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CORDROGUE 69

NOTE

From: Romanian regional chair of the Dublin Group
To: Delegations
Subject: Regional Report on the Near East¹

REPUBLIC OF LEBANON

1. General situation in the country

Various drugs are currently available in Lebanon, such as marijuana, hashish, heroin, cocaine, amphetamines and other synthetic drugs, for example MDMA (ecstasy). Lebanon is a transit country for cocaine, heroin, and fenethylamine (marketed under the brand name Captagon). Criminal networks based in Western Africa, Panama, and Colombia are associated with networks in Lebanon in the trafficking of drugs intended for European markets and the Gulf States. Regarding production in Lebanon, cannabis resin is mainly produced in the fields of the Beqaa Valley of Lebanon. Moreover, heroin production in that very same region has been increasing. Synthetic drugs are increasingly available in Lebanon, in particular, fenethylamine and ecstasy (MDMA). The volume of cocaine trafficked from South America via commercial aircraft has similarly risen.

¹ Until the moment of the drafting of the report, the Romanian Embassies and Consulates did not receive additional data from Turkey, Syria and Yemen, compared to that presented in the previous reports. As regards Jordan, a compilation of newspaper articles on tackling drugs has been received, which is presented in this report.

Captagon trafficking and production is the most commonly illegal – drug related activity addressed by the Authorities. Syrian refugees residing in Lebanon are frequently involved in these illegal activities, a fact that proves the reorganization of criminal activities between Syria and Lebanon as result of the crisis and the strengthening of the criminal links between the two countries.

Tourists and international visitors traffic in small quantities illegal drugs, mostly for personal use, although the extent of this issue remains unknown.

Drug consumption is a growing problem in Lebanon and there are no reliable estimates of the number of drug users in Lebanon. According to the Lebanese authorities, most addicts are between 18 and 25 years old. The most common drug is hashish, but the consumption of heroin, cocaine and synthetic drugs is increasing.

The number of people who inject drugs is estimated at between 2,000 and 4,000 individuals, and about 5.7 per cent of people with HIV in Lebanon are injecting drug users.

2011 Statistics

st: Kinds and quantity of drugs

Kinds of drugs seized	Quantity	
	kg	gr
Hashish	140	883
Heroin	11	924
Cocaine	66	210
Marijuana	-	767
opium oil	-	30.2 ml
Hashish oil	-	178
Hashish Piles	204	-
opium	-	198

Other kinds	Quantity
	(piles)
captagon	499326 p
xct	44387 p
LSD	28 p
Different kinds of piles	14807 p
Unknown white powder	11.222 kg
ether	830 ml
simo	136 b
Cigarettes with hashish	69 cigarette

2sd: Number of cases seized, and criminal classification, and areas:

Classifications								
farmer	Producer	smuggler	Dealers	Carrier	Brokers	Addicts	Others	Total
9	1	26	283	10	335	882	31	1577

Areas					
Via land	Via sea	Airports	On Lebanese territory	Unknown	Total
4	-	10	1563	-	1577

3rd: Number of persons arrested and their nationality's and their criminal classifications :

Persons arrested nationality's			
Citizens	Arabs	Others	Total
1990	300	19	2309

Criminal classification									
farmer	Producer	Smuggler	Dealers	inverter	carrier	Brokers	Addicts	Others	total
6	2	41	89	1	21	343	1762	44	2309

4Th Numbers of addicts via kinds of drugs:

Hashish		Opium		Heroin		Cocaine		marijuana	
male	female	male	Female	male	female	male	female	male	female
736	14	-	-	313	19	395	23	2	-

captagon		Piles		Other (simo)		Others		Total	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
-	-	130	6	5	-	119	-	1700	62

5th: During year 2011 areas planted drugs destroyed:

Kind of plants	Area destroyed
Opium	40,000 m2
Hashish	35,000,000 m2

2012 statistics

st: Kinds and quantity of drugs

Kinds of drugs seized	Quantity	
	kg	gr
Hashish	240	371
Heroin	20	291
Cocaine	27	866
Marijuana	5	50
Ephedrine Powder	6	-
Ephedrine Powder mixed in sweets	20	-
Chemical substances to produce captagon pills	4895	-
Hashish seeds	551	721
Hashish plants	770	2
-	-	-
Cigarettes with hashish	68 cigarette	
Hashish oil	10 ml	

Other kinds	Quantity
	(piles)
captagon	463977 p
xct	3040 p
Different kinds of piles	10817 P
acetone	13 L
Amphetamine BMK	13 L
Amphetamine bas	92 L
ether	4715 battles
White material to mix drugs	1013.644 kg
Caffeine	4.366 T
Heroin liquid	1 ml
simo	610 battles
Marijuana plants	194 plants

2nd: Number of cases seized, and criminal classification, and areas:

Classifications								
farmer	Producer	smuggler	Dealers	Carrier	Brokers	Addicts	Others	Total
6	6	33	334	7	369	1162	23	1940

Areas				
Via land	Via sea	Airports	On Lebanese territory	Total
1	2	24	1913	1940

3rd: Number of persons arrested and their nationality's and their criminal classifications:

Persons arrested nationality's			
Citizens	Arabs	Others	Total
2398	445	22	2865

Criminal classification								
farmer	Producer	Smuggler	Dealers	carrier	Brokers	Addicts	Others	total
3	8	49	117	9	399	2249	31	2865

:4Th Numbers of addicts via kinds of drugs:

Hashish		Opium		Heroin		Cocaine		marijuana	
male	female	male	female	male	female	male	female	male	female
997	35	-	-	351	12	454	25	5	1

captagon		Piles		Other (simo)		Others		Total	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
3	-	178	2	13	1	171	1	2172	77

5th: During year 2012 areas planted drugs destroyed:

Kind of plants	Area destroyed
Opium	-
Hashish	8,000,000 m2

2013 statistics

1st: Kinds and quantity of drugs:

Kinds of drugs seized	Quantity		Other kinds	Quantity
	kg	gr		(piles)
Hashish	157	484.92	captagon	12390124 p
Cocaine	53	210.52	Different kinds of Pills	24349 p
Heroin	17	403.52	Unknown Pills	642 p
Marijuana	3	937.45	xct	1786 p
Hashish Pills	12	456.3	simo	127 b
Hashish not fabricated	3000	-	Amphetamine powder	57 kg
Unknown white powder	1103	525	MDMD powder	27.5 g and 1 p
kat	2	-	kitamine	10 ml
Ephedrine powder	1 kg	-	Unknown liquid	90.52 L
mixture	-	30	speed	0.3 g
Cigarettes with hashish	108 cigarettes		Hashish plants	20 plants

2nd: Number of cases seized, and criminal classification, and areas:

Classifications								
farmer	Producer	smuggler	Dealers	Carrier	Brokers	Addicts	Others	Total
7	8	85	387	11	472	1225	20	2215

Areas					
Via land	Via sea	Airports	On Lebanese territory	Unknown	Total
8	2	30	2175	-	2215

3rd: Number of persons arrested and their nationality's and their criminal classifications :

Persons arrested nationality's			
Citizens	Arabs	Others	Total
2687	684	18	3389

Criminal classification									
farmer	Producer	Smuggler	Dealers	inverter	carrier	Brokers	Addicts	Others	total
1	7	95	118	-	15	458	2672	23	3389

4th : Numbers of addicts via kinds of drugs:

Hashish		Opium		Heroin		Cocaine		marijuana	
male	female	male	female	male	female	male	female	male	female
1427	38	-	-	295	5	492	23	14	-

captagon		Piles		Other (simo)		Others		Total	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
-	-	198	3	16	1	154	6	2596	76

5th: During year 2012 areas planted drugs destroyed:

Kind of plants	Area destroyed
Opium	62.000 m2
Hashish	-

2014 statistics

1st: Kinds and quantity of drugs:

Kinds of drugs seized	Quantity	
	kg	gr
Hashish	2781	179.55
Cocaine	72	786.99
Heroin	3	998.91
Marijuana	18	7.7
Hashish seeds	1641	943.6
Hashish not fabricated	1	60
Hashish oil	-	29
Hashish plants	259	698
Opium seeds	-	896
Ephedrine Powder mixed with borghol	7	800
Unknown white powder	60	501.27

Other kinds	Quantity (piles)
captagon	35276219 p
Different kinds of Pills	33051 p
Unknown Pills	1802 p
xct	169 p
simo	1236 b capacity 100 ml
Ether	-2 liter -93 b capacity 311G
Unknown liquid	- 8kg and 25 g - 5205.4 L
Paprmovina	1 siring
Acetone	8 gallon capacity 25.250 kg
Hydraulic Acid	4 b capacity 12.600 KG
kitamine	-199 siring 5 m 250 mg -0.1 G

kat	9	453.3		MDMA	0.1 g and 8 pills
Cocaine and Ephedrine powder	4	800		Marijuana seeds	20 pills
Cigarettes with hashish	183 cigarettes			Hashish plants	100 plants

