

## **Narcotics-trade and related issues in Central Asia**

Victor Jensen

The scale of the narcotics-trade throughout Central Asia has become the object of considerable concern. From serving as a transit route to the worlds biggest heroin consumer – Russia – and beyond to the lucrative markets of Europe, Central Asia has seen a sharp increase in domestic consumption. The trade has brought a string of health and societal problems and sometimes fuels corruption. Central Asian Governments, for a long time hesitant to acknowledge the full scope of the problem, are taking action to come to grips with the double challenge posed by drug-trafficking and consumption. This edition of the Central Asia Regional Data Review has sought to gather comparable information in order to enhance our comprehension of the phenomenon and put it in a regional perspective. The information provided will be subject to yearly updates, thus allowing us to elaborate time-series.

### **Treaties and Conventions**

#### **A/ International treaties and conventions:**

All the Central Asian republics are parties to the UN counter-narcotics conventions and relevant additional protocols

	<b>KAZ</b>	<b>KGZ</b>	<b>TJK</b>	<b>TKM</b>	<b>UZB</b>
1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs(amended 1972)	X	X	X	X	X
1972 Convention on psychotropic substances	X	X	X	X	X
1988 Drug Convention	X	X	X	X	X
2000 Convention against Transnational Organized Crime	X	X	X	X	X
2003 Convention against Corruption	X	X	X	X	X

#### **B/Regional and bilateral conventions:**

- UNODC, together with the five Central Asian States, the Russian Federation and Azerbaijan are party to a 2004 Memorandum of Understanding on sub-regional drug control cooperation. These countries are all participating in a project known as CARICC, to establish a Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre.

-Various counternarcotics initiatives within the SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation) (KAZ, KYR, TJK, UZB) and the CSTO (Collective Security Treaty Organisation) (KAZ, KYR, TJK)

- The US State Department Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) have cooperation agreements with several Central Asian countries, aiming both at counternarcotics and harm-reduction/awareness programs.

- Turkmenistan and Iran are to form a special joint committee to combat narcotics trafficking.

### **Harm-reduction, demand-reduction programs:**

#### **A/Regional level**

- The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.<sup>1</sup>

- Central Asia Aids Control Project (2005-2010). Cooperation between the World Bank and the governments of Central Asia.<sup>2</sup>

#### **B/National programs**

##### **KAZAKHSTAN:**

1. Program on Counteraction of AIDS Epidemic in Kazakhstan for 2006-2010
2. Program on Fight against Drug Addiction and Drug Trafficking for 2009-2011

32 NGO located in different part of Kazakhstan are grant recipients of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

##### **KYRGYZSTAN:**

Programs aimed at harm reduction, demand reduction and so on are funded by various donor agencies, not the government. The main donors in this area are the Global Fund, USAID, UNDP and DFID. The activities mainly include so-called harm reduction measures, such as needle and syringe exchange that in one or another way cover all registered drug-users (about 9000) as well as provision of methadone therapy (covering much smaller group).

Kyrgyzstan has adopted a governmental program on HIV/AIDS Epidemic and its Social and Economic Effects for 2006-2010.

##### **TAJKISTAN:**

Tajikistan's medical infrastructure is inadequate to address the population's growing need for addiction treatment and rehabilitation. Tajik legal framework for prevention and treatment of substance abuse and HIV/AIDS was mostly based on old Soviet standards and approaches

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<sup>1</sup> [www.theglobalfund.org](http://www.theglobalfund.org)

<sup>2</sup><http://web.worldbank.org/external/projects/main?pagePK=64283627&piPK=64290415&theSitePK=40941&menuPK=228424&Projectid=P087003>

until the late 1990s. In the early days of independence, the country was not yet facing a drugs and AIDS problem of such magnitude as later, and therefore not realizing what sort of response the new challenges would demand. But proximity and porous borders with Afghanistan made heroin widely available on Tajik streets. Consequently, intravenous drug use has been driving the spread of HIV/AIDS in Tajikistan and more and more cases were diagnosed each year. The response program provided by the Government and development organizations include the following programs:

**State Program on Prevention of Spread of Drug Addiction and Enhancing Narcological Care in the Republic of Tajikistan for the Period of 2005-2010** - the program aims at the following seven objectives: (1)enhancement of the anti-drug legislation related to public health and social sectors; (2) modernization of the principles governing the system of narcological care; (3) effective scientific and informational support to the process of rehabilitation and development of the narcological care in Tajikistan; (4) Modernization of educational approaches in the higher, secondary, and vocation education systems, as well as pre- and post-graduate educational programs in narcology; (5) Modification of the structure of state narcological facilities and their interaction with AIDS-treatment centres and NGOs operating in public health and social sectors; (6) Improvement of methods used in the drug treatment network; and (7) Changing the staffing of drug treatment and prevention facilities.

**Friendly Pharmacy Program**, Population Service International (PSI) – provides vouchers to IDUs that they can exchange for sterile injecting equipment and condoms at pharmacies.

