



COUNTRY FACTSHEETS, EURASIAN NARCOTICS

RUSSIA 2004

General Information

Population: 143,782,338 (CIA Factbook 2004)
 UNDP Human development index ranking: 57 (out of 177 states)
 TI Corruption indicator: 2.8 (0 highly corrupt, and 10 highly clean)

Russia has vast and ill-guarded land and sea borders, which make it a perfect target for the development of criminal activities, especially drug trafficking. After the break-up of the Soviet Union, Russia has become a new outpost on the northern route for illicit drug trafficking from Central Asia through its territory to the Baltic states, Poland and the Scandinavian countries. Russia is both a transit and consumption country for heroin and opium of Afghan origin, destined for Europe. Heroin consumption markets were created in Russia along the trafficking routes and have since expanded. Russia has become one of the main consumption markets for drugs coming from the Northern route. Additionally, since the mid-1990s, there has been an increase in the production and trafficking of synthetic drugs in Russia. Presently, drugs are produced in, transported through and sold in Russia.

Smuggling of Drugs

Due to its tremendous size and long and loosely protected land and sea borders, Russia has had serious problems fighting drugs. Drugs enter Russia via land, air and sea. Generally drugs are trafficked in large shipments and are later broken down into smaller parcels and trafficked through smaller routes and channels. The Central Asian republics are the main providers of Afghan heroin. Ukraine used to be a main supplier of opium straw to Russia, but has now switched to hashish and marijuana trafficking. Synthetic drugs are transported to Russia from the Baltic states, while cocaine, which is not widely available, arrives from Latin America. The Russian Far East is the most problematic region in the Federation in terms of drug abuse and corruption. Far Eastern neighboring countries such as China and North Korea are the main providers of synthetic stimulants and ephedra, which is a necessary ingredient of ephedrine and methamphetamine.

Health and Economic Aspects

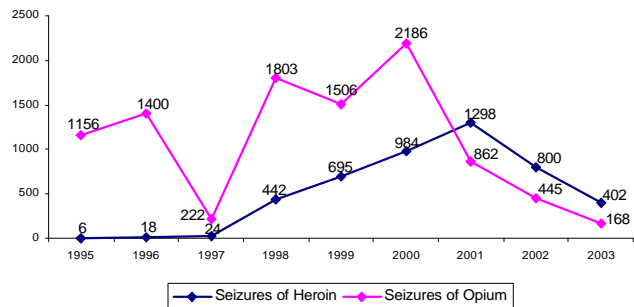
Corruption: Apart from drugs and terrorism, it could be argued that corruption poses the greatest national security threat to contemporary Russia. In addition to financial fraud, there is corruption within Russia's law enforcement and military forces. Corruption within military and law enforcement agencies is common at all levels. In the period from 2001-2004, several employees from units to combat drugs were caught selling drugs.

Money laundering: According to the Federal Service for Financial Monitoring (FSFM), approximately 120 drug money laundering cases were initiated in 2004. Most of the money was transferred and stored outside of Russian borders. In 2003, some high-level Russian officials were also involved into criminal activities. According to Russian experts, the annual drug turnover in Russia is \$5-7 billion.

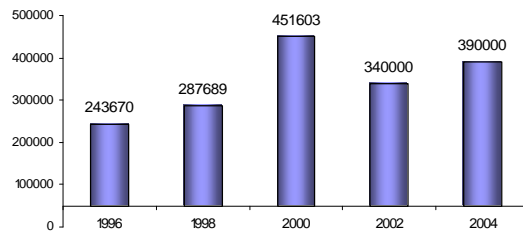
Drug abuse and HIV: Starting in 1995, there has been a sharp increase in the intravenous administration of heroin. It was reported in 2003, that Russia might have as many as 4 million drug users. Drug usage is particularly high in Moscow, St.Petersburg, Kaliningrad, Yekaterinburg, Samara and Chelyabinsk. Wider use of intravenous heroin has led to outbreaks of HIV in the country. Russia is dubbed by UNAIDS as the country with the fastest growing HIV epidemic. The HIV epidemic started in Russia in 1995 among injecting users. In 2004, 4,357 people in Russia died from AIDS, 242 of which were children. By May 2004, there were 280,437 HIV registered cases in Russia, with Moscow, St.Petersburg, Togliatti and Orenburg topping the list. In 2003, about 70,000 people died from drug overdoses in Russia.

