Combating Drug Crime of the Pavlodar City PD was invited.

Children of this age are explained in simple language how addiction to drugs occurs, how the life of addicted people changes, about fatal overdoses of «synthetics». And why the problems of drug addicts are a disaster for their families and friends.

What their growing child does in his free time, with whom he is friends, on what topics he communicates on the phone and in social networks - usually it is out of the field of vision of fathers and mothers. But this is where the trap may be waiting. The most insidious and attractive - the opportunity to earn their own money. Not just for pocket money, and serious, which can be used to buy a phone. To do this, you «only» need to sell the «product».

Students took active part in discussing the problem and asked questions to the specialist. Drugs are a problem that is easier to prevent. And the best way of prevention is to pay attention to the teenager, to his life and to his problems.

- Be a friend to your child and maybe then he won't want to «try it once». Ask yourself right now, when was the last time you spent time with him, when you discussed his problems, do you know who he is in love with and who he is friends with. If not, remedy the situation sooner rather than later. Your child really needs you,» says Maxim Postoyalko, a psychologist at School No. 39.

<https://polisia.kz/ru/profilaktika-podrostkovoj-narkomanii-vstrechu-s-uchashhimisya-proveli-v-odnoj-iz-shkol-pavlodara/>



Senate deputy Gennady Shipovskikh at the plenary session of the chamber on 29 February 2024 said about the growth of drug business in Kazakhstan.

Gennady Shipovskikh pointed out risks of drug use among young people.

«We cannot keep young people away from the new trend of synthetic drug use. They pose a very serious threat to our public health, economy, law and order and security. This problem did not happen yesterday or today,» he

stated.

Citing data from the Prosecutor General's Office, the senator said that from 2021 to 2023, criminal cases were brought against 1,021 people for distributing synthetic drugs. Of these, 246 were prosecuted in 2021, 314 in 2022 and 461 in 2023. At the same time, the volume of seizures of synthetic drugs increased from 100 kg to 1 ton. That is, in 2021 the total confiscation volume was 100 kg and in 2023 it was 1 ton 100 kg.

In addition, the deputy added, law enforcement agencies identified activities of 17 in 2021, 68 in 2022 and 81 drug laboratories in 2023.

«Of course, this is a very terrible statistic. From the above statistics we can see that response has intensified, but there is also increase in drug trafficking. As this sphere becomes developed, we are losing our youth and conscious generation,» Gennady Shipovskikh noted.

In this connection, he proposes to discuss the creation of a separate institution that would carry out special anti-drug activities, directly subordinate to the president. Such state bodies, Gennady Shipovskikh pointed out, exist in neighboring Russia and Argentina.

The senator also pointed out the need to strengthen work on websites that advertise the sale of synthetic drugs and strictly punish advertisers, as well as to intensify measures to clarify the responsibility for the distribution of drugs among young people and the consequences of the desire for easy money.

<https://www.zakon.kz/obshestvo/6426045-my-teryuem-molodezh-na-rost-narkobiznesa-v-kazakhstane-ukazal-deputat.html>

**KYRGYZ REPUBLIC**



**CNS MVD OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC CONDUCTED TRAINING SESSIONS FOR PERSONNEL OF SECURITY SERVICE OF THE OKTYABRSKY DISTRICT**



Officers of the Counter NARcotics Service of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic conducted training for personnel of security service of the Oktyabrsky district on the topic: «Prevention of drug use in the Kyrgyz Republic»..

The lecture was aimed at increasing the knowledge of police officers in this area, the importance of preventive work.

In the course of the training officers touched upon issues related to drug trafficking offenses, the role of internal affairs bodies in preventive activities in accordance with the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic «On the Basics of Prevention of Offenses».

Drug addiction, which negatively affects all spheres of life of mankind, was also discussed.

CNS MVD noted that it provides ongoing advisory and methodological assistance in the area of drug trafficking.

<https://mvd.gov.kg/rus/news/2939>



**CNS MVD OF THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC WARNED DRIVERS OF HEAVY TRUCKS OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR DRUG TRANSPORTATION**



In the context of preventive measures officers of CNS at parking lot for drivers of heavy vehicles «Zhibek-Zholu» with the use of service dogs named «Badi» and «Hector» in cooperation with representatives of the logistics company «Cargo Osh» conducted awareness-raising with drivers of vehicles (vans) traveling to the CIS countries, as well as neighboring and distant foreign countries.

Officers of CNS MVD of the Kyrgyz Republic warned drivers to be vigilant when

loading cargo, as the driver is responsible for the cargo in his car.

