

CARICC WEEKLY SUMMARY

(based on mass media reports)

25.05-01.06.2020

№ 22

CARICC MEMBER STATES

REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

01.06.2020 Employees of the Department of Operation and Investigation of the General Customs Administration of the Southern zone at the Bilasuvar customs point of the General Customs Administration of the Southern Areal detained two citizens of Iran, who were smuggling a particularly large shipment of heroin in two DAF trucks transporting raisins from Iran to Austria via Azerbaijan. As a result of customs control with the use of a service dog and the use of technical control means inside the fuel tanks of the trucks were found: in one - 374 liters of liquid containing **143.990 kg of heroin**, in the second - 357 liters of liquid containing **137.445 kg of heroin**. The fuel tanks were divided into two sections, one of which contained hidden drugs. A total of **281,435 kg heroin** was seized from both trucks. <https://customs.gov.az/en/faydali/xeberler/4283/>

REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN

26.05.2020 Police officers in Kostanay detained a local resident and seized **32.8 kg of marijuana** from him. He kept most of it in the observation pit of his garage and his car. The man has been taken into custody. <https://www.nur.kz/1857537-krupnyj-tajnik-s-narkotikami-nasli-v-smotrovoj-ame-garaza-kostanajca.html>

28.05.2020 Employees of UPN DP of the city of Almaty identified and dismantled a laboratory producing mephedrone. A 30-year-old man bought chemical components through the Internet and produced mephedrone at home in Almaty, which was sold through the Internet wholesale. It was discovered that the suspect manufactured and sold about **3-4 consignments of 100-150 g of mephedrone**. Equipment, items and chemicals and other components used in the manufacture of synthetic drugs were also seized. A pre-trial investigation has been registered and the suspect has been placed in custody. <https://www.kt.kz/rus/crime/1377899153.html>

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

26.05.2020 Employees of UNK UMVD of Russia on Ryazan region detained a 27-year-old woman from Ryazan who was engaged in distribution of heroin by using caches. In total, more than **294 g of heroin** prepared for sale were seized. A criminal case has been initiated against the suspect. <https://мвд.рф/news/item/20250482/>

28.05.2020 Employees of UKON GU MVD of Russia in Nizhny Novgorod region with the assistance of a separate battalion of DPS GIBDD of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Russia in Nizhny Novgorod on the M-7 motorway stopped a car driven by a 26-year-old resident of

the Leningrad region, who was an inter-regional drug courier carrying **1.5 kg of mephedrone and 10 kg of methamphetamine** through the Nizhny Novgorod region to Kemerovo. The police found drug bundles during a vehicle search in the luggage area under the mat and in the interior of the vehicle behind the driver's seat. A criminal case has been initiated on this fact. <https://мвд.пф/news/item/20266504>

29.05.2020 The Krasnoyarsk krai Directorate of the Federal Security Service of Russia has stopped an international group of persons who acted as interregional couriers for a federal online store specializing in illegal sale of narcotic drugs. Back in March 2020, two members of the group were detained while transporting illegal substances from Chita to Tyumen. Total amount of **synthetic drug concentrate seized exceeded 30 kg**. It was found that couriers received drugs in Chita from a citizen of a country in the Asia-Pacific region. A criminal case has been initiated against the defendants. <https://ria.ru/20200529/1572152773.html>

REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN

29.05.2020 USGB officers in the Ferghana region stopped a Nexia vehicle at the entrance to Kokand, heading towards Andijan-Kokand. During inspection, **5 kg of hashish** were found in the trunk of the car, which belonged to a 42-year-old resident of Andijan district. It was found that Kyrgyz citizens brought the drugs into Khojaabad district, Andijan region. As a result of measures taken, a 42-year-old resident of Kokand and a 36-year-old resident of Fergana district were detained while receiving drugs in Kokand.

Also, employees of the Khorezm region USGB and Anti-Smuggling Department of the regional Customs Department in the village of Sholikor of Gurlan district inspected a Lacetti car, as a result of which **997 g of opium** belonging to a 40-year-old passenger were found under the front seat.