2nd: Number of cases seized, and criminal classification, and areas:

Classifications								
farmer	Producer	smuggler	Dealers	Carrier	Brokers	Addicts	Others	Total
18	4	77	556	23	377	1317	32	2404

Areas				
Via land	Via sea	Airports	On Lebanese territory	Total
1	7	24	2372	2404

3rd: Number of persons arrested and their nationality's and their criminal classifications:

Persons arrested nationality's			
Citizens	Arabs	Others	Total
2806	753	28	3587

Criminal classification									
farmer	Producer	Smuggler	Dealers	inverter	carrier	Brokers	Addicts	Others	Total
10	4	135	148	-	50	494	2709	37	3587

4th: Numbers of addicts via kinds of drugs:

Hashish		Opium		Heroin		Cocaine		marijuana	
male	female	male	Female	male	female	male	female	male	female
1577	61	-	-	188	1	434	23	11	-

captagon		Piles		Other (simo)		Others		Total	
Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
32	-	214	10	4	-	152	2	2612	97

5th: During year 2014 areas planted drugs destroyed:

Kind of plants	Area destroyed
Opium	12.000 m2
Hashish	Discovered and not destroyed areas till now 35.000.000. m2

2. Short update on the country's anti-drug strategy

Lebanon is a party on the 1961 UN single convention on Narcotic Drugs, the 1971 UN Convention on Psychotropic substances, the 1972 Protocol amending the single Convention and the 1988 UN Convention against illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances.

Lebanon adopted a law on Narcotics, Psychotropic Substances and Precursors in 1998 (law no. 673), amended by law no. 77 of 3 April 1999, which foresees the establishment of various state structures to address the challenges of drug abuse.

The Lebanese government pursues a strictly implemented drug repression policy. Mere possession or use of drugs, even in a limited quantity, is punishable to the same extent as trafficking. The use or possession of drugs attracts a prison sentence of up to six months, as well as a fine (of about 50 euros). The law does not distinguish between different types of drug use. However, drug dealers, or persons who facilitate drug dealing, are more severely punished, with prison sentences ranging from 6 months to 3 years, and fines ranging from 50€ to 250€

The "Internal Security Forces (ISF)" Counter Narcotics Unit of Lebanon is in charge of combating drug trafficking and drug abuse. The ISF is Lebanon's main police force, made up of an administrative branch and an operations branch, operating under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Interior. The police are in charge chiefly of arresting and detaining suspects, as well as leading criminal investigations. The Drug Repression Bureau (DRB) is part of the Criminal Investigation Department and is responsible for conducting drug-related criminal investigations. The DRB has four detention and interrogation centres. Under article 211 of law No. 673 of 16 March 1998 on drugs, the "Command centre" leads the collection of information that will serve to facilitate the prosecution of drug-related crimes, to detect and prevent drug trafficking, and to destroy illegal crops.

One of the major challenges that the Lebanese authorities are facing in dealing with the drugs problem is the lack of specialized and trained personnel, caused mainly by the rotation system at the law enforcement level.

The main counter-narcotics goal of the Lebanese government remains the eradication of illegally-cultivated drug plants in the Bekaa region, but a difficult security environment and the need for additional logistical support and equipment hamper its effectiveness.

Taking in consideration the current political, economic and security situation of Lebanon the anti-drugs policy is not a priority on the agenda of the Lebanese authorities.

3. Enumeration of major bilateral and multilateral country national programs

French authorities have a good collaboration with ISF on drug related issues, especially in providing a wide range of training courses to Lebanese officer from the Drug Enforcement Bureau. Another important aspect of this collaboration is the campaign designated to raise awareness about the narcotics ("Les dangers des drogues") to the young people. The campaign includes presentations of various narcotics and the effects of their consume in about 80 schools from all over Lebanon every year

Germany and US are also involved both in providing training and equipment.

At the EU level, there is an interest for establishing a national drug information system and to foster the exchange of experience on best practices. In 2013, the EU provided some training on basic intervention techniques to the investigative units of the Judicial Police in charge of drug-related crimes among others.

4. Place and date of meeting of mini-Dublin groups

For 2015 there are planned two mini-Dublin meetings, at the European Union delegation in Beirut, first in March and second in October.

THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

ANNEX 1

FINAL STATISTICS

SOURCE: "ANTI NARCOTICS DEPARTMENT" / THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

SEIZURES FOR 2015 (1st January - 31st December)

Narcotics:	Quantities:
Heroin	212,807 kg
Hashish	5431,912 kg
Marijuana	13594,717 kg
Captagon tablets	50964381 tablets
Cocaine	4,548 kg
Cristal Meth.	635 kg
Industrialized Hashish	89,039 kg
Other Tablets	55332

ANNEX 2

STATISTICS

SOURCE: “ANTI NARCOTICS DEPARTMENT” / THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN

SEIZURES FOR 2016 (1st January - 25th of June)

Narcotics:	Quantities:
Heroin	33,8 kg
Marijuana	323,5 kg
Captagon tablets	29,8 million tablets
Cocaine	5,25 kg
Synthetic Cannabis	75 kg
Opium	9,35 kg

ANNEX 3

CASES / OPERATIONS HIGHLIGHTED BY THE JORDANIAN MEDIA, STARTING FROM FEBRUARY 2016, TILL JUNE/26 2016.

Border Guards find quantities of drugs on northern borders

Published on: **Ammon News - February, 2, 2016**

Border Guards found during an inspection tour on the northern frontier near Al Wihda Dam, a large quantity of drugs amounting to 512,000 pills, a military source at the Jordan Armed Forces-Arab Army said.

The source added that drugs that weighted 92.36 kilograms were referred to concerned authorities.

Narcotics found hidden in book covers

Published on: **The Jordan Times – February, 9, 2016, by Rana Hussein**

AMMAN — Anti-Narcotic Department (AND) agents on Tuesday foiled an attempt to smuggle 40,000 Captagon pills that were hidden inside book covers, a senior official source said.

A Jordanian man was arrested, and police are searching for a second suspect in the case, the senior official source told The Jordan Times.

The department received a tip a few days ago that individuals were attempting to smuggle illegal narcotics into a neighbouring country via a shipping company, according to a statement by the Public Security Department (PSD).

The method of smuggling was not clear and a special team was formed to follow up on the case, the PSD statement added.

“Our team was able to identify a package that was delivered to a shipping agency to be sent to a neighbouring country,” the senior official said.

The owner of the shipment had a criminal record in drug smuggling so “our teams decided to inspect his shipment and found the illicit drugs”, the official added.

The source noted that the illegal narcotics were stashed in book covers.

A special team was dispatched to the suspect’s residence and he was arrested without any major incident, the PSD statement said.

The official source stressed that the second Jordanian suspect, who is still at large, “is known to us and it will be a matter of time before we arrest him”.

The detained suspect was referred to the State Security Court prosecutor for further questioning and indictment, the senior official source said.

Pills such as Captagon (fenethylamine) are usually manufactured and transported from neighbouring countries in the north via Jordan to rich countries on the southern border.

Smugglers target rich countries because one Captagon pill there is worth around JD7, while its market value in Jordan does not exceed JD1 per pill, officials have previously told The Jordan Times.

In previous remarks to The Jordan Times, an AND official said the Syrian conflict, the refugee crisis and turmoil in surrounding countries are to blame for the new illicit drug smuggling methods the Kingdom has been witnessing over the past four years.

In recent incidents, smugglers have resorted to using sheep, car tyres, biscuit packets, and packages of sweets, olives, large marble blocks and children’s beds to hide illegal narcotics.

Several cases have also involved suspects smuggling drugs in their stomachs.

The AND official said the department is constantly following up on the latest methods of smuggling and taking “all leads and tips very seriously”.

On Monday, Ramtha police referred a motorist to court after finding amounts of synthetic cannabis (locally known as “joker”) in his car, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported on Tuesday.

Published on: **The Jordan Times – February, 14, 2016**

AMMAN — Anti-Narcotics Department (AND) personnel have arrested two suspects allegedly involved in an attempt to smuggle narcotic pills, a Public Security Department (PSD) statement said on Sunday.

AND agents received information a few days ago that several people hid an amount of narcotic pills inside a glass door closer that were supposed to be sent as a parcel through a shipping agency to another country.

The shipping office was identified and the two suspects were tracked and arrested, the PSD said.

They were in possession the package, with 15,000 narcotic pills hidden inside the door closers.

Initial investigation revealed there are three other accomplices and search for them is still under way.

Last week, AND agents foiled an attempt to smuggle 40,000 Captagon pills that were hidden inside book covers.