**Strategic Program of the Ministry of Health for Countering HIV/AIDS Epidemic in Tajikistan for 2004-2010** - The goal of this program is to reduce the prevalence rate of HIV infections in Tajikistan and ensure appropriate standards for care and treatment. The core elements of the program include the following:

- Ensuring epidemiological surveillance of the prevalence of HIV-infection
- Preventing the spread of HIV among youth, street children, migrants, prisoners, military and homosexuals
- Prevention and treatment of STDs.
- Prevention of mother to child transmission.
- Ensuring epidemiological safety of drug use for drug dependent people.
- Ensuring donor blood safety.

Tajikistan has also adopted a HIV/AIDS Epidemic Counteraction Program in 2007.

#### TURKMENISTAN:

Narcotics related medical infrastructure is represented by the Ashgabat center, 8 regional and district clinics with 1290 sleeping places and 53 medical cabinets with 153 doctors. The infrastructure remains inadequate to address the growing problem.

#### UZBEKISTAN:

More than 7 small needle/syringe exchange programs in Uzbekistan are supported by international grants and NGOs, e.g. the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and

Malaria. The Number of people covered by these programs is estimated to be very modest – about 1,000.

No law prohibits syringe purchase or possession, or the operation of syringe exchange programs. However, possession of a syringe exposes an IDU to potential police intervention by indicating drug possession. This practice is likely to discourage drug users from carrying or possessing sterile injection equipment.

Hospitals with drug dependency recovery programs are inadequate to meet the increasing need for detoxification and treatment. The Ministry of Health and National Drug Control Center have recognized the need to focus increased attention on the drug problem, but do not have sufficient funds to do so adequately. Drug awareness programs are administered in cooperation with NGOs, schools, women and youth groups, religious organizations, national radio, and the mahalla (neighborhood) support system.

Uzbekistan has adopted a Strategic Program on HIV-Infection Prevalence Counteraction for 2007-2011.

### **Border-guards, personnel involved in counter-narcotics operations:**

*Number of border guards:*

<b>Country</b>	<b>KAZ</b>	<b>KGZ</b>	<b>TJK</b>	<b>TKM</b>	<b>UZB</b>
Estimated numbers	20000	3000-4000 <sup>3</sup>	6000 <sup>4</sup>	na <sup>5</sup>	15000

#### **KAZAKHSTAN:**

According to unofficial figures, an estimated 6-800 personnel were involved in counternarcotics enforcement.

#### **UZBEKISTAN:**

- 150 officers were employed in the counter- narcotics department of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Uzbekistan in 1997. The same year, the Uzbek police force was estimated to

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<sup>3</sup> The figure differs from source to source, and all seem to suggest that the actual figure is not something that is available for public. The recent decision of the Kyrgyz authorities was a gradual expansion of the number of guards, with no figures.

<sup>4</sup> Russian Military Servicemen (military advisers and instructors) - 300

<sup>5</sup> No Russian Military Servicemen are present in Turkmenistan after 1999 Turkmen unilateral cessation of permanent agreement between governments of Russia and Turkmenistan about joint guarding of Afghanistan – Turkmenistan border

number about 25,000. The police force is currently estimated to number about 40000 personnel, 500 of which are estimated to be specialized in counter-narcotics operations.

- Customs Committee – est. 3000 officers at about 250 checkpoints.

**Average monthly wages of selected personnel involved in different counter-narcotics operations**

**KAZAKHSTAN:**

	<b>Ministry of Internal Affairs</b>	<b>Committee for National Security</b>	<b>Customs Committee Staff</b>	<b>Prosecutor's Office</b>
Average salary	KZT 40000 – 50000 (268 – 369 USD)	KZT 80000 (536 USD)	KZT 45000-55000 (302 – 369 USD)	KZT 80000 (536 USD)

**KYRGYZSTAN:**

USD 150 stated as average wage of a “counter-narcotics officer”<sup>6</sup>

**TAJIKISTAN:**

	<b>Border Guards, Ministry of Internal Affairs MVD, State Committee of National Security (GKNB)</b>	<b>Customs Committee Staff, Prosecutors Office</b>	<b>Drug Control Agency Staff</b>
Average salary	Soldiers TJS 12 (2,72 USD)	TJS 700-800 (159-181,6 USD)	TJS 1200-1500 (272,2-341 USD)
	Officers TJS 380-450 (86,3-101 USD) <sup>7</sup>		

**TURKMENISTAN:**

<sup>6</sup> Source is a high ranking official of the Drug Control Agency

<sup>7</sup> Based on US\$ 1 = TJS 4.4 Exchange Rate as of 10.12.2009, National Bank of Tajikistan

Unofficial data<sup>8</sup>:

	<b>Conscript</b>	<b>Officers</b>	<b>Police</b>
Average salary	TMM 70 000(14) - 100 000(20) (4.6-6.6 USD)	TMM 2500000(500) (168-173 USD) <sup>9</sup>	TMM 2500000 (500000 added with any higher rank)

UZBEKISTAN:

	<b>Border Guards, Ministry of Internal Affairs (MVD), National Security Service (NSS)</b>	<b>Customs Committee Staff, Prosecutor's Office</b>	<b>National Center for Drug Control</b>
Average salary	Soldiers UZS 100000 (66 USD)	UZS 200000-500000 (132-331,3 USD)	UZS 500000-700000 (331-464 USD)
	Officers UZS 500000-1000000 (331,3-662,7 USD) <sup>10</sup>		