During similar events in the Republic of Karakalpakstan, two Nukus residents aged 35 and 45 were detained. **291 g of hashish** were seized. It was found that drugs had been imported from Kazakhstan.

In addition, while serving on the Uzbek-Kyrgyz border passing through the village of Uigur in Pakhtaabad district of Andijan region, the SGB border troops found **587 g of hashish** thrown from the Kyrgyz side. Measures are currently being taken to identify the owner of narcotic drugs.

Along with this, in the mentioned area two 30-year-old local residents who had **504 g of hashish** with them were detained by the CGB officers in the border strip. Drugs were also smuggled into Uzbekistan by Kyrgyz citizens through a wire fence on the Uzbek-Kyrgyz border. A total of **6.382 g of hashish and 997 g of opium** were seized. Criminal proceedings have been instituted in connection with these facts.

<https://uznews.uz/ru/article/21171>

29.05.2020 As part of the "Black Poppy-2020" event, officers of the Khatyrchyna district OVD inspected the house and land plot of a 30-year-old resident of Tamabahrin mahalla, who illegally grew cannabis. **224 cannabis** plants with a total weight of **1.7 kg** were detected and seized. <https://uz.sputniknews.ru/incidents/20200529/14243609/V-Navoiyskoy-oblasti-zaderzhali-muzhchinu-za-vyraschivanie-stebley-kannabisa.html>

OTHER COUNTRIES

BULGARIA

29.05.2020 Sofia police found and seized more than **360 kg of cocaine** during a search in an apartment located in the capital. Cocaine was found to have been delivered to the apartment after police initially found and seized **40 kg of cocaine** during a routine car search of a 33-year-old man. Most of cocaine was intended to be smuggled into Western Europe. <https://www.novinite.com/articles/204673/AP%3A+More+Than+360+kg+of+Cocaine+were+Found+in+an+Apartment+in+Sofia>

BRAZIL

28.05.2020 Federal Revenue Service (IRS) Customs confiscated **128.4 kg of cocaine** in the port of Itajai. Drugs were found in two containers carrying corn destined for Libya. The seized shipment was sent to the Federal Police for further investigation.

<https://g1.globo.com/sc/santa-catarina/noticia/2020/05/28/receita-apreende-128-kg-de-cocaina-em-carga-de-milho-no-porto-de-itajai.ghtml>

<https://www.nsctotal.com.br/colunistas/dagmara-spautz/receita-federal-encontra-128-quilos-de-cocaina-em-carga-de-milho-no-porto>

30.05.2020 As a result of a joint action of the Federal Police (PF) and the Federal Highway Police (PRF) on the BR 116 motorway to Caxias do Sul, police officers found signs of a modification of a semi-trailer body during inspection of a truck with a semitrailer. After removing the floor of the semi-trailer, 188 packages containing about **200 kg of cocaine base paste** were found in the semi-trailer. The 49-year-old driver was arrested at the scene and sent to the Federal Police station in Caxias do Sul together with drugs and the vehicle.

http://www.pf.gov.br/imprensa/noticias/2020/05-noticias-de-maio/policia-federal-e-prf-apreendem-caminhao-com-cerca-de-200-quilos-de-cocaina-em-caxias-do-sul/@nitf_custom_galleria

UNITED KINGDOM

24.05.2020 Border guards officers in Dover prevented an attempt to smuggle a large cocaine consignment into the UK. Officers stopped a truck registered in Poland on the eastern docks of Dover. As a result of search of the vehicle, about **80 kg of cocaine** were found, one part of drugs was hidden behind wooden panels and the other in the side locker of the trailer. The seized shipment was worth approximately £7 million. Investigation has been referred to the National Crime Agency (NCA). The Polish citizen is charged with attempting to import Class A drugs. <https://www.kentonline.co.uk/dover/news/80-kilos-of-cocaine-found-in-lorry-227992/>

INDIA

28.05.2020 Punjab police in the Tarn Taran border area seized **8 kg of heroin**. Drug was in plastic bottles and hidden in a stash in a wheat field over a barbed-wire fence near Rattoke village in Bihovind, on the India-Pakistan border. A resident of Rattok village has been arrested. Police suspect that drugs were smuggled across the border.

