



Narcotics and Organized Crime in Eurasia Weekly Digest: 31 January – 6 February 2005

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

UNODC and Kazakhstan Agree on New Anti-Drug Projects

UNODC and the Government of Kazakhstan signed five new regional drug demand reduction and drug control projects in Almaty. UNODC will provide technical assistance to Kazakhstan in the areas of drug intelligence analysis, controlled deliveries, precursor chemical controls, drug abuse and HIV/AIDS prevention. UNODC will also provide policy advice to the Kazakh, and other Central Asian governments. The value of the projects amounts to US\$9 million for the entire Central Asian region. The UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia is also designing a new project to establish a regional drug treatment training center (ARTICA) in Pavlodar, Kazakhstan.

<http://www.unis.unvienna.org/unis/pressrels/2005/unisnar879.html>, 03/02/05

Tajikistan will deploy road police to guard its borders!

According to the decree issued by Emomali Rakhmonov, 877 agents from the state road police will be serve under Committee to guard state borders (KOGG). At present Russians guard only 389 km of the most penetrable (flat) parts of the border. 8,100 kg of drugs including 4,800 kg of heroin were intercepted in 2004.

“Tadzhikistan ukrepit granitsu s Afganistanom gaishnikami”, *Reuters*, 03/02/05

WB and DfID will allocate \$27 mill. to fight AIDS in Central Asia

Representatives of the Organization on Central Asian Cooperation and International Development Association concluded grant agreement on a project to AIDS in the Central Asian region. According to the grant agreement, \$25 mill. and \$1.9 mill. will be allocated respectively by the WB and the British DfID. The project period is 2005-2010.

“Vsemirniy Bank i MMR predostavayt \$27 mln. na baor’bu so SPIDom”, *AKIpress.org*, 02/02/05

Afghan drug eradication could backfire

U.S.-backed efforts to eradicate Afghan opium poppy fields could backfire, by stirring up instability and enriching powerful drug lords, some 30 non-governmental organisations said in an open letter. "Massive eradication efforts in 2005 could risk destabilising large areas of the country," the 31 NGOs active in Afghanistan, including CARE, Oxfam and the International Crisis Group, wrote in an open letter to U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. Diplomats and aid workers in Afghanistan report a marked drop this year in the planting of poppies used to make opium and heroin.

http://www.icg.org/library/documents/miscellaneous_docs/afghanistan_narcotics_letter_1feb2005.doc

UN anti-drugs chief calls for conditional aid to Afghanistan

"I want to introduce and I want the international financial lenders to introduce a negative pledge in their lending ... so that the resources will be made available (only) if there is a pledge that no opium will be cultivated in the district, in the village, in the province," said Antonio Maria Costa. Costa, the executive director of the UNODC said under such a policy "the programs can come to an end if indeed the evils of trade and the evils of cultivations are not curtailed."

AFP, Kabul Service, 31/01/05

UN's counter-narcotics official calls for international arrest warrants against Afghan drug traffickers

During his trip, Antonio Maria Costa met with President Hamid Karzai and proposed measures that would pave the way for warrants to be issued on the basis of global treaties, such as the 1988 Convention against Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances.

U.N. News Service, 30/01/05

Seizures and Arrests

11 attempts to smuggle drugs from Russia to Japan prevented

The seized drugs, packed in lots of 10 to 24 kgs, were carried to Japan primarily from Afghanistan via Central Asia and Russia. Fishing boats and cargo ships are used to smuggle narcotics to Japan, including vessels bringing automobiles from Japan into Russia. "The Japanese side has acknowledged the fact that a share of the money, received for the drugs, is laundered and used to finance terrorism or handed over to the Japanese "Yakuza" mafia gangs," he said. The Deputy Chief of the Far Eastern Customs Office noted that the smuggling to Russia from China of psychotropic substances of the ephedrine group are also "a serious problem".

Vladimir Solntsev, Organisation of Asia-Pacific News Agencies, 04/02/05

Over 40 tonnes of drugs confiscated in Central Russia in 2004

That was nearly half of drugs confiscated by drug control departments throughout this country. The [central] department confiscated nearly 450 kilograms of heroin, over two kilograms of opium, 29 tonnes of marijuana, more than 700 kilograms of poppy straw and 27 kilograms of hashish. The majority of heroin shipments and synthetic drugs are sold in the Moscow region. The department exposed 58 illegal labs making synthetic drugs in 2004. Ninety-four criminal cases were opened. Groups of drug smugglers are formed on the ethnic principle.

ITAR-TASS World Service, 04/02/05

A drug pusher was detained in Samara, Russia

On February 4th, the law enforcement agents from Samara detained a 25-year old citizen of Tajikistan with 693 grams of heroin. 1 kg of hashish, 891 gr of heroin and 25 gr of opium were confiscated in 17 regions of Russia within 1 day (4 February).

"V Samare zaderzhan narkokur'er iz Tadjikistana", *CRY.ru*, 04/02/05

Drug pushers were detained in Nizhniy Novgorod

28-year old Gypsy and his 27 y.o. wife with their six children were residing in Nizhniy Novgorod, Russia. While searching their apartment, the law enforcement agents found 494 gr. of heroin wrapped in baby's nappies.

"Narkosbytchiki pryatali heroin v detskikh pelenkah", *CRY.ru*, 04/02/05

A 24-year old was detained with 110 gr of heroin

A 24 y.o. girl from Perm', Russia was detained with 110 gr of heroin.

"U zhitel'nitsy Per'mi iz'yato 110 gr. heroina", *CRY.ru*, 04/02/05

UNHCR official arrested in Kosovo on charges of sexual abuse of minors

Pakistani R.K., a senior UNHCR official, was arrested on 28 January on charges of sexual abuse of five minor girls in Kosovo, as well as for two other offences, trafficking in persons and unauthorized selling of narcotics in Kosovo. He is now in pre-trial detention for 30 days.

Reprinted in BBC Europe, *Koha Ditore, Pristina*, in Albanian 03/02/05

Two drug couriers were detained in the south of Kyrgyzstan

Law enforcers from Batken region were tipped off about a possible drug courier. A 22 year old citizen of Kyrgyzstan was detained with 2 kg of heroin, and it seems that he was dealing in drugs for a long time. In the operation, a citizen of

Tajikistan was arrested in Osh with 4 kg of heroin hidden in a compartment of his truck.

“Narkovoina prodolzhaetsya”, *Vecherniy Bishkek*, 02/02/05

A citizen of Kyrgyzstan was arrested in Omsk with heroin

A 51-y.o. woman, citizen of Kyrgyzstan, was arrested before on Pertropavlovsk-Isil’kul train in Russia. She had 1 kg of heroin hidden in the sledge.

“Grazhdanka Kyrgyzstana zaderzhana v Omske pri popytke provoza 1 kg geroina”, *REGNUM*, 01/02/05

Central Asian Affairs

New head of MoFA of Uzbekistan is appointed

El’er Ganiev became the new minister of Foreign Affairs. He will keep his previous position of a Vice premier. And Sadyk Safaev, the ex-head of MoFA became a senator, and the chairman of Committee on Interparliamentarian relations in the newly formed Parliament.

“Vitse-prem’er Uzbekistana El’er Ganiev vozglavil MID”, *Reuters*, 04/02/05