Emphasizing their attention to Article 285 of the Criminal Code of the Kyrgyz Republic for smuggling of items subject to special rules for transportation across the customs border.

In addition, drivers were told about cases of detention of truck drivers on the territory of neighboring countries with seizure of narcotic drugs in especially large amounts.

The event was attended by about 100 drivers, who were also shown the skills of service dogs in detecting drugs in vehicles and human pockets in the course of the awareness-raising activities.

The drivers, in turn, expressed their willingness to actively cooperate with the officers of the Service.

CNS MVD calls on all drivers of heavy trucks to be vigilant when transporting various goods and to immediately inform the Service in cases of suspicious behavior.

<https://mvd.gov.kg/rus/news/2944>



**COMPETENT AUTHORITIES OF CENTRAL ASIAN COUNTRIES AND USA DISCUSSED COMBATING SYNTHETIC DRUGS**



Representatives of CNS MVD of the Kyrgyz Republic took part in the meeting of the Working Group on Security of the C5+1 format (Central Asia + USA) on 6 March 2024.

Under the agenda of the meeting, participants discussed current threats and challenges related to trafficking and production of synthetic drugs.

During the meeting representatives of CNS noted that synthetic drugs were mainly distributed by transnational criminal groups using information and communication technologies, in particular the Internet, the Darknet, social messengers, cryptocurrencies and electronic payment systems, and encouraged participants to consolidate their efforts to curb their illicit activities.

Following the meeting participants agreed to intensify cooperation in combating the drug threat, in particular to conduct coordinated joint activities to curb international drug trafficking, share experience and information, including on the emergence of new synthetic drugs.

<https://mvd.gov.kg/rus/news/2971>

## RUSSIAN FEDERATION

NUMBER OF DRUG SCREENINGS AMONG TEENAGERS  
INCREASED IN ST. PETERSBURG

Drug addiction rates in St. Petersburg decreased over 2023, according to the city's health care committee.

«The level of primary morbidity of narcological disorders in St. Petersburg at the end of 2023 amounted to 32.1 per 100 thousand population. It decreased in comparison with 2022 - then the indicator amounted to 35.1 per 100 thousand population», - stated in the message.

It is noted that by the end of 2023 in the structure of primary morbidity of drug addiction in the first place is the combined use of psychoactive substances (45.7%), in the second place - the use of psychostimulants (29.2%), in the third place - the use of opium drugs (20.1%).

In 2018 opioid users accounted for 45.2% of the primary incidence of substance abuse, co-occurring substance use was 28.8%, and psychostimulant use was 19.6%.

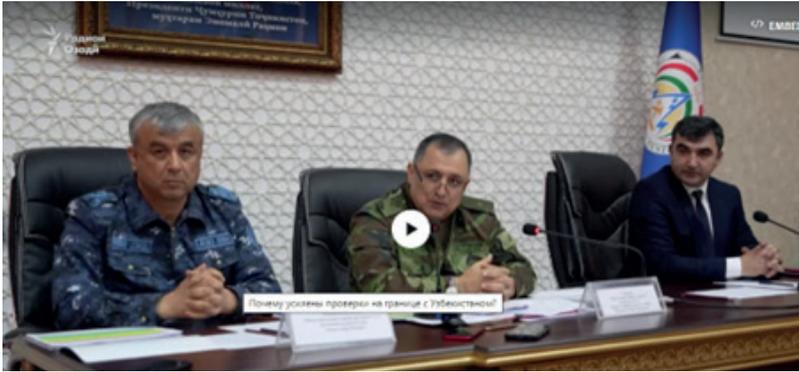
It is clarified that much attention in the work of the drug addiction service is paid to prevention and early detection of substance users.

«Organized preventive examinations in educational organizations. In 2023, more than four thousand students underwent preventive examinations, two positive results were revealed. In 2022, about one thousand students underwent examinations,» the report says.

In addition, the City Narcology Hospital has a motivational group. In 2023, the group attracted 1.5 thousand patients to receive drug treatment. Last year, 4.2 thousand consultations were conducted in the office for the prevention of drug use disorders.

<https://www.interfax-russia.ru/northwest/main/chislo-profosmotrov-sredi-podrostkov-na-narkotiki-uvlicheno-v-peterburge>

## REPUBLIC OF TAJIKISTAN

**DRUG TRAFFICKING. TAJIKISTAN STEPPED UP CHECKS ON THE BORDER WITH UZBEKISTAN**

The growing number of drug detections and seizures at Tajikistan's border crossings with Uzbekistan became one of the reasons for a controversy between journalists and the heads of the Drug Control Agency's Directorate in Sughd Province and the Regional Customs Directorate for the province.