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/punjab-police-seize-8-kg-heroin-in-tarn-taran-near-indo-pak-border/story-CAu9IbODEUSDYkIgMUoAaM.html>

IRAQ

27.05.2020 Members of the Anti-Narcotics Department of the Soran region in Erbil, Kurdistan, seized **2.175 kg of heroin and methamphetamine** in three operations. Six people were arrested. The Kurdish and Iraqi authorities often intercept consignments of such controlled substances passing through the country, mainly in Basra, Diyala, Erbil and Suleimani provinces, especially in border areas with Iran and Turkey. Most drugs are smuggled into the region through the Iranian border on their way to Turkey, Syria and Europe. Authorities warn of an increase in drug abuse in Iraq itself.

<https://www.kurdistan24.net/en/news/ff338c74-7d58-4fbb-b5cf-0382d45767a6>

IRAN

29.05.2020 From 23 to 29 May, the Iranian Anti-Narcotics Police seized **11,261 tons of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, including 582 kg of heroin, 9,299 tons of opium, 23 kg of methamphetamine, 13 kg of morphine, 1,337 kg of hashish and 7 kg of other narcotic drugs**¹.

SPAIN

25.05.2020 Agents of the Guipuscoa Civil Guard found a truck on the 12th border of the Irun toll highway carrying **40 kg of hashish**. Drug was hidden in a cache equipped in the double bottom of a trailer. The truck, which arrived from Croatia, was transporting pallets with boxes of wine for export to Germany and entered Spain through the Junker border area. It went to the south of Spain, where it loaded the drugs. It subsequently loaded legal goods in Castilla-La Mancha and headed for France, where it was intercepted by Civil Guard agents. The driver, a Croatian citizen, was detained. <https://www.europapress.es/euskadi/noticia-intervienen-40-kilos-hachis-escondidos-camion-frontera-peaje-irun-gipuzkoa-20200525141638.html>

28.05.2020 In a joint operation, National Police and Revenue Agency customs officers discovered **33 kg of cocaine** hidden in a fruit container that had arrived from South Africa. The final destination of the container was Italy, with the port of Luz and Las Palmas as an intermediate destination. Packages of cocaine were hidden inside the container's cooling system. <https://www.canarias7.es/siete-islas/gran-canaria/las-palmas-de-gran-canaria/intervenidos-33-kilogramos-de-cocaina-en-un-contenedor-de-fruta-BD9261614>

MEXICO

26.05.2020 Secretariat of the Mexican Navy, the Coast Guard at the port of Ensenada, in coordination with the Office of the Attorney General and the Maritime Customs Service of Ensenada, seized about 169,505 kg of precursors of narcotic drugs that were inside a container loaded with soap powder unloaded from the KURE container ship from China. Three bags of **N-phenyl-4-piperidine-amine (NPP)** and **four bags of 4-n-phenethylpiperidine (ANPP)**, totalling **169.505 kg**, were found in the container among legal cargo bags. These substances are used as chemical precursors to develop products analogous to fentanyl.

¹ Data provided by liaison officer of the Anti-Narcotics Police of the Islamic Republic of Iran.



<https://termapolis.com.mx/detallenota.php?idn=44148> <https://twitter.com/hashtag/semar>

CHINA

25.05.2020 Hong Kong Customs officers seized **217 kg of cocaine**. The drug packages were concealed in an aircraft engine case delivered in a transport container from Ecuador. Drug was discovered by scanning a container at Hong Kong International Airport. Government Flight Service (GFS) personnel were invited to inspect the engine at the Kwai Chung cargo area. Outer shell of the combustion chamber was painted with fresh paint. Officers had to drill a hole in the chamber surface and then use a boroscope to examine it. This seizure was facilitated by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

<https://sg.news.yahoo.com/hong-kong-customs-nearly-us-163526237.html>

https://www.news.gov.hk/eng/2020/05/20200526/20200526_161901_288.html?type=ticker

PERU

27.05.2020 Counter-Narcotics Department agents seized more than **172.98 kg of cocaine** during an operation at the port terminal of Callao. While inspecting the Valparaiso Express container ship under the German flag, agents found a black plastic bag with four bags inside, containing 161 bags of cocaine. The Peruvian anti-drug service (DIRANDRO PNC) will continue its legal proceedings and investigation.