Political and Societal Aspects

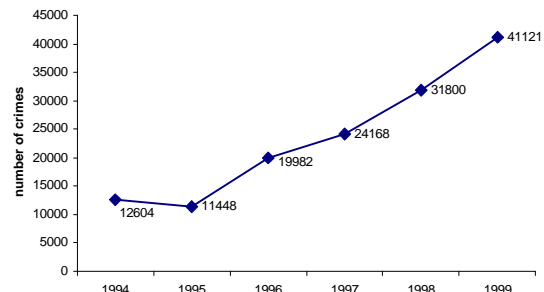
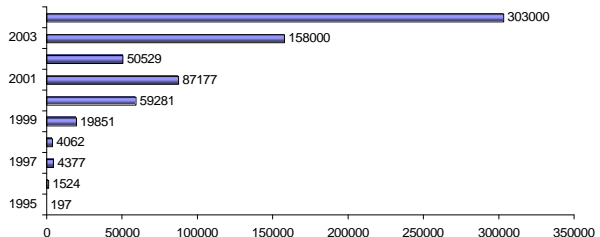
Organized crime existed long before and consolidated during the Soviet Union, and organized crime in Russia is involved in illegal activities such as narcotics trafficking, arms trafficking and trafficking in human beings. About 950 crime groups in Russia are involved in drug trafficking, 330 of which are ethnic groups. Mostly, the higher level of drug trafficking business has been occupied by ethnic groups consisting of Chechen, Azeri, Assyrian, Georgian and Russian organized crime groups.



Registered Drug Users



Registered HIV cases



Counter-Narcotics Efforts

State

Russia is a party to the 1988 UN Drug Convention, the 1961 Single Convention on Psychotropic Substances and its 1972 Protocol, and the 1971 UN Convention on Psychotropic Substances. In June 2003, the Russian President Vladimir Putin issued a decree to establish the State Committee for Combating the Illegal Trade in Drugs and Psychotropic Substances. In July 2004, the committee was renamed Federal Service of Russian Federation for Narcotics Control (FSN). In 2004, Prime Minister Mikhail Fradkov approved the Provision of the Government #231, "On approval of seizures of average single doses of narcotics and psychotropic substances".

Russia now has a legislative and financial monitoring scheme that facilitates the tracking, seizure, and forfeiture of all criminal proceeds. On February 1, 2002, Russia's financial intelligence unit, the Financial Monitoring Committee (FMC), became operational. It is responsible for coordinating all of Russia's anti-money laundering and counterterrorist financing efforts.

Civil Society

Health education programs in schools are beginning to incorporate messages about the harmful effects of drug use and the links between injecting drugs and the transmission of HIV/AIDS. With support from USAID's "Healthy Russia 2020" project, demand reduction messages are being incorporated into a Ministry of Education sanctioned health education curriculum for high school students. Civil society NGOs, such as Mothers Against Drugs and Peer to Peer movement, work to prevent drug use among high school students within the framework of ECAD (European Cities Against Drugs) program. Additionally within this program is published for high school student's magazine "Positiv".

In 2000 the National Committee Against Drugs initiated "Civil Society Against Drugs and Drug Corruption" project. During the project, 2 actions have been initiated: program "Hot line" and program "Test". Additionally a public fund for fight against drugs has been created as well as a pager line "Kolokol". Project volunteers also organize anti drug propaganda.