**Yearly volume of confiscated drugs (opium/heroin in particular) expressed in kilograms:**

<sup>8</sup> There is no official data on average wages as any information concerning military or police is considered to be classified data

<sup>9</sup> US\$ 1 equals to approximately 14, 200- 14,800 old currency or 3 TMM new currency

<sup>10</sup> Based on US\$ 1 = UZS 1,509 Exchange Rate as of 19.12.2009, Central Bank of Uzbekistan

## KAZAKHSTAN:

<b>Confiscated<sup>11</sup></b>		<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
Total (all types):		23479,6	27992,8
Including:	marihuana	21793,7	25656,5
	heroin	522	1639,3
	opium	3355,5	16,7
	hashish	261,8	511,1

In 2006-2008 - 76.5 tons of drugs were seized, including:

marihuana - 70.3 tonns

heroin - 2715.7 kilograms

opium - 989.7 kilograms<sup>12</sup>

## KYRGYZSTAN:

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009 (jan-oct)</b>
Heroin	431	298	313
Opium	270	140	382
Hashish			656
Other			5646?

*Agencies seizing drugs (expressed in percentage of total seizures heroin and opium only):*

<b>Agencies seizing drugs (here, data only on heroin and opium)</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Drug Control Agency	66%
Interior Ministry	16%
National Security Service	15%
State Customs Service	3%

## TAJKISTAN:

<sup>11</sup> Information of Committee on Law Statistics and Special Registers of General Prosecutor's Office

<sup>12</sup> Program on Fight Against Drug Addiction and Drug Trafficking for 2009-2011, Ministry of Internal Affairs of Kazakhstan

	2007	2008
Heroin	1280	1450
Opium	2199	1607
Cannabis	1034	1958
Total	4521	5015

*All Agencies 2007 percentage change 2008: +11 percent.*

#### TURKMENISTAN:

Turkmenistan has not been providing any official data on drug seizures since 2000.

Year	Opium	Heroin
1996	1750	89
1997	1410	1948
1998	1412	495
1999	4600	240
2000	2300	200
2002	--	400 <sup>13</sup>

Drug type	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Cannabis	108,00	132,00	135,85	154,34	85,15	66,70
Hashish	n/a	37,50	18,20	206,16	115,32	68,00
Heroin	80,50	266,00	180,78	201,11	325,66	244,50
Opium	138,00	665,50	748,63	2 655,70	2 283,90	1 502,50
Poppy straw (kuknar) <sup>14</sup>	83,50	173,00	142,29	169,60	473,53	261,50

42.13 kg of poppy straw (kuknar) and 156.15 kg of hashish were seized in Turkmenistan during the first half of 2009.<sup>15</sup>

A total of 1,279 kg of drugs were seized by the national law enforcement agencies in 2009.<sup>16</sup>

#### *Public burnings of seized drugs in Turkmenistan:*

- 7 February 2007: more than 49 kg of heroin, 513 kg of opium and 89 kg of hashish.

<sup>13</sup> Country Factsheets, Eurasian Narcotics: Turkmenistan , 2004 Silk Road Studies Program.

<sup>14</sup> Traditional opium-based beverage

<sup>15</sup> Regional Database, The Paris Pact Initiative (<http://www.dbrregional.info/>)

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.untuk.org/>



- 26 June 2007(International anti-narcotics day) : more than 129 kg of heroin, about 836 kg of opium , more than 4 kg of hashish , 30 kg of cannabis and 91 kg of kuknar.
- 26 June 2008 : 1, 230 kg of drugs
- 16 September 2008 : more than 466 kg of opium, 29 kg of heroin, 234 kg of kuknar, 18 kg of hashish and 6 kg of cannabis
- 20 December 2008— a total of 1 , 157,5 kg of drugs<sup>17</sup>
- 24 December 2009 – a total of 1,279 kg of drugs<sup>18</sup>

UZBEKISTAN<sup>19</sup>:

	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>
Heroin	480	1471
Opium	731	1062
Cannabis	734	810
Total	1945	3343 (+72%)

**Organizational Structure of counter-narcotics operations and border guards. Policy notes.**

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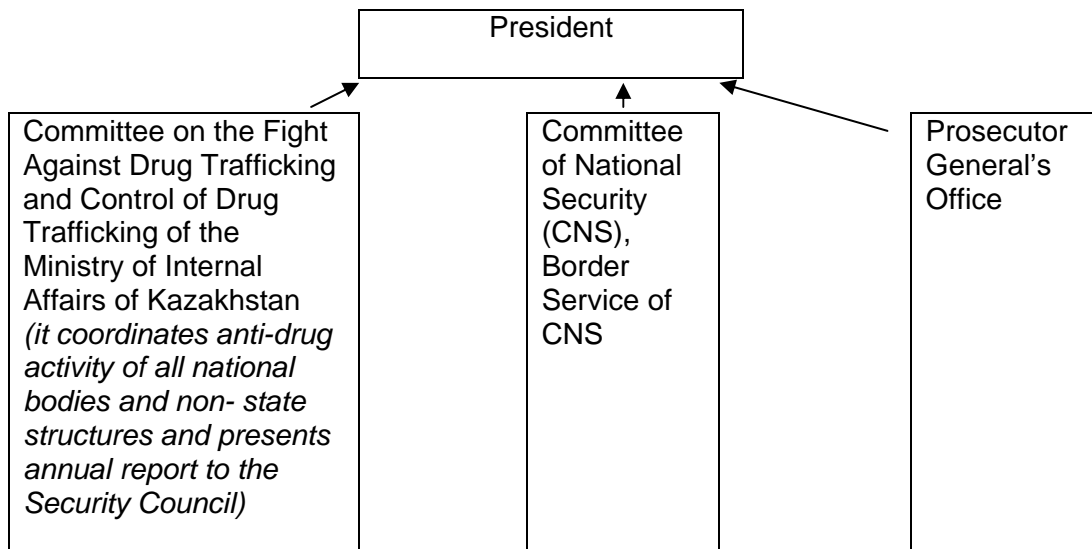
<sup>17</sup> Nurgozel Bayramova for Gundogar.org, 2008