<https://ojo.pe/policia/policia-incauta-mas-de-172-kilos-de-cocaina-en-el-callao-noticia/>

<https://twitter.com/PoliciaPeru/status/1265767052696002561>

USA

31.05.2020 U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents with the assistance of the Office of Field Operations (OFO) at Hidalgo International Bridge, Texas, as a result of three separate, unrelated incidents:

- 1) On May 28 detained a 52-year-old U.S. citizen at the Hidalgo-Reynos International Bridge in an attempt to smuggle **32.9 kg of methamphetamine** from Mexico in a Ford van;
- 2) On May 31 detained three U.S. citizens - two women aged 38 and 50 and a 28-year-old man - at Farr International Bridge. They were attempting to smuggle **5.02 kg of methamphetamine** hidden in a battery while driving a GMC SUV;
- 3) detained a 27-year-old U.S. citizen driving a Ford Fusion from Mexico at the same border crossing point while attempting to import **5.08 kg of methamphetamine** hidden in car battery.

All drugs and vehicles are confiscated. Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) agents have taken custody of suspected drug smugglers and are continuing investigation.

<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-field-operations-seizes-nearly-2-million-methamphetamine-hidalgo>

TURKEY

29.05.2020 Police operations in the Gurpinar district of eastern Van province detected and seized **670 kg of heroin**. Counter-narcotics teams searched the suspect's residential address and found eight bags of 480 packages of heroin in the ground near his home.

<https://www.yenisafak.com/en/news/police-seize-670-kg-of-heroin-in-eastern-turkey-3530648>

UKRAINE

28.05.2020 An attempt was made in Kiev to assassinate Radoje Zvicera, who is wanted internationally as a leader of a Montenegrin drug cartel that supplies drug to most European countries. A group of four citizens of Northern Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia have been detained by the National Police in Odessa on suspicion of assassination attempt on Radoje Zvicera, one of whom is on international wanted list for participation in a contract killing. Radoje Zvicera is the alleged leader of the Montenegrin criminal clan Kavac. The assassination attempt is believed to have resulted from a rivalry for redistribution of spheres of influence within the clan or between the Balkan Kavac and Scalari criminal clans for control over cocaine smuggling from South America. Both clans originating from Kotor, on the Adriatic coast of Montenegro, were formerly part of the same international criminal organization responsible for drug smuggling from South America. In 2014, Kavac and Scalari reportedly split up after a failed cocaine deal in Spain. That led to a split that has since deepened and involved criminal groups of Serbs and Montenegrins in the confrontation. The suspects arrived in Ukraine in early May, purchased cars and weapons and began preparing for the crime. The police established a route by which they planned to flee the country, heading towards the border with Moldova via Odessa, where they were detained.

<https://www.occrp.org/en/daily/12424-montenegrin-crime-boss-shot-in-ukraine-suspects-arrested>

<https://korrespondent.net/ukraine/4234117-ranenyi-v-kyeve-avtorytet-yz-chernohoryy-v-krytycheskom-sostoianyy-smy>

<http://pressorg24.com/news?id=524763>

Video: <https://tsn.ua/ru/ukrayina/killery-neudachniki-posle-pokusheniya-na-glavarya-narkokartelya-chut-ne-sgoreli-a-potom-ne-smogli-ubezhat-ot-pravoohraniteley-1555110.html>

ECUADOR

28.05.2020 The Ecuadorian National Police, through the National Anti-Drug Authority and its El Oro subzone unit, conducted Operation El Cambio in Machala, which resulted in the seizure of **59.3 kg of cocaine** hidden in ventilation ducts of containers. During a container inspection at TECNIAGREX, a banana export company, one container was found with its final destination in the port of Hayenham, California, United States of America. The cocaine packs found had the "168" logo. <https://www.policiaecuador.gob.ec/policia-incauta-59-3-kilos-de-cocaina-ocultos-en-ductos-de-ventilacion-de-contenedor/>