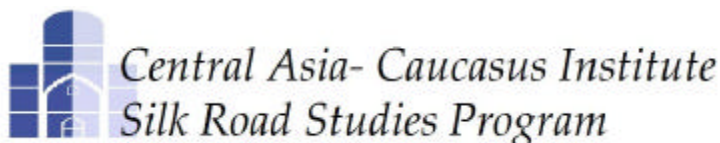
Regional cooperation

Russia makes considerable contributions to solving the drug problem including elaborating specific legal, political and operational measures within the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Collective Security Treaty Organization. Since 1992, Russian forces have guarded the border between Tajikistan and Afghanistan. In 2004, Putin signed an agreement with Tajikistan's president for continued cooperation in combating drug trafficking along the Tajik border. Since 2004, Russia in cooperation with Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan had conducted a joint counter-narcotics operation, called "Channel-2004". In 2004 the Russian State Bureau on Combating Drug Trafficking participated in creating the Regional Central Asian Information Coordinating Center. Since 2004 the cooperation plan has been initiated between the Security Council of Russian Federation and Security Council of the Kazakhstan.

International

Since 2001 Russia has participated in the international project European Cities Against Drugs (ECAD). In 2004, Russia signed bilateral agreements on counter-narcotics cooperation with China, the Kyrgyz Republic, and Nicaragua. Additionally in 2004, the DEA's International Training teams provided State Department-funded instruction to its Russian counterparts in basic drug enforcement, airport interdiction, and vehicle interdiction. In 2004, Russia joined three large-scale international operations against illegal precursor trafficking, carried out under the aegis of the UN International Drug Control Committee: Topaz (aimed at cutting off supplies of the chemical substances necessary for heroin production), Prism (precursors for the production of amphetamine stimulants) and Purple (substances used for cocaine production). Russia is a signatory to all U.N. anti-narcotics treaties.

In 2005, DEA is scheduled to provide State Department-funded counter-narcotics training to over 100 trainees, drawn from the FSKN, the MVD, and the Federal Customs Service. Russia is also a participant state in the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO) which also works with combating drug trafficking. Currently Russia through the CSTO is acting with NATO to implement Operation Channel to fight drug trafficking.



Joint Transatlantic Research and Policy Center

The Project on Narcotics, Organized Crime and Security in Eurasia

The Project on Narcotics, Organized Crime and Security in Eurasia is conducted by the Central Asia-Caucasus Institute and Silk Road Studies Program. The Central Asia-Caucasus Institute and Silk Road Studies Program form a Joint Transatlantic Research and Policy Center affiliated with the School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University, Washington DC; and the Departments of East European Studies and Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University, Sweden.

Latest publications:

Niklas L.P. Swanström, "Multilateralism and Narcotics control in Central Asia", *CEF Quarterly*, the journal of the China-Eurasia Forum, February 2005.

Niklas L. P. Swanström and Maral Madi, "International Cooperation Against Drug Trafficking, in Central Asia," *United Nations: Multilateralism and International Security*, in C. Uday Bhaskar et. al., eds, Institute for Defense Studies and Analyses & SHIPRA Publications, 2005.

Svante E. Cornell, "Stemming the Contagion: Regional Efforts to Curb Afghan Heroin's Impact", *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*, vol. 6 no. 1, Winter/Spring 2005.

Kairat Osmonaliev, *Developing Counter-Narcotics Policy in Central Asia: Legal and Political Dimensions*, Silk Road Paper, January 2005.

Svante E. Cornell, *Narcotics, Radicalism and Security in Central Asia: The Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan*, East European Studies Working Paper no. 84, December, 2004.

Maral Madi, "Drug Trade in Kyrgyzstan: Structure, Implications and Countermeasures", *Central Asian Survey*, Vol 23, No 3-4, December, 2004.

Database:

The current version of the database contains information on illegal drugs and related issues in Central Eurasia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan), Russia and the Golden Crescent (Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan). These countries are the primary focus at Silk Road Studies. The database can be accessed at www.silkroadstudies.org/drugsdatabase.htm