<sup>18</sup> <http://www.untuk.org/>

<sup>19</sup> Official information of the National Security Service of Uzbekistan and the National Center for Drug Control

## KAZAKHSTAN:

### *National level*

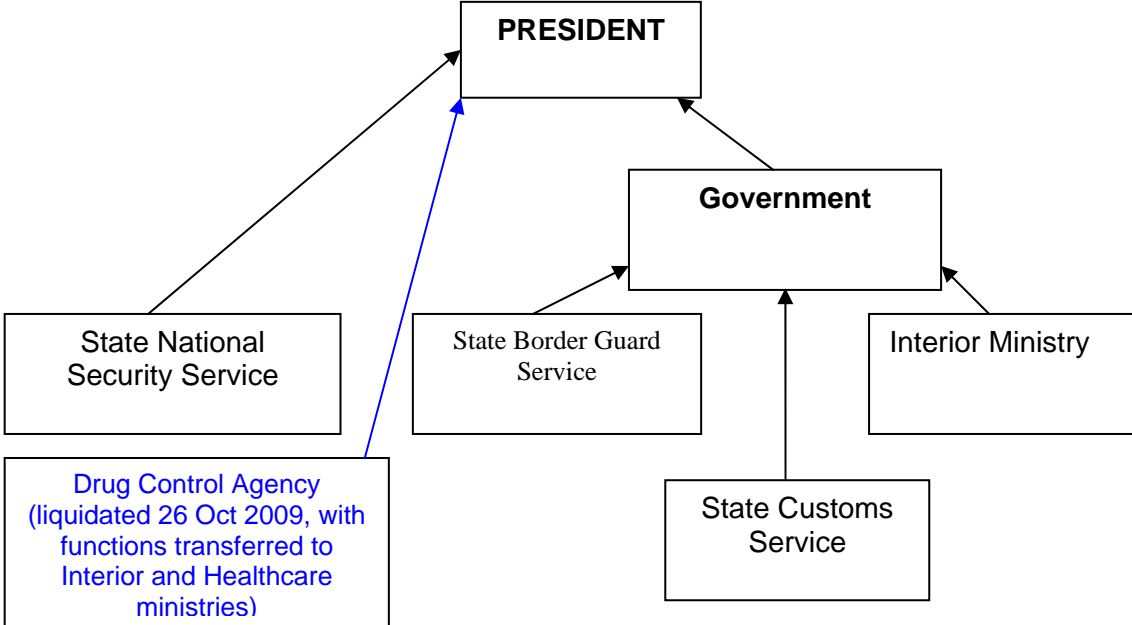


### *Regional level*

Regional commissions on fight against Drugs affiliated with akimats (Heads of regional Departments of MIA structures on fight against drugs serve as Deputy Chairs of most of these commissions)

For the implementation of its National Program to combat drug addiction and drug trafficking, the government has allocated more than 260 million USD. This represents a 15-fold increase compared with previous funding for similar programs. The funding will be aimed at creating special management structures and providing training and strengthening for customs and border control points. At the same time amendments introducing harsher sentences for drug trafficking (up to and including life-imprisonment) and involvement of minors have been enacted in recent years.

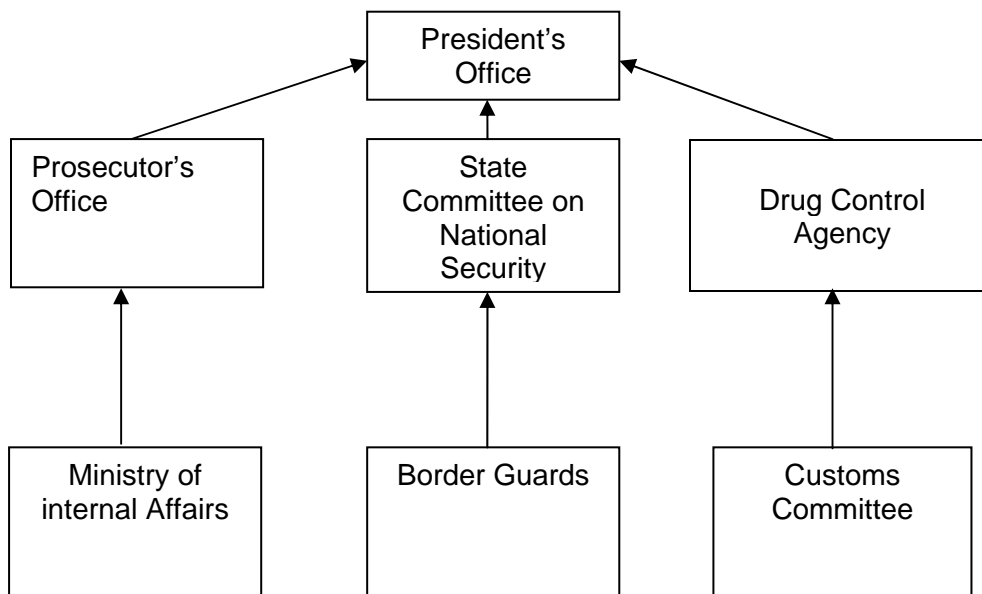
KYRGYZSTAN:



In 2005, right after the Tulip Revolution, the Border Guard Service was renamed into Border Troops under the National Security Service. After the incursions of militants in Batken oblast in 2007, it was again transformed into an independent body, the Border Guard Service, reporting directly to the President. In October 2009 it was renamed into State Border Guard Service and became a part of the Kyrgyz government.

Drug Control Agency (DCA) had until recently been the only law enforcement agency directly engaged with countering the drug-trafficking. It was established in 2003, and was fully funded by the United States. In 2009 most projects funded by the USA ended. There have been series of contradictory statements regarding the state of funding, but at any rate, in October 2009 President Bakiev disbanded the DCA and ordered that its functions be transferred into Interior Ministry and Healthcare Ministry. Analysts suggest a separate department may emerge within the Interior Ministry to deal with drug-related crimes.

## TAJKISTAN:



## TURKMENISTAN:

The attitude of the Turkmen government has changed with Gurbanguly Berdymuhamedov coming to power in 2007. During his predecessor's times Turkmenistan has legalized the possession of up to 5 grams of opium and heroin, people were not arrested for possession of drugs if they were intended for their own use as drug use (especially opium) was considered "a traditional Turkmen way of life."

In 2008 following the presidential decree a special state antinarcotics agency was established in Turkmenistan (State Counter Narcotics Service) with Myrat Yslamov as its appointed head. M. Yslamov was lately replaced by Aman Garaev. The agency coordinates its work with all state law enforcement structures and public organizations.

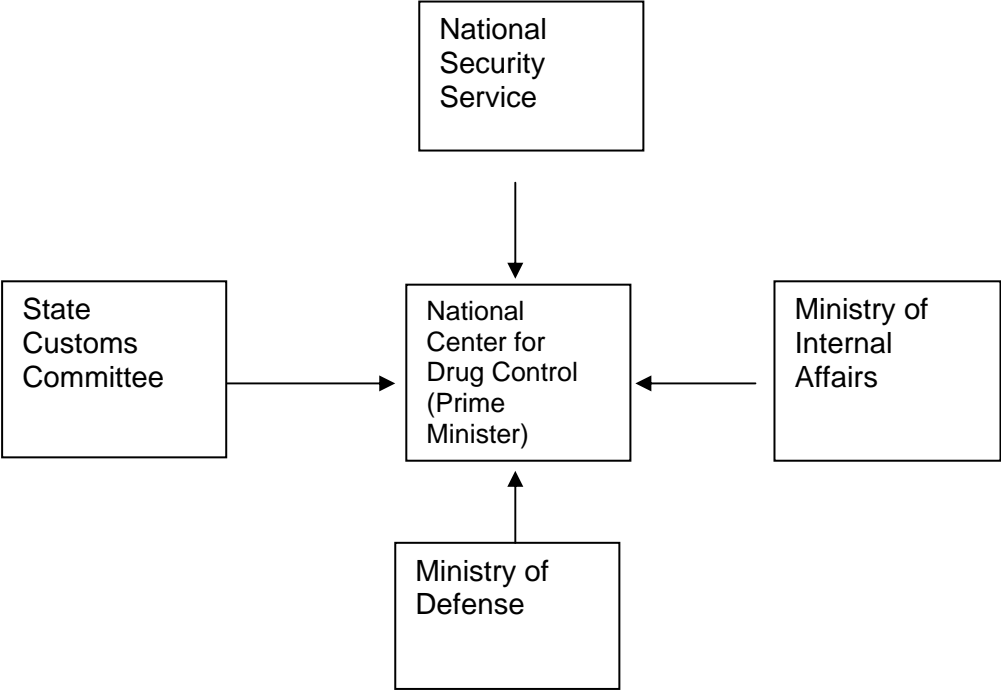
The following structures implement counter narcotics operations and monitoring: Ministry of Interior, Ministry of National Security, State Customs Service, State Border Service, Prosecutor's Office under the coordination of State Committee according to 2004 law.

Turkmenistan shares a poorly guarded border with the world's biggest drug producer Afghanistan, which means not only availability of drugs and low prices, but also involvement of a large portion of the population in the lucrative narcotics business. Drug trafficking is said to sometimes involve whole families living in villages along the 750 km border.

A year after the establishment of SCNS, president Berdymukhamedov pointed out its weak performance in spite of measures taken by the agency. Various news agencies and sites observe a real shift in the government counter-narcotics policy and a growing number of drug related arrests. Fergana.ru, for instance, states that even previous untouchables have been detained.

