



## Narcotics, Organized Crime & Security in Eurasia Weekly Digest: November 1-7 2004

The following are summaries of articles related to narcotics and security in the Central Asian 5 and Afghanistan. Where possible, web addresses for the entire article are provided...

**Quote of the week:** "I saw soldiers who could hardly walk from hunger and were wearing threadbare uniforms... I thought, how can an army like this protect Tajikistan?" Tajik pensioner Darvesh Jaborov on the state of the Tajik military - [http://www.iwpr.net/index.pl?archive/rca2/rca2\\_324\\_2\\_eng.txt](http://www.iwpr.net/index.pl?archive/rca2/rca2_324_2_eng.txt).

### **Formalities completed**

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Hamid Karzai was formally confirmed as the winner of Afghanistan's presidential election on Wednesday, after the panel investigating problems in the October 9 election announced that these had not affected the result. Karzai received 55.4% of the vote, his nearest rival Muhammad Yunus Qanooni 16.3%. Meanwhile, three UN workers kidnapped last week remain as hostages and the group holding them – calling itself Jaish-e Muslimeen – has extended their Wednesday noon deadline because they "are hopeful about negotiations", as one member put it on a phone to Reuters.

"Karzai formally named winner of Afghan presidential election"; <http://www.afgha.com/?af=article&sid=46808> 03/11/04

### **Just like we did in Colombia**

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Apparently seeking to apply one of the tactics used against Colombian drug trade figures, American officials have suggested that they will seek extradition of drug lords in Afghanistan, in order to circumvent major problems in Afghanistan's prisons and courts. "We think this will really scare these guys", said one official, speaking about key suspects that the director of the Interior Ministry's Counter-Narcotics Division had promised to name after Karzai was sworn in as President.

"US ready to drag Afghan drug lords before American courts", New Zealand Herald, 04/11/04

### **An effective fighting force?**

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In recent months, Tajikistan's government has moved to address the widespread problems involved in recruiting for the country's army. Nine senior military personnel have been sacked and one of these convicted by a military court for various breaches of rules on enlistment. Examples are the forcible conscription of the unfit and purchasing conscripts gathered by police. The army is finding it difficult to reach recruitment targets because of the drain of young Tajiks to Russia for work and the widespread desire to dodge the compulsory 2-year service. One popular method for doing so is to enroll at university and then emigrate upon graduation – "I would rather go to university for five years than serve two in the army", said one student, citing the harshness of life as a conscript. Ironically, some of those seized and conscripted are sold on to rich businessmen as low-paid labour. "We all thought my neighbour's son was serving in the army, but then we found that he was building a house with other boys for a [wealthy] Tajik", said a resident of Dushanbe.

IWPR, "Tajik army abuses tackled", [http://www.iwpr.net/index.pl?archive/rca2/rca2\\_324\\_2\\_eng.txt](http://www.iwpr.net/index.pl?archive/rca2/rca2_324_2_eng.txt), 05/11/04

## Extradition competition

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Kazakhstan has apparently extradited three of its residents to Uzbekistan, where they are wanted for involvement in terrorist acts. In something of a swap, Uzbekistan extradited two people already convicted of terrorist involvement to Kazakhstan, where they were requested as witnesses in a different investigation.

Eurasianet.org "Uzbek, Kazakh cooperation on terrorism suspects",  
<http://www.eurasianet.org/resource/uzbekistan/hypermail/news/0003.shtml>, 03/11/04

## ICG on Turkmenistan

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The ICG has released a report on Turkmenistan, arguing against the continuation of policies of quiet diplomacy and arguing for a harder line from foreign countries and international organizations. The full report and executive summary is available at <http://www.crisisweb.org/home/index.cfm?l=1&id=3091>.

## The first of a different kind of trafficking

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Tajikistan has applied its laws against human trafficking for the first time. A court convicted a mother to 14 years in jail for sexually exploiting her adopted daughter, having taken her to Dubai, Iran and Turkey to use her for prostitution.

"Tajik court applies human trafficking law for first time", RFE/RL 05/11/04

## Still trying to beat the stigma in Kyrgyzstan...

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A book released in 1999 to help Kyrgyz teachers educate students on a healthy lifestyle has been the subject of an argument since, and it continues today with a group of conservative activists attempting to sue one of the book's authors for \$100,000. The bone of contention is the book's two chapters on HIV/AIDS, or less specifically, on sexually transmitted diseases, which the activists believe is akin to teaching children about "sexual relations, which are taboo", as one of them explained. They have successfully had the book banned from schools, although its third edition had a regional circulation of 50,000 and apparently some teachers continue to use it, arguing that it is their only resource for introducing the topic of HIV, among other issues.

[www.irinnews.org](http://www.irinnews.org), "Row over HIV/AIDS teaching manual continues", 04/11/04

## ...while next door in Kazakhstan

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A senior Kazakh epidemiologist, Zamzagul Zhamagulova, told a national HIV/AIDS seminar that 4,531 people were registered with HIV in Kazakhstan as of October 1<sup>st</sup>, but that the actual number of infected people may be more than 20,000. 77% of those registered were male, drug use was the means of infection for 78% of them and two-thirds of them were aged between 15 and 29.

Xinhua, [http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2004-11/05/content\\_2180922.htm](http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2004-11/05/content_2180922.htm), 04/11/04

## Seizures and Arrests

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### October wrap-up

Russia's guards on the Tajik-Afghan border seized slightly over 160 kg of drugs in October, as well as tank shells, mines, and more than 200 grenades. They detained 23 border trespassers and had four armed engagements.

Interfax via factiva.com, "Russian border guards seize 160kg of drugs on Tajik-Afghan border in October", 02/11/04

At the Darhan border crossing in the Saryagashskii region of southern Kazakhstan, police arrested two Uzbek citizens, aged 49 and 52, who were carrying 1 kg of heroin.

[www.cry.ru](http://www.cry.ru), <http://www.cry.ru/text.shtml?200411/20041102142649.inc>, 02/11/04