



## Narcotics, Organized Crime and Security in Eurasia Weekly Digest: 9– 15 May 2005

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

### **Afghan army starts relieving U.S. forces**

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US forces in Afghanistan are beginning to hand over security responsibilities to the Afghan National Army, ANA. US troops are being pulled out of the Tarin Kowt area of the southwestern Urozgan province, and the ANA's 3rd battalion, part of the First Brigade of 205 Corps, is moving in to replace them. The ANA troops in Tarin Kowt are more likely to be welcomed by villagers as they impose security, said ANA Captain Kamaluddin. "ANA soldiers are Afghanistan's soldiers," he said. ANA battalions are trained at the Kabul Military Training Centre, and are made up of soldiers from ethnic groups all over Afghanistan.

*IWPR, Afghan press monitor No 69, 12/05/05*

### **Four killed and 30 injured in Jalalabad demonstration**

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At least four people were killed and 30 injured after police and protesters clashed in the southeastern city of Jalalabad on May 11. The protest was a continuation of a demonstration that began the previous day in the Nangarhar provincial capital, in which the protesters demanded the punishment of those responsible for the reported desecration of the Koran by United States soldiers at Guantanamo Bay. The protestors set fire to several buildings including UNAMA, UNICEF and the Pakistani consulate. All the shops are closed and police have detained dozens of protestors in the city.

*IWPR, Afghan press monitor No 69, 12/05/05*

### **Uzbekistan troops fire on thousands at Andijan rally**

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Troops opened fire on thousands of demonstrators in the Uzbek city of Andijan on May13, bringing a bloody climax to protests sparked by a trial of local businessmen accused of being Islamic radicals. As thousands of people including many women and children took part in a rally in the centre of the city, located in the east of the Fergana Valley, two columns of armoured cars moved in on the crowds and fired on civilians apparently indiscriminately. Some protesters who had earlier seized Kalashnikovs and other weapons from a military base returned fire at the security forces. (Somewhere at least 300 people were gunned down, whereas official numbers are 20 people).

*IWPR, Reporting Central Asia, No. 376, 13/05/05*

### **More international support needed to stem flow of Afghan drugs**

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Pakistan needs more international technical and financial support to stem the flow of heroin from neighboring Afghanistan - the biggest opium producing nation in the world. There is also a need to drastically reduce domestic drug production and a build a domestic capacity to counter drug-related crime in Pakistan, a top UN official said on Thursday.

*IRIN News Report, 13/05/05*

### **Program to treat drug addicts was initiated in Kyrgyzstan**

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Atlantis program is a 12-step rehabilitation program for treatment of alcohol and drug dependants. The "Atlantis" program started in 2004 and funded by the Soros Foundation in Kyrgyzstan.

*AKI News Agency, 10/05/05*

## Seizures and Arrests

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### **Counterfeit US dollars were seized in Kyrgyzstan**

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A big amount of counterfeit US dollars have been seized in Bishkek by the Drug Control Agency. According to the detectives they have stopped the biggest affair to purchase narcotics with counterfeit banknotes (US\$ 7,100). Erkin Seitkylov, the policemen, stressed that police has been searching for this man for several months. He was dealing in drugs in Jalal-Abad region. When he appeared in Bishkek, undercover police established contact with him, knowing that he was looking for customers. When police stopped him they found fake banknotes in his pockets, which he was going to pay to drug traffickers from Tajikistan.

*Vechernii Bishkek, 10/05/05*

### **The head of Estonian drug police is held for connections with organized crime**

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The Estonian police arrested the head of the drug control service Vallo Jajaratsa for power abuse. The state executor Laura Vaik has reported that during the preliminary investigation there were proves that Mr. Jajaratsa used his position to inform the crime groups to escape the arrest. The head of drug police was several times honored for successive operations and reveal of many crimes, related to drugs.

*Kriminal'naya Rossiya, 11/05/05*

### **Drug seizure in Australia helps dismantle drug syndicate based in China**

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The seizure of large amount of heroin in Australia has led to the dismantlement of an international drug syndicate. The Australian Federal Police and Customs said that more than 115 kg of heroin with a street value of more than 60 million dollars (46 million US dollars) has been seized in the state of South Australia, representing the largest amount ever seized in the state. Five men were arrested in Sydney, capital of the state of New South Wales, and Hong Kong. The drug was concealed in two shipping containers from China.

*Xinhua News Agency, 13/05/05*

### **Customs officers seize 36 kg of heroin on Russia-Kazakh border**

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Customs officers seized 36 kilos of heroin and 16 kilos of opiate in the city of Orsk on the Russian-Kazakh border. Russian border guards received information on a big batch of drugs in good time. They did not know only a way and a date of the delivery. A thorough search with the use of special X-ray equipment and a sniff dog yielded no results. Then, a decision was taken to cut the main fuel tank, containing 400 liters of diesel fuel. A special cavity was fitted in at the tank.

*Itar-Tass, 13/05/05*

### **Huge quantity of drugs seized: three held**

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The ANF was tipped off on narcotics trafficking and has recovered a huge quantity of narcotics in two different operations during the last few days from areas of Thatta district. ANF recovered 103.650 kgs of hashish and 10 kgs of opium from the possession of three. In another operation in the same village, 126 kgs of hashish and 36.600 kgs of heroin was recovered from the forest of Devi bushes.

*Business Recorder, 14/05/05*

## **Iranian media reports of drugs seizures, arrests 28 April-12 May 05**

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Kerman province: on 11 May that over 124 kg of opium and 950 g of heroin had been seized in the previous week 32 people had been arrested. South Khorasan province: nearly 110 kg of opium had been seized over the past 24 hours. An anti-drugs official said on 30 April that 260 kg of morphine and 38 kg of opium had been confiscated over the past two days. Esfahan province: on 30 April, 395 kg of opium had been seized in two operations.

*BBC Monitoring Middle East, 14/05/05*

## **2nd attacker on drug control office detained in Irkutsk region in Russia**

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A second suspected attacker on the building of the Cheremkhovsky district department of the Russian Federal Drug Control Service (FSKN) has been detained in the Irkutsk region. The attacker is suspected of setting the building on fire and murdering a police officer. The murder took place on the night from May 5 to 6. The preliminary investigation has found there were two attackers who stole the officer's service pistol with rounds to it, drugs and a large sum of money.

*Itar-Tass, 11/05/05*