

Preventing Violent Extremism in Central Asia

To facilitate exchange of experience and strengthen regional cooperation, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Prison Service under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic hosted a two-day Central Asian Conference on the prevention of radicalization to violence in prisons.

“Limiting opportunities for recruitment by terrorist groups, including in prisons, is a priority for our Government”, - says Taalibek Zhaparov, the Chairman of Kyrgyzstan’s Prison Service. “The number of prisoners convicted for terrorist or extremist related crimes serving their sentence in closed-type prisons has already reached 191 in Kyrgyzstan.”

Prison officials, representatives of law enforcement bodies and security services, and civil society stakeholders from the Central Asian countries, reviewed existing systems for risk assessment and classification of violent extremist offenders and exchanged experiences on the implementation of prison-based rehabilitation programmes. UNODC presented its Handbook on the Management of Violent Extremist Prisoners and the Prevention of Radicalization to Violence in Prisons. Participants discussed the results of public monitoring, which analyzed the conditions under which violent extremist prisoners are detained in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, as well as a comparative analysis of legislation gov-



erning the management of violent extremist offenders in Central Asian countries.

The conference, which was aimed at contributing to the implementation of the UN Secretary-General’s Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism in the Central Asia region, was organized within the 2015-2019 UNODC Programme for Central Asia with financial support from the Government of Japan.

Role of women in preventing violent extremism in Kyrgyzstan

The UNODC and the Ministry of Interior (MoI) of the Kyrgyz Republic have partnered to promote the participation and engagement of women and girls in efforts to prevent violent extremism. 250 neighbourhood and youth inspectors from all regions participated in summer training courses organized by UNODC and led by trainers from the MoI’s Countering Extremism and Illegal Migration Service.

«Recently, we have witnessed a rise of extremist movements who also attract women», noted Erlan Bakiev, Head of Unit at the MoI’s Countering Extremism and Illegal Migration Service. “There is evidence of radicalization among women, in particular in religious families with members convicted for extremist-related offences”, he added.

The aim of the training courses was to increase knowledge and skills of police officers so that they better understand what makes people vulnerable to radicalization, are able to detect signs of radicalization and implement activities aimed at prevention of radicalization in their communities, including by challenging violent extremist

ideologies and supporting access to services for vulnerable people, in particular women and girls.

In parallel with the training courses, provincial police departments in the regions facilitated dialogue platforms for community members, including from women’s religious organizations and other civil society actors, together with representatives from the Islamic community and the State Commission for Religious Affairs to discuss the role of women in preventing violent extremism.

Participants of the dialogue platforms noted the need for active engagement with women’s organizations and awareness-raising campaigns to improve understanding of the radicalization risks among local communities, take preventive measures and support individuals at risk.

Further efforts to build community partnerships and promote community policing strategies are planned during the upcoming period within the framework of a joint initiative of UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP and UNODC with the financial support provided by the UN Peacebuilding Fund. Terrorism prevention and promotion of community policing are also key priorities of the 2015-2019 UNODC Programme for Central Asia, under which UNODC provides assistance to the countries in the region, including Kyrgyzstan.



Public-private partnership on container control

First public-private partnership workshop in the region provided an excellent opportunity for Customs officers across the region to develop dialogue on container security and public-private partnership with companies operating on respective selected ports, as well as to establish the pre-arrival clearance and information sharing mechanisms between the Port Control Units and companies operating at the respective port cities.

The regional workshop was organized by the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia in June in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan under UNODC-WCO Global Container Control Programme. Representatives from Customs and other law enforcement agencies from Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan interacted with private sector companies operating at the air, dry and seaports in the region.

The CCP Regional Segment for Central Asia and Azerbaijan is funded by Government of Japan, the U.S. Department of State Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) and the Export Control and Related Border Security (EXBS) Program.



Port Control Units in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan run successful operations on seizure of smuggled goods

More than 20 thousand kg of metallic mercury and 7,500 vials of diazepam were seized on the boards of Kazakhstan and Tajikistan. The smuggled goods are confiscated by the officers of the Port Control Units established under the UNODC-WCO Global Container Control Programme (CCP).

At “Morport” Customs checkpoint in Aktau seaport, Kazakhstan, the members of CCP Port Control Unit detected smuggling of metallic mercury at the truck

vehicle that entered the customs control area.

Thorough profiling and analysis of shipping documents revealed that the carri-

er following the route from Tajikistan to Turkey through the territory of Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan with cargo of “metallic mercury” did not have necessary permits. Thus, the carrier violated the requirements of the Decision of the Board of the Eurasian Economic Commission and the Customs Code of Kazakhstan.

As a result of the operation, the State Revenue Committee of the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Kazakhstan reported a seizure of 20,063 kg of metallic mercury packed in 525 canisters.

At the “Nijniy Pyandj” Customs checkpoint in Khatlon oblast of Tajikistan, in turn, the CCP Port Control Unit officers seized 7,500 vials of diazepam while conducting customs inspection of the truck.

The driver operating the truck with sugar on board arrived from the Islamic State of Afghanistan to the Republic of Tajikistan. The psychotropic substance was hidden under pillow in the cab of the truck transporting sugar from Afghanistan to Tajikistan. The Customs Service under the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan reported 75 grams of the psychotropic substance as per results of the forensic examination.





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New Psychoactive Substances are in the spotlight of the training

Law enforcement officers from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, as well as experts of the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre (CARICC) discussed risk assessment, law enforcement and international cooperation in countering new psychoactive substances (NPS) at the training in Almaty, Kazakhstan.