The suspects involved were allegedly attempting to smuggle the illegal narcotics into a neighbouring country via a shipping company.

In previous remarks to The Jordan Times, an AND official said the Syrian conflict, the refugee crisis and turmoil in surrounding countries are to blame for the new illicit drug smuggling methods the Kingdom has been witnessing over the past four years.

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Several cases have also involved suspects smuggling drugs in their stomachs.

Opium smugglers evade capture in Jordan

Published on: **Al Bawaba - February, 16, 2016**

Ten kilograms of opium were discovered by the anti-drug force during a routine vehicle search in Mafraq, Jordan.

The Administration of Media Security in the directorate of General Security announced Monday that a patrol from the anti-drug force in the jurisdiction of Al-Mafraq attempted to stop a vehicle to search its contents and question its passengers, but the driver refused and continued along his path.

While driving away, one of the passengers threw a bag from the window, and then continued along their path inside a rough, desert area outside of the city.

This prompted the members of the patrol to halt their pursuit and return to the place where the bag was thrown. The bag contained ten kilograms of opium.

The Administration of Media Security added that extensive investigations are underway to determine the identities of those involved and arrest them.

Jordan's Addiction Crisis: 16% of Jordanian Students Suffer From Severe Drug Addiction

Published on: **Ammon News - February, 28, 2016**

Addressing Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour, 18 Jordanian MPs called for immediate measures to reduce Jordan's staggering crisis of alcohol and drug abuse among young students.

A field survey carried out recently among 37,000 University of Jordan students, revealed that 16% of participants are dangerously addicted to narcotics.

Parliament members are being urged to make a passionate plea to government officials to re-examine policies, cooperate with civil society organizations and ultimately curb the drug abuse epidemic on school and university campuses in this Arab nation of nine million. As the Jordanian National Centre for Human Rights (JNCHR) issues a fearsome report on increasing drug-related cases, the Jordanian media warned also about the snowball effect of drug addiction, which particularly endangers school students.

A shocking study disclosed how the consumption of cocaine, ecstasy, sedatives and marijuana have become rife among female students. No comment about alcohol. Jordanian civil rights activists blame the lack of hope in society and government as the root cause of turning to drugs among Jordanian youth.

Widespread economic corruption, nepotism, ethnic discrimination, increasing unemployment and career immigration, put big question marks on the effectiveness of Jordan's higher education system and other state agencies.

According to opposition parties, the Jordanian government must shoulder grave responsibilities as the country encounters this alarming phenomenon of juvenile drug abuse.

38,000 narcotic pills found hidden in oven

Published on: **Ammon News, The Jordan Times - March, 15, 2016**

AMMAN — Anti-Narcotics Department (AND) personnel have confiscated an oven, in which 38,000 narcotic pills were hidden, and investigation is still under way to arrest involved suspects, the Public Security Department (PSD) said Tuesday.

The AND agents received information that several suspects had prepared an amount of narcotics and hidden them in an oven they were going to send as a package through a shipping office to another country, according to a PSD statement.

The personnel found the oven at the office with the drugs hidden inside.

In recent incidents, smugglers have resorted to using sheep, car tyres, biscuit packets, and packages of sweets, olives, large marble blocks, door closers, book covers and children's beds to hide illegal narcotics.

Several cases have also involved suspects smuggling drugs in their stomachs.

In previous remarks to The Jordan Times, an AND official said the Syrian conflict, the refugee crisis and turmoil in surrounding countries are to blame for the new illicit drug smuggling methods the Kingdom has been witnessing over the past four years.

In the first half of February this year, AND agents arrested 226 suspected drug dealers in 129 cases, confiscating 39kg of hashish, 21kg of synthetic cannabis (locally known as "joker"), 11,000 narcotic pills, 1kg of heroin and eight weapons, according to the PSD.

Last year, AND personnel arrested 14,000 drug users from different nationalities, AND Director Brig. Gen. Anwar Tarawneh said late last month.

Tarawneh noted that Jordan remains a corridor country — rather than a destination — for drug smuggling.

Eight suspected drug dealers arrested after shootout

Published on: **Al Ghad, The Jordan Times - March, 17, 2016**

AMMAN — A specialised security force and Anti-Narcotics Department personnel have arrested eight suspected drug dealers after an exchange of gunfire, a Public Security Department (PSD) statement said Thursday.

Before the raid, AND received a tip-off that the eight suspects were in possession of "a large amount of narcotics and weapons" and that they are hiding in tents in an area south of Amman, where they allegedly sell drugs.

When the force and AND personnel raided the location, the suspects opened heavy fire at them, prompting the task force to return fire, finally arresting all eight, one of whom was injured in the foot.

After searching the place, the task force found 8.5 palm-sized sheets of hashish, nine bags full of Captagon, 16 bags full of synthetic cannabis (locally known as “joker”), in addition to automatic weapons, ammunition, surveillance cameras and communication devices, the statement said.

In the first half of February this year, AND agents arrested 226 suspected drug dealers in 129 cases, confiscating 39kg of hashish, 21kg of synthetic cannabis, 11,000 narcotic pills, 1kg of heroin and eight weapons, according to the PSD.

Last year, AND personnel arrested 14,000 drug users of different nationalities, AND Director Brig. Gen. Anwar Tarawneh said late last month.

Tarawneh noted that Jordan remains a corridor country — rather than a destination — for drug smuggling.

3.5 tonnes of drug seized in botched smuggling bid, Army

Published on: **Ammon News - March, 22, 2016**

More than three tonnes of narcotics were recovered late Monday in a big operation that involved the Border Guards, an army source said Tuesday.

The source added that troops at the borders observed two vehicles speeding from inside the Syrian territories towards Jordan, consequently, rules of engagement were implemented damaging the two cars and forcing the suspects to flee backwards.

A total of 10,511 palm-sized blocks of Cannabis weighing 1,815 kg, 44 kg of unknown substances and 9.1 million narcotic capsules weighing 1,647 kg were confiscated. Quantities of ammunitions were also found also besides the 3,506 kg of seized narcotics. The military source reiterated that the Jordan Armed Forces- Arab Army will not tolerate any such attempts and will use the necessary force to deal with those who attempt to undermine the country's security.

Border Guards foil attempt to smuggle large quantity of drugs

Published on: **Al Ghad, The Jordan Times – March, 22, 2016**

AMMAN — Border Guards on Monday night foiled an attempt to smuggle a large amount of narcotics through two vehicles coming from Syria, an official source at the Jordan Armed Forces- Arab Army said on Tuesday in a statement.

The troops applied the rules of engagement taken in such cases, damaging the two vehicles and stopping them.

The suspects who were in the vehicles fled and ran to Syrian territories.

The Border Guards confiscated 10,511 palm-sized sheets of hashish weighing 1,815kg, 44kg of narcotics of unknown types and 9.18 million narcotic pills weighing 1,647kg.

In total, the seized drugs weigh 3,506kg. In addition, the troops confiscated ammunition, and sent everything to the concerned authorities.

In the first half of February this year, Anti-Narcotics Department (AND) agents arrested 226 suspected drug dealers in 129 cases, confiscating 39kg of hashish, 21kg of synthetic cannabis, 11,000 narcotic pills, 1kg of heroin and eight weapons, according to the Public Security Department.

Last year, AND personnel arrested 14,000 drug users of different nationalities, AND Director Brig. Gen. Anwar Tarawneh said late last month.

Tarawneh noted that Jordan remains a corridor country — rather than a destination — for drug smuggling.

Last year, Border Guards responded to trafficking attempts that resulted in the confiscation of 16,768,684 Captagon pills, 893,060 palm-sized sheets of hashish and 20,000 Tramadol pills.

Border Patrols Intercept Huge Narcotics Smuggle

Published on: **Al Ghad - March, 22, 2016**

An official military source with Jordan Armed Forces (JAF)—Arab Army Command, stated Border Guard patrols conducted a delicate operation Monday night, intercepting two vehicles mounting a huge shipment of narcotics to be smuggled into Jordan from Syria. The two trucks were intercepted within Syrian territories leading to their company's escape.

The military source reassured that the Arab Army will not hesitate in facing up to anybody attempting to tamper with Jordan's National Security.

Lebanon's Tripoli port seizes drugs bound for Jordan

Published on: **Al Bawaba, Ammon News – March, 24, 2016**

Customs agents at the Tripoli port in north Lebanon foiled an attempt to smuggle to Jordan a large quantity of Captagon pills on Thursday.

The drugs, which had come from Syria, were bound for the Jordanian coastal town of Aqaba.

Police have opened an investigation into the incident.

Lebanese authorities have foiled several attempts over the last few months to smuggle drugs into or through Lebanon, especially through Beirut's airport.

On many occasions, investigations with arrested individuals show that the drugs come from South American countries and are bound for Gulf Arab states.