UZBEKISTAN:

According to the 2009 International Narcotics Control Strategy Report (INCSR) of the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs of the US, four agencies with separate jurisdictions have counternarcotics responsibilities in Uzbekistan: the Ministry of Internal Affairs (MVD), the National Security Service (NSS), the State Customs Committee and, in a new development in 2008, the Ministry of Defense. The MVD concentrates on domestic crime, the NSS (which now includes the Border Guards) handles international organized crime (in addition to its intelligence role), and the Customs Committee works at the border (interdiction/seizures at the border are also carried out by the Border Guards during their normal course of duties). Despite this apparently clear delineation of responsibilities, a lack of operational coordination diminishes the effectiveness of counternarcotics efforts. The National Center for Drug Control was designed to minimize mistrust, rivalry and duplication of effort among the agencies, but the Center continues to have difficulty accomplishing this goal. The Center still has no operational authority.



## **Corruption and narcotics-trade:**

### **KAZAKHSTAN:**

39 drug-related crimes were committed by policemen in 2007;  
18 drug-related crimes were committed by policemen in 2008<sup>20</sup>  
Since January 2009 year the Committee of National Security (CNS) prosecuted 23  
representatives of law enforcement agencies for drug-related crimes.<sup>21</sup>

### **KYRGYZSTAN:**

A common knowledge in Kyrgyzstan is that law enforcement agencies are amongst the most corrupt in the country, and heavily linked to the narcotics-business. It is also believed that local government officials of border areas are aware of certain “routes” and informally protect them.

In several villages of southern Kyrgyzstan respondents demonstrated knowledge on how to get involved into the narcotics trade. The “testing” process suggests, among other things, that one has to be imprisoned at least once on drug-related charges, in order to become a reliable partner in drug-trafficking. Getting released from prison does not seem to be a problem for persons with good connections to the drug-trade, as there have been cases when traffickers reportedly caught with several kilos of narcotics would be released shortly afterwards.

Deputy Director of the Drug Control Agency Vitalii Orozaliyev, in his interview to [Deutsche Welle](#) in September 2009, acknowledged that corruption within law enforcement agencies is a major problem. “The temptation would be great when drug dealers offer \$50,000-100,000 to counter-narcotics officers, whose average wage is about \$150”, Orozaliyev said.

As of today, no major case was heard of law enforcement or government officials being caught with “protecting” or otherwise being linked to the drug-trade.

### **TAJIKISTAN:**

In Tajikistan due to lack of free press, weak institutional capacity, lack of monitoring and control systems and weak judiciary, corruption remains endemic. As a matter of policy, the Government does not encourage or facilitate illicit production or distribution of narcotic or psychotropic drugs or other controlled substances and has continued to seek international support in augmenting its efforts to combat narcotics trafficking. It is impossible to determine authoritatively just how pervasive drug-related corruption and other forms of corruption are within government circles. However, there is certainly a

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<sup>20</sup> *Kazakhstanskayga Pravda*, 7 October 2009

<sup>21</sup> *Kazakhstan Today*, 13 November 2009

striking discrepancy between the extravagant lifestyles of some senior officials and their nominal government salaries. Even when arrests are made for narcotics trafficking, the resulting cases are not always brought to a satisfactory conclusion. There have been some arrests of Border Guard and Customs officers in the past by the Drug Control Agency, Ministry of Interior, and State Anti-Corruption Agency; however, these are low level officers, and investigations rarely proceed beyond indictment of the courier and foot soldiers involved.

In 2006 Tajikistan ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). In 2007, the President created the State Financial Control and Anti-corruption Agency, which reports to the President's office. The Agency has not conducted any investigations of high value targets. The Ministry of Justice and the Prosecutor General's Office remain major obstacles to improving many law enforcement efforts.

#### TURKMENISTAN:

Due to inadequate monitoring, low wages and weak institutional capacity, corruption is believed to exist at every level of counter-narcotics structures. Thus early in 2008, Rozymyrat Akmuradov, the chief of the personnel department of the Ministry of Defense, was sentenced to 13 years of imprisonment for bribery together with another official at the Ministry of National Security arrested on similar charges.<sup>22</sup> If previously it was possible to avoid prison sentences for drug related charges by paying bribes, it has now become more difficult. Relatives coming to the rescue of people arrested on drug related charges now face the danger of being detained themselves. However, major drug dealers are still protected by senior officers of the Prosecutor General's Office, Interior Ministry, and National Security Ministry. This fact was pointed out by the SCNS as during their work they frequently face pressure from higher level officials having interests in the lucrative narcotics business.

#### UZBEKISTAN:

According to internet newspaper [www.uzmetronom.com](http://www.uzmetronom.com), 7 employees of the Customs Committee were convicted for smuggling narcotics in 2007. During the first nine month of 2009, the number of Customs Committee employees convicted for the same criminal offense increased to 16. There were, however, no major narcotics-related corruption cases made public as of recently. Nonetheless, analysts believe that corruption and bribery among law enforcement officials is common and sometimes related to narcotics. The scale of bribing among counter-narcotics officers is not so widespread compared to other officials dealing with other illegal products. Interviews with persons convicted for dealing with narcotics indicate that the going rates of bribes for trading with narcotics is much higher compared to trading in other illegal products. A small drug dealer will typically have to pay about \$5,000-10,000.

