DRUG TRAFFICKING IN CENTRAL ASIA: CONTEMPORARY THREATS AND RESPONSE MECHANISM

Musaev Djamaliddin Kamalovich
Doctor of Philosophy in Law (PhD), Associate Professor Head of the Department of General Legal Disciplines Customs Institute, Customs Committee of the Republic of Uzbekistan
e-mail. frank2271@mail.ru

International drug trafficking, drug trafficking, and drug crime are among the most global and serious challenges to all humanity. Drug use and the associated excessive activity of drug traffickers, along with violence and growing corruption, affect millions of people around the world.

They destroy not only specific human lives, but also destroy the entire social structure and even the stability of the governments of most states. Drug-related problems are affecting more and more different countries of the world every year, regardless of their geographical location, political system and economic condition.

Between 2020 and 2021, the number of people using drugs approximately doubled, and experts believe that at this rate, by 2024, this figure could approach a million people.

It is also necessary to take into account that this problem most of all concerns the age category of 18-25 years, therefore it is the younger generation of the country that is under threat [2].

This trend can be called the beginning of the "process of degradation" of a fairly large part of the population, which could in the future become the educated elite of the state, which it now badly needs.

Today, the main vector in the development of the drug business in Central Asia is the smuggling of opiates and heroin from neighboring Afghanistan. Since the middle of the second decade of the 19th century, Afghanistan has been considered the largest producer and supplier of drugs in the world.

Based on data from the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the share of opiates from Afghanistan is as much as 90%. Their third part is transported along the well-known "Northern Route" [3].

Drug production in Afghanistan is already a kind of tradition, but only in the last few decades has this problem taken on such proportions for the whole world in general, and for the countries of Central Asia in particular.

It should be noted that difficulties are created by such factors as a long war, undeveloped infrastructure, thriving corruption throughout the country, and the lack of

markets for the products of agricultural enterprises. Almost 70% of the profits of local officials and 90% of the currency come from drug trafficking.

According to the American Stratfor Center, there are three main drug trafficking routes, of which 25% are carried out through Central Asian countries, including Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan. At the same time, drug traffickers in Afghanistan choose more and more new routes every year [1].

The situation with Afghan drugs also creates a negative situation for the criminalization of international relations. It is disrupting the structure of society in a number of countries in the Greater Middle East and Central Asia. The source of financing for most terrorist organizations, various groups and movements is income from the sale of narcotic drugs.

However, it is necessary to consider and take into account all the nuances in the location of the countries of Central Asia and the problems that arise from this:

- extended sections of the border;
- sufficient remoteness of checkpoints from the state border line and their poor technical equipment;

All this is a serious obstacle to detecting drug smuggling routes. There are three main advantages for drug trafficking in Central Asian countries:

- the most convenient transit route for drug transportation;
- a source of cheap drugs for trade abroad;
- a new, promising market for “hard” drugs.

An analysis of the routes, sources of entry, types and chemical analysis of narcotic drugs detained on the territory of Central Asian countries gives reason to believe that the bulk of them come from abroad through smuggling [4].

This is due to reasons such as:

1. A huge drug market in the countries of Central Asia, as well as the status of transit countries.
2. Economic crisis.
3. Activity in the criminal activities of drug groups in Central Asia, their internationalization.
4. High level of income from the drug business.
5. Increase in passengers and cargo traffic across the border.
6. Weak material and technical support for the border and customs services of the republics.
7. Increasing the capabilities of criminal structures for the production of narcotic drugs on the territory of Central Asia itself. It can also be noted that the legislation in the field of combating drugs in the countries of Central Asia is still too imperfect, which entails an increase in crimes in this area.

It can be stated that there is practically no clear regulatory framework today, especially with regard to precursors. In relation to them, the licensing mechanism for the relevant activities has not been regulated, and the rules for their storage, accounting and use have not been established.

Based on the conclusions made on the studied problem, in our opinion, the following practical recommendations are timely:

- at the legislative level, it is necessary to tighten as much as possible the punishment for the manufacture, storage, transportation and distribution of narcotic drugs, as well as to tighten the very conditions for serving the sentence for this category of crimes;

- ensure the widest possible availability of medical care for people who use drugs;

- pay sufficient attention to preventive work with persons involved in drug trafficking;

- create a clear and effective hierarchy of government bodies, as well as other organizations (media, public organizations, educational institutions, etc.) in the field of combating illicit drug trafficking;

- conduct retraining and advanced training courses for law enforcement officials every 2 years in accordance with ongoing changes in the field of combating drug trafficking;

- oblige all employees of government agencies to visit places of imprisonment for facilitating drug trafficking twice a year;

- oblige students of educational institutions to visit drug treatment clinics once a year. The proposed recommendations are aimed at combating drug trafficking in Central Asia.

REFERENCES

1. Skrokhina A.V. Issues of theory and practice of counteraction // Textbook. - M.: UNITY-DANA, 2005. P. 290.

2. Eremin S.K., Izotov B.N., Veselovskaya N.V. Analysis of narcotic drugs. Guide to the chemical and toxicological analysis of narcotic and other intoxicating drugs / Ed. prof. B. N. Izotova. - M.: Mysl, 1993. P. 72.

3. Konstantin Kachalin. Balkan route for drugs // https://regnum.ru/news/1867147.html.

4. Smitienko, V.N. Criminal law fight against the criminal production, acquisition and distribution of drugs: Author's abstract. dis.kan.leg. Sciences / V.N. Smitienko. - M., 1968. P. 212.