Separately, General Security officers arrested Fadi S. at the Tripoli Port over charges of transporting weapons, and handed him over to the Mina police station in the city.

Five suspected drug dealers arrested in joint operation

Published on: **The Jordan Times - March, 28, 2016**

AMMAN – The Anti-Narcotics Department (AND), in cooperation with the General Intelligence Department, has arrested five suspects allegedly involved in drug dealing, a Public Security Department (PSD) statement said on Sunday.

AND received information about three South American suspects upon their arrival in the Kingdom, which indicated they have previous records in drug dealing.

Agents collected information that led to the arrest of three of the suspects at a hotel room, where 3kg of cocaine were found hidden in rubber bags that the suspects had allegedly swallowed to smuggle them into Jordan, the statement added.

The investigation team obtained permission from the prosecutor general to allow the three arrested suspects to continue communications with prospective customers to determine the deal's time and place.

The agents then accompanied the suspects to the location, where two others were arrested for purchasing the drugs.

All of the suspects were taken into custody and transferred to the State Security Court prosecutor general, the PSD statement said.

In December last year, the PSD reported two cases involving the arrest of South American suspects who were caught smuggling cocaine in their stomachs.

The suspects in both cases were arrested at the Queen Alia International Airport.

Army foils new infiltrations, seizes huge quantities of narcotics

Published on: **The Jordan Times - April, 10, 2016**

AMMAN — The army said on Sunday that Border Guards during the previous 72 hours foiled infiltration attempts by three people of different nationalities.

An official source at the Jordan Armed Forces-Arab Army (JAF) said two of the infiltrators were trying to cross the border from Jordan into a neighbouring country.

The third crossed the Jordan River coming from a neighbouring country into the Kingdom, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Border Guards executed rules of engagement taken in such cases, arrested the suspects and referred them to the concerned authorities, the source said.

A JAF official said, on Sunday, that Border Guards at dawn foiled an infiltration attempt by a vehicle coming from the Syrian territories, according to a JAF statement.

Border Guards executed rules of engagement taken in such cases, resulting in destroying the car after its passengers escaped into Syria.

Army personnel seized 3,991 palm-sized sheets of hashish with a weight of 722 kilogrammes, 3,592,000 Captagon pills which weighed 667.5kg, the statement said, adding that seized items were referred to relevant authorities.

Also on Sunday, the army said Border Guards received 909 Syrian refugees during the previous 72 hours and transferred them to shelters and camps, and Royal Medical Service personnel treated the injured, according to a statement carried by Petra.

Jordan remains corridor country for drug smuggling — report

Published on: **The Jordan Times, Al Bawaba - April, 13, 2016**

AMMAN — The World Anti-Doping Agency's recently released report indicates that Jordan remains a corridor country — rather than a destination — for drug smuggling, Interior Minister Salameh Hammad said Wednesday.

Commenting on the report, the minister said government efforts to combat narcotics are in progress in accordance with set plans and strategies.

Hammad said his ministry works around-the-clock to combat narcotics through regular awareness campaigns highlighting their dangers at mosques, schools, universities and civil society institutions, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

He said the developments in the region and the dangers at the borders of neighbouring countries which are left uncontrolled, in addition to the influx of refugees into Jordan, all led to a 25 per cent increase this year in the Kingdom's efforts to combat drugs compared to 2015.

Efforts will continue through security raids, particularly on agriculture lands used for planting marijuana, to arrest those involved and refer them to court, Hammad said.

He added that anti-narcotics efforts helped eliminate many of these attempts, stressing the lack of awareness of the dangers of narcotics and highlighting the importance of the media's role in this regard.

On Wednesday, Anti-Narcotics Department (AND) personnel arrested eight suspected drug dealers in three raids in Mafraq, a Public Security Department (PSD) statement said.

The AND agents had been collecting information on the suspects for weeks before conducting the raid.

A large amount of narcotic pills was found hidden inside food at the raided houses, according to the PSD.

On Sunday, the army said Border Guards personnel seized 3,991 palm-sized sheets of hashish with a weight of 722kg and 3,592,000 Captagon pills which weighed 667.5kg in a foiled smuggling attempt.

During the second half of March, AND personnel arrested 122 suspects in drug dealing cases.

In that period, AND agents confiscated 17kg of hashish, 9kg of synthetic cannabis, 13,000 Captagon pills, and 105,000 illegal narcotic pills and medical products, in addition to 21 firearms and ammunition.

Drug combatting needs comprehensive national efforts, minister

Published on: **Ammon News - April, 13, 2016**

The International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) stressed in a recent report that Jordan is used as a transit country for drugs, and that the government's efforts to fight this phenomenon are going according to comprehensive and strategic plans, and take into consideration issues related to drug trafficking, addiction and promotion.

Commenting on the report, Interior Minister Salamah Hammad said that ministry is working with its security agencies around the clock to eradicate this phenomenon that requires integrated and comprehensive national efforts by all concerned official and non official parties as well as awareness campaigns at mosques, schools, universities and civil society institutions. "The current situation in the region and at the borders with a number of neighbouring countries, and the inability of some countries to control their borders, in addition to Jordan's hosting of different nationalities and refugees from various cultural and social backgrounds, led to more efforts this year to fight drug trafficking compared to last year," the minister added.

Army destroys vehicles of ‘drug traffickers’ on Syria border

Published on: **The Jordan Times, Al Bawaba - April, 16, 2016**

AMMAN — Border Guards on Saturday foiled an infiltration attempt of two cars coming from Syrian land from different directions, “in an attempt to distract the troops”, said an army statement carried by the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

The troops applied rules of engagement followed in such situations, damaged and stopped both vehicles, while the infiltrators fled and crossed the border back to Syria, the statement said.

As result, Border Guards confiscated 4,670,000 Captagon pills weighing 835kg and 4,364 palm-sized sheets of hashish weighing 1,650kg, which all were referred to the concerned authorities, Petra reported.

The World Anti-Doping Agency’s recently released report indicates that Jordan remains a corridor— rather than a destination — for drug trafficking.

Commenting on the report, Interior Minister Salameh Hammad said last week that government efforts to combat narcotics are in accordance with set plans and strategies.

He said the developments in the region and the dangers at the borders of neighbouring countries which are left uncontrolled, in addition to the influx of refugees into Jordan, all led to a 25 per cent increase this year in the Kingdom’s efforts to combat drugs compared to 2015.

Last week the army said Border Guards personnel seized 3,991 palm-sized sheets of hashish with a weight of 722kg and 3,592,000 Captagon pills which weighed 667.5kg in a foiled smuggling attempt.

Jordanian man caught attempting to smuggle heroin into Egypt

Published on: **Al Bawaba – April, 20, 2016**

Khaberni reports that detectives in the Egyptian port of Neweiba, in coordination with drug investigators, were able to confiscate a large amount of raw heroin (10kg) in the possession of a Jordanian driver who had intended to it to Egypt.

According to the Egyptian newspaper that reported the story, drug enforcement officers became suspicious of the driver and inspected the car to find 20 large rolls of heroin hidden inside the car's radiator.

The public prosecutor has taken over the investigation, and the drugs have been confiscated and the suspect taken into custody.

Jordan is major drug corridor between the barely-regulated Syria and Iraq and the west. Earlier this week, millions of captagon pills were seized on the Jordanian border.

10 suspected drug dealers arrested

Published on: **The Jordan Times - April, 20, 2016**

AMMAN — Anti-Narcotics Department (AND) personnel on Tuesday raided nine houses in Sahab and arrested 10 suspected drug dealers, the Public Security Department (PSD) said on Wednesday.

A PSD statement added that the suspects included a man who is classified as "very dangerous" and another suspect who was previously sentenced to 15 years in prison.

AND personnel searched the houses and found 16kg of synthetic cannabis (locally known as "joker"), an amount of illegal narcotic pills and a firearm, the PSD said.

The World Anti-Doping Agency's recently released report indicates that Jordan remains a corridor country — rather than a destination — for drug trafficking.

The government says the developments in the region and the dangers at the borders of neighbouring countries which are left uncontrolled, in addition to the influx of refugees into Jordan, have all led to a 25 per cent increase this year in the Kingdom's efforts to combat drugs compared to 2015.

Border guards foil drug smuggling attempt from Syria

Published on: **Ammon News - April, 22, 2016**

The Jordan Armed Forces (JAF) on Friday morning foiled an attempt to smuggle 157,000 illegal narcotic pills by two persons coming from Syria.

Border guards exchanged fire with the smugglers, killing one, while the other fled back to Syria.

12 foreign infiltrators arrested, cocaine smuggling bid foiled

Published on: **Ammon News - April, 26, 2016**

Border Guards Monday foiled two attempts by twelve foreign nationals to cross from Jordan into a neighbouring country, and all the infiltrators were arrested, according to an official source at the Jordan Armed Forces- Arab Army general Command Headquarters.