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<sup>22</sup> <http://www.state.gov/p/inl/rls/nrcrpt/2009/vol1/116525.htm>

## **Price of heroin and other major drugs:**

*Price depends on purity and quality. Below are some average estimates:*

### **KAZAKHSTAN:**

#### *Wholesale prices*

USD 3500-15000/kg in Southern Kazakhstan

USD 15000-25000/kg in Western Kazakhstan

#### *Retail price:*

USD 25-40 in Almaty<sup>23</sup>

### **KYRGYZSTAN:**<sup>24</sup>

#### *Wholesale price (heroin)*

USD 4000-5000/kg in Osh

USD 7000-10000/kg in Bishkek

#### *Wholesale price (opium)*

USD 4000-5000/kg in Bishkek

#### *Retail price (heroin)*<sup>25</sup>

USD 5-7/g in Osh

USD 10-12/g in Bishkek

### **TAJIKISTAN:**

#### *Wholesale price (heroin)*<sup>26</sup>

USD 400-500/kg in the north of Afghanistan (Mazari Sharif)

USD 1000/kg on Afghan-Tajik border

USD 3000-4000/kg in Dushanbe and central Tajikistan

USD 5000-6000/kg in Khujand, north of Tajikistan

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<sup>23</sup> Informal interview with police officer

<sup>24</sup> The figures are taken from various sources, including: public statements of high ranking officials, data from sources within interior ministry (police officers), sources in the prison and news reports

<sup>25</sup> Retail prices are calculated based on per gram data both in the street and prisons. In most cases the retail prices are reflected in "per dose", while the number of "doses" per gram differs, depending on the type and quality of the dug (just like the price also varies depending on those).

<sup>26</sup> Based on informal interviews with the staff of Ministry of Interior, General Prosecutor's office and National Guard of Tajikistan



*Street price*<sup>27</sup>

US\$ 3-6/gram across Tajikistan

TURKMENISTAN:

*Wholesale price*

NO Data available

*Street price*<sup>28</sup>

US\$ 1/dose in 2007, US\$ 3-4/dose currently across Turkmenistan

UZBEKISTAN:

The price depends on purity and quality. Below are average prices:

*Wholesale price*

USD 1000/kg in the north of Afghanistan (Mazari Sharif)

USD 1000-2000/kg in Afghan-Uzbek border

USD 7000-30000/kg in Ferghana Valley

USD 8000-32 000/kg in Tashkent

*Street price*

US\$15-40/g across Uzbekistan

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<sup>27</sup> United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), 2007 data

<sup>28</sup> Unofficial data

### **Official (and unofficial) estimates of the number of drug-users.**

	<b>Official figures</b>	<b>Unofficial figures</b>	<b>Opiates/Heroin users</b>
KAZ	54000	200000-370000	150000 <sup>29</sup>
KGZ	9200 (Jan. 2009)	30000-45000 (Jan. 2009)	70-75% <sup>30</sup>
TJK	8800 (2008) <sup>31</sup>	30000-50000	82,3% <sup>32</sup>
TKM	31693 <sup>33</sup>	As high as 500000 <sup>34</sup>	NA
UZB	21465 <sup>35</sup>	35000-over 300000 <sup>36</sup>	130000 <sup>37</sup>

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29 According to the Program on Counteraction of AIDS epidemics in Kazakhstan for 2006-2010, about 150000 drug users in Kazakhstan inject drugs intravenously, mainly opiates and heroin

30 No less than 70-75% of drug users are estimated to be heroin users; the dynamics is that of increasing rate of heroin users compared to users of other forms

31 Ministry of Health data, 2008 (7,791 in 2006, 8,117 in 2007, 8,800 in 2008)

32 Gap Survey, UNODC, 2006. According to the same survey, 0.54% of the population aged 15-64 or approximately 30,000-33,000 people are drug-users.

33 According to the 2008 UNODC presentation in Almaty, 31693 registered drug-users or 0.5% of the population of Turkmenistan. According to the combined data of the Health Ministry and UNICEF, the number of officially registered drug users grew steadily from 3704 in 1989 to 5953 in 1997 to 13000 in 2000 and 43947 in 2003. Silk Road Studies Program gives the following figures: 1995 – 3 000, 1996 – 4087, 1997- 5809, 1998 - 8000, 2002 – 13000 (Country Factsheets, Eurasian Narcotics: Turkmenistan , 2004 Silk Road Studies Program)

34 Unofficial data gives more depressing figures. For instance, the opposition site gundogar.org claims every 10th citizen, or 500000 people, to be drug users.

35 According to the National Drug Control Center at the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan, as of the end of 2007 there were approximately 21,777 registered drug addicts in Uzbekistan, of which eighty-five percent were heroin users. In 2008 the number of registered drug addicts decreased to 21465.

36 In contrast with the official statistics, the Ministry of Internal Affairs estimates there are 35,000 drug addicts in Uzbekistan. However, observers in the international community believe the official number of registered addicts is only 10-15 percent of the actual drug addicts in Uzbekistan.

37 . A UNODC study estimated that there are more than 130,000 opiate drug users in Uzbekistan.