The “Risk Assessment, Law Enforcement and International Cooperation in Countering New Psychoactive Substances (NPS)” training is the second workshop in the curriculum of four training courses aimed at capacity building on synthetic drugs and NPS which is implemented within the framework of the UNODC Programme for Central Asia (2015-2019) and funded by the Government of Japan. The training course was delivered by Fumio Ito, Project Manager of Project ION (International Operations on NPS) at the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB). The training course served as a discussion platform for sharing practical experience between country delegations, with emphasis on country and region specific experience. Each country delegation presented information on overall NPS situation, NPS control and international cooperation, the NPS trafficking trends and risk factors in the countries. The training was closed with plenary session on NPS problem at the regional level. The delegates noted the potential of CARICC to lead and serve as a regional platform to launch the IONICS system at the regional scale.

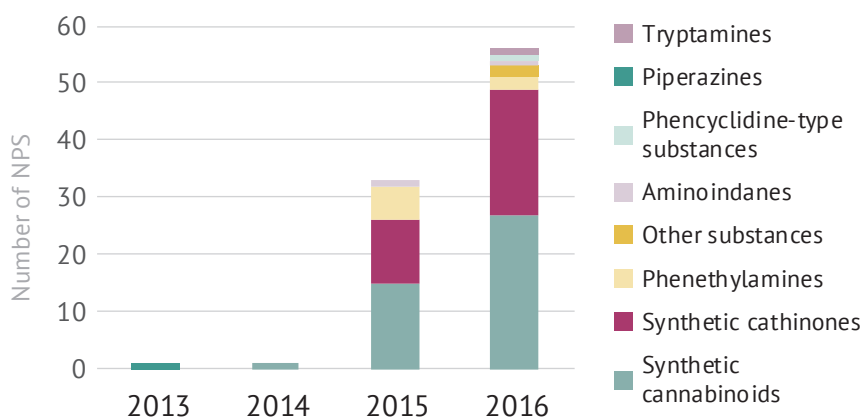
NPS emerge in Central Asia

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2017 Global Synthetic Drugs Assessment released in fall 2017 reports that new psychoactive substances (NPS) emerge in Central Asia.

Recently, countries in Central and South-West Asia, with the exception of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkmenistan, have reported the emergence of NPS to UNODC. Between 2013 and 2016, 59 NPS were reported by countries in the region. Of these NPS, more than 42 per cent were synthetic cathinones, followed by synthetic cannabinoids accounting for a 37 per cent share, and phenethylamines making up a 10 per cent share.

Over the years, the number of NPS reported in Central Asian countries has significantly increased. Whereas only one NPS was reported in the Central Asian region by Tajikistan in 2013 and Kazakhstan in 2014, the number reported in Central and South-West Asia has risen to 31 NPS in 2015, and to 48 NPS in 2016. This increase is primarily attributable to the growing number of NPS reported in Kazakhstan, which has annually risen from one NPS in 2014, to 21 NPS in 2015 and 38 NPS in 2016.

Number of NPS reported in Central Asia, 2013-2016



UNODC, early warning advisory on new psychoactive substances.

Information on trafficking suggests that the Central and South-West Asian region is linked to the international trafficking of synthetic drugs. Concerning NPS trafficking in particular, there have also been several reports of NPS being trafficked to and from countries in Central Asia. For instance, between 2013 and 2014, Kazakhstan reported seven seizures of synthetic cannabinoids that were perceived to have

departed from China. There have also been several reports of ATS and NPS being trafficked between the Russian Federation and Central Asian countries, such as Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan. Despite reports of NPS being trafficked to and from the Central Asian region, available trafficking data is interspersed making it difficult to observe clear patterns of trafficking flows.

Trainers are ready to implement the third cycle of the 'Strengthening Families Program'

Aiming to strengthen the capacity of national trainers and prepare for the implementation of the third cycle of the programme, the National Training of Trainers (ToT) of the "Strengthening Families Program 10-14" (SFP 10-14) was held in June at the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.



The training was conducted by a team of international trainers from the UK, developers of the SFP 10-14, Ms. Deborah Allen and Mr. Lindsey Coombes. They held a training programme for 12 experienced facilitators representing the Ministry of Public Educa-

tion, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Education. During three days the participants had an opportunity to get acquainted with the evidence based knowledge aimed at preventing drug abuse and developing facilitation

skills for the effective implementation of the SFP 10-14 program. After completion of the ToT, the facilitators obtained status of National SFP 10-14 Trainers. This status will allow them to train future facilitators and deliver primary prevention interventions for youth at public schools of Uzbekistan.

Representatives of the Ministry of Public Education took part in the official opening and closing ceremonies of the event. They noted the important role of the family skills training programs in the context of the country's national youth protection activities, and expressed their readiness to continue further mutually beneficial cooperation.

"Strengthening Families Programme" is a part of the "Prevention of drug use, HIV/AIDS and crime among young people through family skills training programmes in low- and middle-income countries" global initiative.

The Stop Overdose Safely Initiative

UNODC and the World Health Organization (WHO) hosted a regional meeting in Almaty, Kazakhstan, to review and discuss the draft of the S-O-S Multi-site Study and Implementation Protocol on community management of opioid overdose.

While the initiative is expected to be implemented during the 2018 in the above mentioned states, the initial steps on legal and ethical considerations are to be done this year. The initiative is sponsored by the U.S. State Department.

The meeting served as a platform for provision of theoretical information and discussion of practical issues and challenges that may occur while implementing the project.

The participants from the member states represented different sectors of society, such as the clinics for addiction treatment, non-governmental organizations and academic/research institutions. It gave the meeting a good chance to review and dis-



cuss the initiative from the different angles. The meeting was wrapped up with further steps to be done till the end of 2017 and the objective to launch the initiative's main phase early next year. The member

states are eager to implement the project and increase awareness among people who use drugs and emergency services about prevention and management of drug overdose incidents.