It said troops applied the rules of engagement, arresting the men and referring them to concerned authorities.

In another incident, the Airports Security and Protection Directorate, in cooperation with the airport anti-Narcotics division, arrested a man holding a foreign nationality, as he tried to smuggle half a kilogram of cocaine. The man was referred to specialized authorities.

Drug Dealer Arrested in Anti-Narcotics Ambush —Sweifieh- Foreigner Arrested and Fugitives Hit 6 Cars Taking Off: 1 Injured, 1 on the Loose

Published on: **Al Ghad, - April, 27, 2016**

Two drug dealers were ambushed yesterday, Tuesday, in Sweifieh, west Amman, by personnel of the Anti-Narcotics Department, which resulted in a shootout leading to the injury of one of the dealers and the escape of the other, foiling the delivery of a quantity of narcotics. The fugitive and the detainee attempted to escape, hitting 6 vehicles, 2 of which belonged to security force on site and 4 to citizens, according to the communique disseminated by security spokesperson, stating that the suspects had fired first at the officers and were engaged accordingly, and that the ambush was based on intel on a meet between the two and a foreigner with a south American nationality, supposed to be handling the drop and payment

The injured has been detained and transferred to a hospital, the other is on the loose, while the foreigner was tailed and apprehended with a quantity of drugs.

Rental Intercepted in East Amman: Heroin, Weed, and Stolen Properties Confiscated

Published on: **Al Ghad – May, 2, 2016**

An emergency police patrol confiscated a quantity of drugs and narcotics today, Monday, along with numerous stolen cell phones and watches, from a rental car intercepted in east Amman, according to a security source to “Al Ghad”, having refused to comply to the instructions of police personnel, who pursued the vehicle and stopped it. The driver and passengers were found to have multiple narcotics priorities, and were referred to specialised respective authorities to be processed legally.

Border guards thwart drug smuggling attempt

Published on: **Ammon News - May, 4, 2016**

Border guards, on Wednesday evening, foiled an attempt to smuggle 160,000 illegal narcotic pills by a persons coming from Syria, according to a military source at the Jordan Armed Forces (JAF).

The guards applied rules of engagement, killed the smuggler, and referred the smuggled drugs to concerned authorities.

Saudi executes Jordanian drug smuggler

Published on: **Ammon News - May, 6, 2016**

Saudi Arabia on Thursday put to death a Jordanian convicted of drug trafficking, in the kingdom's 91st execution this year.

Maher al-Ghurabli had been found guilty of smuggling amphetamine pills into the kingdom, the interior ministry said in a statement.

Authorities carried out the sentence against him in the northwestern region of Tabuk, which borders his Jordanian homeland.

Most people put to death in Saudi Arabia are beheaded with a sword. Ghurabli's is the 91st execution of a local or foreigner this year, according to an AFP tally. The executions include 47 for "terrorism" on a single day, January 2.

Amman: 14 Arrested Gambling In a House, Heroin Confiscated

Published on: **Al Ghad - May, 10, 2016**

AMMAN - Criminal Investigations (CID) personnel raided a house in the centre of Amman today, Tuesday, leading to the arrest of 14 people gambling and in possession of Heroin, most of whom with criminal priors.

Queen calls for raising awareness on dangers of drug use

Published on: **The Jordan Times – May, 10, 2016**

AMMAN — Her Majesty Queen Rania on Tuesday highlighted the importance of raising health awareness on a range of issues, including the dangers of drug use, while chairing the Royal Health Awareness Society's (RHAS) board of trustees meeting.

The meeting reviewed the role RHAS' plays in promoting healthy practices among Jordanian families, and its plans for future improvement, according to a statement from the Queen's office.

The board members discussed a recent report that indicated a spike in drug use and addiction in both public and private schools, and called for an urgent awareness campaign to curb this trend.

Her Majesty commended RHAS' various projects, which have promoted healthier practices among local communities across the Kingdom, and noted that she has directly witnessed evidence of their positive influence during her visits to various organisations benefiting from the society's programmes.

Vice Chairman Rami Farraj assured Her Majesty that RHAS remains committed to including a larger number of beneficiaries in its newly established programmes, and reinforcing its partnerships with specialised organisations.

RHAS Director Hanin Odeh briefed the board members on the work that has been done to improve overall health practices in schools and local communities.

Odeh explained that RHAS' achievements last year were fulfilled in partnership with the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health and the private sector, as well as local and international organisations.

She added that RHAS will continue to implement projects that focus on schools, youths and community.

The briefing also included information on the development of the society's existing programmes.

Most recently, RHAS has expanded the Healthy Kitchen project, which has taken a holistic approach to engaging with local communities and organisations, the statement said.

The programme provides healthy meals, information on health and nutrition, and invests in local suppliers for raw material and equipment.

It has been implemented at 57 public schools in poverty pockets, raising the number of its beneficiaries to more than 10,300 students and providing jobs to up to 85 local residents in each of the governorates of Madaba, Irbid, Zarqa, Mafraq and Ajloun.

In addition to the Healthy Kitchen project, RHAS has also worked to develop Think First, Healthy Schools, and Healthy Community Clinic programmes.

The Healthy Schools programme has added 58 additional schools to its net totalling 375 schools, and has reached 176,300 students and trained 1,165 principals and teachers.

The Think First initiative has helped over 100,000 students and 150,000 teachers in 159 schools, as well as 927 volunteers actively engage in healthier practices.

The Healthy Community Clinic programme was tailored to cater to both Jordanians and Syrian refugees across the Kingdom.

Among the other significant accomplishments of the society was the creation of a bilingual smartphone app that delivers health-related messages and information to millions across Jordan.

RHAS was established in 2005 under the directives of Her Majesty Queen Rania to encourage and disseminate healthy practices across the Kingdom and implement initiatives and programmes in preventative care.

14 suspected drug users, gamblers arrested in raid

Published on: **The Jordan Times – May, 10,2016**

AMMAN — Police on Tuesday announced the arrest of 14 men in a raid a day earlier on charges of gambling and illegal narcotics use.

“Police received information that the 14 men would be gathering at one of the suspects’ homes to gamble and use heroin, so a team was tasked with investigating the incident,” Public Security Department (PSD) Spokesperson Lt. Col. Amer Sartawi said.

After the investigators received confirmed information about the house and its owner, “they raided it and arrested 14 men, many of whom had previous criminal records, without any major incident,” Sartawi told The Jordan Times.

A senior Anti-Narcotics Department (AND) official and Sartawi both conformed to The Jordan Times that gambling “does not count as a phenomenon in Jordan”.

“It is an isolated incident and it is not a spread practice in Jordan,” Sartawi and the AND official stressed.

Veteran lawyer Zahra Sharabati said the penalty for individuals who are convicted of gambling could reach up to one month in prison that could be substituted for a financial fine.

As for the use of heroin, Sharabati told The Jordan Times, “if it was the first time then it is three months, but if the individual is a repeat offender, then the punishment is six months in prison”.

But she added that the sentence of individuals convicted of illicit drug trafficking is 15 years in prison.

Also on Tuesday, the PSD said AND personnel implemented four raids in Naour, arresting six suspected drug smugglers seizing four automatic weapons and some narcotics.

The raid on the first house resulted in apprehending three suspects, in addition to seizing 5kg of synthetic cannabis, also known as “joker”, and a gun, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

In the second residence, AND personnel arrested one suspect in possession of narcotic pills and two automatic weapons.

The third raid yielded the arrest of a suspected drug dealer in possession of 1kg of hashish and narcotic pills, while the fourth raid resulted in apprehending another suspected dealer and seizing a weapon and a small amount of drugs.

After the raids, which witnessed no resistance from the suspects and led to no injuries, an investigation was initiated into these cases prior to referring the suspects to court, Petra added.

Kerak: 3 Arrested, Possession of Firearms and Illicit Substances

Published on: **Al Ghad – May, 11, 2016**

Security personnel, in collaboration with the Anti-Narcotics Department, conducted a house raid early morning today, Wednesday, in the city of Kerak, leading to the apprehension of 3 people in possession of illicit substances used to manufacture narcotics, and several individual firearms, according to the Kerak Police Department Speaker’s statement to Jordanian News Agency “Petra”. The detainees have been investigated and referred to specialized authorities.

200,000 narcotic pills found hidden in plastic gallons

Published on: **The Jordan Times – May, 14,2016**

AMMAN — Anti-Narcotics Department (AND) personnel have foiled an attempt to smuggle a “large amount” of narcotic pills hidden in plastic gallons, and arrested the involved suspects, the Public Security Department said Saturday.

Investigators collected information that identified the suspects and the way they planned to transport the items from the Northern Badia to Amman, before smuggling the drugs out of the Kingdom.