According to Zafar Makhmadiev, head of the Customs Department, at the end of 2023 a resident of Istaravshan was detained at the

Fotehobod border checkpoint trying to export more than 71 kilograms of heroin on a cargo truck along with Coca-Cola beverages.

«We tracked the route of this vehicle to the Fotehobod checkpoint and then conducted an inspection. For three days our officers searched for drugs in the cargo with the help of service dogs, and finally found them,» he said.

According to Makhmadiev, the case was probed by investigators from the prosecutor's office and no official information about results of the investigation has been published.

At the same time, in August 2023 press service of the customs department of the Tashkent region of Uzbekistan reported that at the Oybek checkpoint, where cars enter from the Fotehobod checkpoint after crossing the Tajik border, a car was detained in which more than 55 kg of drugs concealed in a gas tank and a gas cylinder (52.8 kg of hashish, more than 2 kg of heroin and a glue tube with 950 g of synthetic drugs) were attempted to be brought into Uzbekistan.

Commenting on this arrest, Zafar Makhmadiev said that «there is drug trafficking all over the world. It is impossible to prevent this flow. And if there is a drug inside the car, and the service dog could not detect it, how can a person then detect this substance? And therefore, a case was brought against two of our employees. They resigned.»

Tajikistan and Uzbekistan have 13 border crossing points between them. The multilateral border crossing point «Fotekhobod - Oibek», located in Matcha district, is considered to be a major border crossing point between the neighboring countries.

In the past, when Uzbek customs officers detained drugs in cars entering Uzbekistan from the Tajik side, these cases caused hours of delays for hundreds of citizens crossing the border and harassment by Uzbek law enforcement agencies.

Safarali Olimzoda, acting head of the DCA Department in Sughd region, said: «It is true that drugs have been seized in Uzbekistan. But this was not a reason for our citizens on the other side to be harassed. We have no such information. We have strengthened control from our side, organized checks using capabilities of our canine service, all vehicles passing through the checkpoints are thoroughly checked».

This discourse, amid numerous reports by state media and social media of drug trafficking cases, led journalists in conversation with officials to suggest that such growth was not possible without the involvement of influential people in drug trafficking.

<https://rus.ozodlik.org/a/32850009.html>

## TURKMENISTAN

**DELEGATIONS OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION AND TURKMENISTAN  
DISCUSSED ASPECTS OF COUNTER-TERRORISM AGENDA**

Parties stressed the need to consolidate global efforts in countering ISIS and other international terrorist organizations

Russian delegation headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Vershinin and a delegation from Turkmenistan headed by Deputy Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan discussed relevant topics of the international counter-terrorism agenda within the framework of consultations on countering new challenges and threats. This is reported by the Russian Foreign Ministry.

«The meeting focused on topical aspects of international counter-terrorism agenda,» the ministry said. - They confirmed closeness and coincidence of the two countries' approaches to building work in counter-terrorism area under the central coordinating role of the UN and its Security Council without politicization and «double standards».

According to the diplomatic department, the meeting stressed the need to consolidate global efforts in combating ISIS (banned in Russia) and other international terrorist organizations. «There was a useful exchange of assessments of the state of global and regional terrorist threats. The sides discussed intensification of efforts to prevent and combat terrorism and extremism, drug trafficking in Russia and Turkmenistan,» the Russian Foreign Ministry added.

<https://tass.ru/politika/20133653>

## REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

## podrobno.uz LAWMAKERS PASSED A LAW TO COMBAT DRUGS



Legislative Chamber of Oliy Majlis has approved a bill aimed at combating drugs, Podrobno.uz correspondent reports.

At a regular plenary session deputies of the Legislative Chamber of the Oliy Majlis reviewed a bill aimed at combating illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, their analogs or psychotropic substances, as well as potent and poisonous substances.

People's elected representatives noted the rapid growth of new methods of distribution and advertising via the Internet. One such method is «narco-graffiti», which spreads information about the address of an illegal online store through drawings on walls and sidewalks.

There has also been an increase in the involvement of young people, especially minors, in drug use offenses.

The bill strengthens penalties for trafficking in narcotic and psychotropic drugs using the Internet, in particular for committing these offenses with the participation of minors.

Administrative and criminal liability is also established for the illegal acquisition, storage, transportation or forwarding of narcotic drugs, their analogues or psychotropic substances, potent and toxic substances without the purpose of sale.

<https://podrobno.uz/cat/politic/zakonodateli-odobrili-zakon-po-borbe-s-narkotikami/>



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