## Narcotics-related crime

	<b>Reported Drugs-related criminal offenses</b>	<b>Drugs-related crime as related to total crime</b>
KAZ <sup>38</sup> (2008)	10065 (12,8% of total number of reported crimes) <sup>39</sup>	78079 <sup>40</sup>
KGZ (2007)	1996	7 % of 29151 <sup>41</sup>
TJK (2008)	810 <sup>42</sup>	
TKM (2007)		32, 3% <sup>43</sup>
UZB (2008)	10200 <sup>44</sup>	

<sup>38</sup> In 2008 – 2009, 85 people were convicted for the most serious drug-related crimes for a period of 12-15 years, 4 persons received maximum terms up to 20 years, and one person received life imprisonment. In 2006 – 2008, a total of 30 990 criminal offenses related to narcotics, including 14 535 cases trading in illegal drugs and 1 191 cases of smuggling were reported.

<sup>39</sup> From January till October 2009, more than 8 000 criminal offences related to narcotics were reported.

<sup>40</sup> 2007: 10502 out of 79641 total reported (13,1%)

<sup>41</sup> UNODC data (2004: 3090/32616; 2005 2565/33277; 2006 2437/31392)

<sup>42</sup> Figures on prison convictions for drugs-charges in 2008. In 2007, 784 were imprisoned on narcotics-charges.

<sup>43</sup> A 2008 report presented during the Bishkek seminar on “Treatment from drug addiction availability in countries of Central Asia and Azerbaijan” showed a shift in Turkmen policy towards the narcotics problem. According to the report, in 2007, 32,3% of all reported crimes were narcotics related. Investigative organs of Turkmenistan Mol issued 1593 criminal cases against 3161 people and Investigative organs of Ministry of National Security: 197 cases respectfully. The most recent data available states that in 2007 388 persons were imprisoned for narcotics-related crimes.

<sup>44</sup> National Security Service of Uzbekistan, 2008. For 2007, the reported figure is 9400

### Inmates serving prison-sentences on narcotics-related charges

	<b>Prison-inmates convicted on drugs-related charges</b>	<b>Total number of inmates</b>
KAZ	More than 10 000 <sup>45</sup>	56012
KGZ (Jan. 2009)	2000 <sup>46</sup>	9600
TJK	Approx. 3500-5000 <sup>47</sup>	
TKM	19% <sup>48</sup>	22000 <sup>49</sup>
UZB <sup>50</sup>	35/100000 inhabitants	158/100000 inhabitants

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<sup>45</sup> Kazinform Newsagency, [www.kazinform.kz](http://www.kazinform.kz), 22 May 2008

<sup>46</sup> No specific figures available. Based on various reports, it is apparent that the ratio of people serving prison-sentences for narcotics-related offences varies (from prison to prison) from 10 to 30 per cent, averaging in 20 per cent, roughly speaking. This suggests about 2000 out of over 9600 people who were serving prison sentences as of January 2009.

<sup>47</sup> At this point it is complicated to assess situation and get more accurate figures as recently the Government declared an amnesty due to celebration of Imomi Azam, a Muslim scholar (the founder of Hanafit denomination of Islam). The amnesty was extended to 10,000 prisoners and covered some convicted for narcotics-related crimes too, especially women.

<sup>48</sup> The latest available data says that 19% of all prison inmates imprisoned for drugs related crimes. The current situation is difficult to access due to annual amnesties and unavailability of both official and unofficial figures.

<sup>49</sup> According to BBC and Interfax, 2006

<sup>50</sup> Press Service of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, figures for 2004

## HIV/AIDS infected persons as related to IDU. Overdoses related to IDU.

	Official figures reported cases of HIV/AIDS (since 1991)	Unofficial (UNAIDS) figures number of people infected	Reported IDU infected (official figures)	Official Reported deaths from OD
KAZ	13703 <sup>51</sup>	16500 <sup>52</sup>	70% <sup>53</sup>	473 (2007)
KGZ	2671 <sup>54</sup>	4200 (0, 1%)	1684	300-450 <sup>55</sup>
TJK <sup>56</sup>	1049	7000 (0, 1%)	57,2%	
TKM	2 <sup>57</sup>	1000 <sup>58</sup>		80 (2007) <sup>59</sup>
UZB	11233	16000 (0, 1%)	5159 (45, 9%)	

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<sup>51</sup> Figures as of July 2009.

<sup>52</sup> Information of the Republican Centre on Prevention and Struggle against AIDS in Kazakhstan

<sup>53</sup> Up to 92% in some regions

<sup>54</sup> 314 cases refer to AIDS. As of 1 December 2009, 314 people reported dead, including 119 AIDS infected.

<sup>55</sup> Unofficial estimate by Minister of Health official. According to the same source, the real figure may be well beyond this number.

<sup>56</sup> Ministry of Health sources. According to the same source, 63% of new HIV infections come as a result of sharing injecting equipment.

<sup>57</sup> According to UNAIDS, by 2004 only two cases of HIV/AIDS had ever been reported in Turkmenistan. Officially not a single new case of HIV/AIDS was registered since 2000.

<sup>58</sup> Unofficial sources from the Ministry of Health and 2006 UNAIDS fact sheet stated up to 1000 cases in Turkmenistan and 300 cases in Ashgabat alone. The real figures should be considerably higher.

<sup>59</sup> Nurgozel Bayramova for Gundogar.org, 2008. (2006:105)