AND agents tracked the suspects' car in Amman until it met with another, where the agents arrested three suspects and referred them to the State Security Court prosecutor general, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported.

AND personnel found 200,000 narcotic pills in one of the vehicles hidden in three gallons.

Also on Saturday, a security source told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that preventive security agents apprehended a "dangerous criminal" in Zarqa's Iskan Hashem area.

In recent incidents, suspected drug smugglers have resorted to using sheep, car tyres, biscuit packets, and packages of sweets, olives, large marble blocks, door closers, book covers and children's beds to hide illegal narcotics.

In March, AND agents confiscated an oven in which 38,000 narcotic pills were hidden.

In previous remarks to The Jordan Times, an AND official said the Syrian conflict, the refugee crisis and unrest in surrounding countries are to blame for the new illicit drug smuggling methods the Kingdom has been witnessing over the past four years.

Last year, AND personnel arrested 14,000 drug users from different nationalities, according to official figures.

Officials maintain that Jordan remains a corridor country — rather than a destination — for drug smuggling.

“Anti-Narcotics” Launches WhatsApp Number - Report and Connect with AND through 0790192833

Published on: **Al Ghad – May, 15, 2016**

The Jordan Anti-Narcotics Department (AND) launched an awareness campaign on drugs and narcotics, and their effects on society and individuals, while designating a number to connect with the Department through WhatsApp, to receiving sightings and notices from citizens on any drug related promotional or commercial activities.

The number is *0790192833*

373 kilograms of weed narcotics (hashish)

Published on: **Al Ghad – May, 16, 2016**

The Anti-Narcotics (AND) Directorate foiled an attempt to smuggle 373 kilograms of weed narcotics (hashish) snuck in a refrigerated container of apples on board a ship that docked in the Aqaba commercial port. The detained suspects confessed to the charges, and the investigation is ongoing.

About 200 bottles of Saitotek seized

Published on: **Al Ghad – May, 17, 2016**

Anti-Drug Administration seized about 200 bottles of Saitotek, worth 52,000 dinars. The drug is used to treat gastrointestinal diseases, but it is used improperly to cause abortions, which led to its ban on market in Jordan.

A Ton of “Marijuana” Confiscated, South Jordan Valley Raid

Published on: **Al Ghad, Al Bawaba – May, 17, 2016**

Anti-Narcotics Department (AND) personnel with the West Balqaa Police confiscated over a ton of Marijuana seedlings in a plantation in Kafrin, South of the Jordan Valley, early today, Tuesday, according to a security source, who added in their statement to “Al Ghad” that the raid was backed by the rapid response team with the respective police branch, and protective security branch, with no arrests made, as the plantation was empty of residents. Security devices have launched an investigation to get to the bottom of the incident and track down involved suspects.

“Border Control” Foils 2 Attempts to Smuggle 722Kgs of Narcotics

Published on: **Al Ghad, Ammon News – May, 19, 2016**

An official military source with Jordan Armed Forces (JAF)—Arab Army Command, stated that Border Guard patrols foiled two attempts to smuggle large amounts of narcotics into Jordan via car and motorcycle early this morning, Thursday, carrying 722 kilograms of weed and Captagon pills, travelling at high speeds from Syria.

Border frontline control units intercepted the two vehicles, leading to the injury of one of the people involved, and the escape of the others.

The military source reassured that the Arab Army will not hesitate in facing up to anybody attempting to tamper with Jordan’s National Security.

Border Guards foil two attempts to smuggle large quantity of drugs'

Published on: **The Jordan Times – May, 20,2016, by JT**

AMMAN — The Border Guards on Thursday foiled two attempts to smuggle large amounts of drugs through a vehicle and a motorbike from Syria, an official source at the Jordan Armed Forces-Arab Army (JAF) said in a statement.

The smugglers were heading in high speed towards the Kingdom's border, said the statement, which indicated that the smuggling attempts took place at dawn.

Once the Border Guards at the front spotted the vehicles, they applied the rules of engagement observed under such circumstances, destroying both vehicles, according to a JAF statement.

One smuggler was critically injured, while the rest escaped back into Syria, the source added.

The guards seized 3,640 palm-sized sheets of hashish weighing 647kg, and 390,000 Captagon pills that weighed 75kg, said the statement.

Earlier this month, Border Guards foiled an attempt to smuggle in 160,000 narcotic pills, in which a person coming from Syria was involved.

The smuggler was killed and the seized drugs were referred to the concerned authorities.

In recent remarks to the press, Border Guards Commander Brig. Gen. Saber Mahayrah said that troops on the borders with Syria foiled 280 attempts to smuggle narcotics into the Kingdom in 2015, adding that 23 million narcotic pills, mostly Captagon, were also seized.

Mahayrah also said that smugglers use tunnels, animals and vehicles in their infiltration attempts.

Jordanian expat arrested with fake passports, drugs

Published on: **Ammon News - May, 22, 2016**

A Jordanian national is facing trial in Kuwait for possessing forged official documents and drugs.

Police arrested the man as he was driving his car on Al-Khaleej Highway and confiscated forged passports, health insurance cards, embassy seals, stamps, cash, fake birth certificates and forged Egyptian documents, reported local Arabic daily Al-Qabas.

The officers also seized 55 packs of narcotic substances in addition to 25 amphetamine pills and other items.

The man was referred to anti-narcotics directorate for investigation.

The spread of drugs increased three times in the last five years, an aspect that raises questions about the effectiveness of the control

Published on: **Al Dustur - May, 24, 2016**

The spread of drugs increased three times during 2010-2015, which is an increase of ten times compared to the year 1999. According to the statistics of the report emitted by the Public Security Directorate, 4023 cases were registered in 2011, while their number reached to 11062 in 2015, representing an increase of more than 280%. However, the comments received by the citizens via social networks indicates that the quantity of the drugs spread is much higher than the figures mentioned, reaching the towns, villages and even within schools and universities.

Security officials often tend to minimize the spread of the drugs problem and to declare that Jordan is still considered a country of transit rather than a country of consumers.

Raid Delivers 4 Drug Dealers in North Jordan Valley

Published on: Al Ghad – May, 24, 2016

Security forces conducted a raid today, Tuesday, leading to the apprehension of 4 drug dealers in the North Jordan Valley, within the Irbid Governorate territory, according to the statement of a security source to “Al Ghad”.

Many persons involved in drug trafficking were arrested in various Jordan regions

Published on: **Al Ghad – May, 24, 2016**

Public Security Department in Jordan announced the apprehension of some persons involved in drug trafficking, as following: the majority of apprehensions took place in Al Abdali district in the capital of Amman for marijuana trafficking and transport; another man was arrested in Mafraq governorate for possession and trafficking of narcotic drugs, hashish, and fire weapons; two persons were held in the Balqa governorate for possession and trafficking of narcotic drugs and other two were arrested for the same crimes in Irbid governorate; another fellow was arrested for possession of narcotics. The identity of those arrested was not disclosed.

4 drug dealers arrested in the city of Ramtha – 3.000 packets of narcotic drugs were seized

Published on: **Al Ghad – May, 31, 2016**

The personnel within the Anti-Narcotics Department detained 4 drug dealers whose security was assured by 120 dangerous dogs. The dogs were neutralized before the arresting took place and the drugs were seized before reaching the local black market, as the dealers intended. The dealers have a history in the area of drug trafficking and crimes according to their criminal record within the Department of Criminal Investigation.

11 suspected drug dealers arrested

Published on: **The Jordan Times – June, 2, 2016**

AMMAN – Anti-Narcotics Department (AND) agents have arrested 11 suspected drug dealers and confiscated an amount of narcotics, a Public Security Department (PSD) statement said on Wednesday.

In several house raids in east Amman, AND personnel arrested the suspects, who “have criminal records”, and confiscated synthetic cannabis, known as “joker”, some hashish and two weapons.

The suspects were referred to the State Security Court prosecutor.

The statement did not specify the exact amount of seized drugs.

Drug Dealers and Promoters in Custody

Published on: **Al Ghad, Ammon News - June, 9, 2016**

Personnel with the Anti-Narcotics Department (AND) have apprehended several drug dealers and promoters, at the Queen Alia International Airport, and confiscated a quantity of narcotics, intended to be smuggled into a neighbouring country, according to a copy of the Department’s communique, acquired by “Al Ghad”. A special task force has been put together to trace the source of the narcotics, and have successfully identified him, and apprehended him while attempting to smuggle yet another quantity of narcotics into a neighbouring country. The detainees have been processed and transferred to the State Security Court for judicial procedures entailed.

‘13 arrested in Ain Al Basha drug busts’

Published on: **Ammon News, The Jordan Times - June, 13, 2016**, by Rana Hussein

AMMAN — The Anti-Narcotics Department (AND) on Monday said its agents have arrested 13 suspected drug dealers in raids on four houses in Ain Al Basha at dawn, official sources said.

One suspect was injured during the raid after resisting arrest and exchanging gunfire with the AND force, a senior AND official said.

“No one was injured from our forces although there was brief exchange of gunfire with some of the suspects during the raids,” the official told The Jordan Times.

The raids followed “repeated complaints by residents of Ain Al Basha that these men were drug dealers and causing threats to the community”, the official added.

“We followed up on the residents’ complaints and based on the information they gave us, we monitored the houses for a while then launched the raid at dawn on Monday,” he said.

The injured suspect was taken to a nearby hospital in critical condition, according to a statement by the Public Security Department (PSD).

Nine automatic weapons and various illegal narcotics were seized in the raid, the PSD statement said.

The suspects, some of whom have criminal records, were referred to the State Security Court prosecutor for further questioning and indictment, the statement added.

Drug Dealers Apprehended

Published on: **Al Ghad - June, 16, 2016**

Anti-Narcotics Department (AND) personnel were able to apprehend a number of drug dealers in different of governorates and areas of the Kingdom, according to the media office of General Security Directorate, mostly concentrated in the city of Sahhab.

Authorities bust bid to smuggle in 10 containers of cigarettes

Published on: **Ammon News – June, 18, 2016**

AMMONNEWS - Authorities in the southern Red Sea port city of Aqaba foiled an attempt to smuggle in a large quantity of tobacco. The customs department said its personnel thwarted the attempt which sought to smuggle in 10 containers of cigarettes.

3 kg of Heroin seized in Madaba

Published on: **Ammon News - June, 19, 2016**

The Anti-Narcotics Department agents have seized 3 kg of Heroin and arrested 2 suspected drug dealers, the Public Security Department reported.

It added officers raided a house used as a hideout in Madaba governorate and seized the narcotics and three firearms.

“Border Guard” Intercept Drug-Loaded Vehicle Headed For Jordan

Published on: **Al Ghad, Ammon News – June, 26, 2016**

Border control units intercepted a vehicle loaded with drugs and narcotics, headed to Jordan from Syria. Rules of engagement were applied, and the vehicle was destroyed, according to statements by a ranking officer with the Jordanian Armed Forces —Arab Army.

The source explained to “Al Ghad” that control units were able to detect a “Land Cruiser” heading for dirt barrier and was intercept on Syrian grounds by a tactical response team today Sunday. The officer also uncovered that 6,225,000 Captagon pills and 1,692 bags of weed were confiscated from the vehicle.

“AND” Foils 2 Drug Smuggling Attempts

Published on: **Al Ghad – June, 27, 2016**

Personnel with the Anti-Narcotics Department (AND) foiled two separate attempts to smuggle drugs from Jordan, and apprehended those involved, according to the Public Security media office, adding that a large quantity of narcotic pills has been confiscated from both attempts.

“FDA” Confiscates Drugs in Toy Boxes

Published on: **Al Ghad – June, 27, 2016**

AMMAN — The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced confiscated a mailed parcel in the Customs centre in Amman from China, containing Lego-branded toy boxes with narcotic material inside, used in the processing of synthetic weed “Joker”.

The Administration stated that the case has been forwarded to the Anti-Narcotics Department for investigation.

(Petra)

AND Personnel Arrest 6 Drug Dealers North of Jordan

Published on: **Al Ghad - July, 4, 2016**

Personnel with the Anti-Narcotics Department (AND) apprehended 6 individuals involved in drug dealing and promotion in Dleil and Ramth, north of the Kingdom, and confiscated a number of firearms and a quantity of narcotics, according to a statement by public security media office.

Lebanon Police arrested a Jordanian man for drug possession

Published on: **Al Ghad – July, 12, 2016**

According to the announcement of Internal Security Forces in Lebanon, a Jordanian man was arrested Monday, 11th of July 2016, at a checkpoint in Eastern Lebanon, in the city of Riyaq, for possession of heroin. At the moment of his apprehension, the Jordanian was in possession of approximately 350 grams of heroin. Afterwards, the man was surrendered to the police in Riyaq.

7 arrested, weapons and drugs seized in Balqa security raid

Published on: **Ammon News - July, 13, 2016**

Seven suspects are facing criminal charges after authorities conducted a search of their house, where they barricaded themselves, seizing firearms, narcotics and ammunition, the Public Security Department (PSD) said. The PSD's Media Department said a Gendarmerie force, with the help of the Anti-Narcotics Department agents carried out a raid Wednesday dawn on the house in the Balqa governorate after receiving a tip, arresting a number of "dangerous suspects" involved in acts of attempted murder, weapons possession, resisting security forces and drug trafficking.

"A member of the police force was moderately injured during a heavy exchange of fire with those "dangerous people", police said, adding that "the force dealt with the situation and responded with fire to control them." A huge cache of Cannabis resin was seized from the suspects' hideout, as well as ammunition and firearms, the media center added.

The suspects are now being investigated by authorities.

Border guard thwart drug trafficking bid

Published on: **Ammon News - July, 14, 2016**

Border guards Thursday foiled an attempt to smuggle in large amounts of drugs from Syria, seized the contraband and arrested four suspects, a source at the Jordan Armed Forces- Arab Army general headquarters said.

An advance watch force on the northeastern side of the frontier tracked the suspects' movement, applying rules of engagement and seizing 781,000 Captagon drug pills and 180,000 bags of hashish, said the statement.

The source said the suspects, all Syrians, and the drugs in their possession were referred to "competent" authorities, warning that the Kingdom's northern and eastern borders were a closed military area and vowing zero-tolerance with any attempt to breach the frontier.

Youths join security forces in Amman anti-drug parade

Published on: **The Jordan Times - July, 14, 2016**, by Muath Freij

AMMAN — Jordanians took part in a parade at Al Hussein Parks in Amman on Wednesday to mark the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

Representatives of security departments joined the local community for the parade, including Anti-Narcotics Department Director Brig. Gen. Anwar Tarawneh.

“It is important because it raises the awareness of people. The more we work on the awareness side the more it eases our work in combating the spread of drugs,” he told The Jordan Times.

The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is marked globally on June 26, but was marked in Jordan on Wednesday.

Tarawneh said the turnout at the event showed that Jordanians were against the spread of drugs in their communities.

He noted that 95 per cent of the drugs seized by his department were smuggled into Jordan from abroad.

Amman Governor Khaled Abu Zeid noted the high participation of young people in the parade, which he said indicated that youths were aware of the dangers of drugs.

Laila Azab, 26, said young people want to take a stand against drugs because it is an issue that affects them.

Amal Shabsough, director of the Chechen Society, also took part, and said many people from Sweileh had come to the parade.

“Many segments of society took part in this event and this will help expose them to the dangerous consequences of drugs. The problem exists in our society and since we have acknowledged its presence we all have to combat it,” she told The Jordan Times.

A Jordanian man sentenced 10 years jail for being involved in the narcotics trade

Published on: **Ammon News - July, 17, 2016**

A Jordanian expatriate has been sentenced, in absentia, to 10 years in jail for being involved in the narcotics trade. A Doha Criminal Court also directed the man to pay a fine of QR200,000 and ordered his deportation on serving the sentence, according to local Arabic daily Arrayah. The defendant was caught while trying to sell hashish and methamphetamine to an undercover police officer.

According to the details of the case, the officer was approached by the defendant who wanted to sell small amounts of the contraband for QR1,500.

Accordingly, the officer notified the Drug Prevention Department at the Ministry of Interior to get the necessary legal approvals to catch the defendant while the transaction was carried out.

The two men agreed to meet in Al Sadd one night. Once they reached the site, the defendant asked the undercover officer to get into his vehicle and the two drove around the area. At the same time, police patrols kept tabs on the operation from a hidden spot.

The defendant, though, was convinced that he was not being followed, took the money from the officer and gave him the drugs. He then dropped the officer at place where they met. Eventually, the police arrested the defendant and more drugs were found in his vehicle. Though the defendant admitted to his guilt during the interrogation, he did not show up in court and was eventually convicted in absentia.

Authorities: No Narcotics Production or Farming in Jordan

Published on: **Al Ghad - July, 20, 2016**

Narcotics and drugs control Director Brig Gen Anwar Tarawneh stated at the friends of police society lecture Tuesday, presided by society head Shaker Haddad, that there are no narcotics or drugs production or farming operations or facilities in Jordan, and the directorate has the enabling technology to help trace and combat this scourge. Tarawneh also explained that there are simple, limited, and contained instances in which dealers process synthetic weed, also known as “Joker”, but this has pushed us to monitor the entry of chemicals used in this field into the Kingdom, in collaboration with respective devices.

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In July, 140 Arrests Made in 98 Narcotics Cases

Published on: **Al Ghad – July, 25, 2016**

The Anti-Narcotics Department has so far in July, referred 98 narcotics and related cases to court for legal processing, involving 140 people in custody, detained throughout the month in raids and security campaigns against narcotics in various governorates of the Kingdom, according to the Public Security media office.

“Anti-Narcotics” Arrest 9 in Raids; Drugs and Arms Confiscated

Published on: **Al Ghad - July, 26, 2016**

Anti-Narcotics Department personnel arrested 9 wanted criminals and suspects in 2 separate raids in east Amman, Tuesday, confiscating firearms and a quantity of narcotics, according to a communique by the Security Media Office Administration.

‘Anti-narcotics agents arrest nine suspects after shootout’

Published on: **The Jordan Times - July, 26, 2016**

AMMAN — The Anti-Narcotics Department (AND) personnel on Tuesday raided two houses in Jabal Taj, arresting several suspects and confiscating narcotics and weapons, a Public Security Department (PSD) statement said.

The AND received information that a “very dangerous” suspect was at one of the two houses with other suspects wanted for drug dealing cases.

He opened fire at the AND personnel but they were able to control the situation and confiscate his weapons, arresting him and eight other suspects, five of whom are Arab nationals, the PSD said.

Upon searching the two houses, the personnel found 340 bags filled with synthetic cannabis, known locally as “joker”, in addition to two firearms. An investigation is under way to refer the suspects to the judiciary, the PSD said.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

1. General situation in the country

Drugs situation in the host country including production, trafficking and demands related issues

Overall crime and safety situation

The crime level is based on open source reporting, U.S. Embassy Abu Dhabi's Regional Security Office (RSO) reports, information provided by other embassy officials and private citizens. Criminal statistics are difficult to measure due to host government's policy of not releasing crime information.

Crime Rating: Medium

Crime Threats

In comparison to similarly sized cities worldwide, Abu Dhabi's crime rate appears to be significantly lower. U.S. nationals should not be lulled into a false sense of security though due to a lower crime rate. Crimes such as pickpocketing, petty theft, scams, assault, and sexual harassment do occur, although weapons are rarely used.

The RSO believes that mundane/petty theft occurs often, especially within the large expatriate workforce, which accounts for more than 80 percent of the population. However, most travelers are not impacted by crime, and while violent crimes and crimes against property do occur, they are infrequent.

Violent crimes, especially against U.S. citizens are a rarity in the UAE. Nonetheless, in 2014, an American citizen was stabbed to death in a mall in Abu Dhabi by a lone extremist. This tragedy underpins the reality that violence can occur anywhere.

Drug-related crimes

The UAE continues to advance and promote its national drug strategy by intensifying security at airports, land routes, seaports, border crossings, and coastline patrols. The UAE continues educational campaigns, harsh judicial penalties, and rehabilitation to reduce the demand for illegal drugs. It will normally act swiftly to punish violators. In 2014, the DEA Dubai Country Office continued to see an increase in interdiction and seizures of drugs, weapons, and human smuggling by UAE authorities. Trafficking groups continue using the UAE as a collection and distribution point, as opposed to merely a transit point. They are utilizing more female smugglers from European, Asian, and African nationalities in an attempt to diversify their methods of operation.

The possession, use, or trafficking of illegal drugs can result in long jail sentences, heavy fines, and even the death penalty if convicted for drug trafficking.

2. Short update on the country's anti-drug strategy

2.1. Changes / additions to the counternarcotics (CN) institutional framework

Investigative resources, including sophisticated equipment, are available to assist police investigators. The police use fingerprints and iris scan technology and have created a national registry for expatriates living and working in the UAE. Local police will conduct name and record checks if the individual being investigated is present at the police station and has fingerprints taken. Police will not provide data with only name and date of birth.

Weapons, weapon parts, ammunition, body armor, handcuffs, and/or other military/police equipment are illegal in the UAE. Violations can result in lengthy jail sentences and large monetary fines. Violators' passports are normally held until judicial cases are resolved.

U.S. citizens are subject to this country's laws and regulations, which can differ significantly from those in the United States and may not afford the protections available to individuals under U.S. law. Among the seven Emirates, four of the Emirates; Ajman, Fujairah, Sharjah, and Umm al-Quwain share a federal judicial system. However, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and Ras al-Khaimah each have an independent judicial system, legal procedures, and penalties independent from the other Emirates. Violating Emirati law can result in arrest, prison, fines and deportation.

Although rarely enforced, consuming, possessing, or transporting alcohol without a Ministry of Interior alcohol permit is illegal. Nonetheless, several arrests in 2014 included an additional charge of consuming alcohol without the requisite permit. In each instance, although initial charges were later dropped, the charge of consuming alcohol without a permit remained with lengthy prison sentences being levied upon the accused. For further information on criminal penalties, please visit the <http://travel.state.gov> travel link.

2.2 Legal / legislative changes, including money laundering and chemical precursors

Political, economic, religious, and ethnic violence

The UAE has not experienced political violence in the past year.

Political Violence Rating: Low

Local, Regional, and International Terrorism Threats/Concerns

The Department of State remains concerned about the global threat of terrorism including the continuing possibility of terrorist attacks against U.S. citizens and interests in the Persian Gulf and Arabian Peninsula. The continued threat posed by various terrorist groups seeking to target U.S. interests requires Americans working or travelling in the UAE to be vigilant, maintain a low profile and vary routes, times, and routines while in the UAE.

The security threat remains high in the Middle East, exacerbated by tensions and instability within the region. Additionally, in 2014, the UAE has undertaken a more prominent role in countering extremism within the greater Middle East. As such, the continued elevated regional security threat has the potential to affect security in the UAE.

Terrorism Rating: Medium

Civil Unrest

Political demonstrations are rare and must have prior approval from the UAE government.

Post-specific concerns

Personnel Background Concerns

The UAE's large expatriate population, which includes several million Indian and Pakistani nationals, increases the possibility that activities in their native countries could impact security in the UAE.

However, the UAE's South Asian community is generally law-abiding and disinclined to commit criminal acts that would risk arrest, deportation, and the loss of employment.

Drug-related crimes

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The possession, use, or trafficking of illegal drugs can result in long jail sentences, heavy fines, and even the death penalty if convicted for drug trafficking.

2.2. An assessment of the government's political will to conduct a comprehensive and resolute anti-drugs policy

Investigative resources, including sophisticated equipment, are available to assist police investigators. The police use fingerprints and iris scan technology and have created a national registry for expatriates living and working in the UAE. Local police will conduct name and record checks if the individual being investigated is present at the police station and has fingerprints taken. Police will not provide data with only name and date of birth.

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U.S. citizens are subject to this country's laws and regulations, which can differ significantly from those in the United States and may not afford the protections available to individuals under U.S. law. Among the seven Emirates, four of the Emirates; Ajman, Fujairah, Sharjah, and Umm al-Quwain share a federal judicial system. However, Abu Dhabi, Dubai, and Ras al-Khaimah each have an independent judicial system, legal procedures, and penalties independent from the other Emirates. Violating Emirati law can result in arrest, prison, fines and deportation. Although rarely enforced, consuming, possessing, or transporting alcohol without a Ministry of Interior alcohol permit is illegal. Nonetheless, several arrests in 2014 included an additional charge of consuming alcohol without the requisite permit. In each instance, although initial charges were later dropped, the charge of consuming alcohol without a permit remained with lengthy prison sentences being levied upon the accused. For further information on criminal penalties, please visit the <http://travel.state.gov> travel link.

3. Enumeration of major bilateral and multilateral counternarcotics (CN) programs (including that support demand reduction)

The United Arab Emirates' (UAE) proximity to Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran, and its role as a sea and air transportation hub have made the country a target for the transshipment of heroin and other narcotics. Drug seizure trends since 2011 indicate that traffickers also use the UAE as a staging area to warehouse, stockpile, and distribute narcotics. The UAE, specifically Dubai International Airport, has become a transit point for cocaine couriers from Brazil destined for various countries in Africa and methamphetamine traffickers from Iran destined for East Asia. There is no evidence of major drug cultivation or production in the UAE. UAE authorities continue to interdict drug smuggling attempts through cooperation between the UAE Ministry of Interior Federal General Dept of Anti-Narcotics, the Dubai Police's

Department of Anti-Narcotics, and law enforcement from other countries, as well as drug-awareness campaigns which have resulted in better collaboration with residents. The UAE has a zero tolerance policy toward illegal drug use and drug trafficking carries severe sentencing. The rate of illegal drug use in the UAE is low by international standards. The most common drug threats are hashish, illegal pharmaceutical drugs, and, minimally, heroin. Fenethylamine, an amphetamine-type stimulant, may be the most widely-available drug in the Arabian Peninsula.

Use of new psychoactive substances (such as the cathinone “spice”), pharmaceutical drugs, and hashish continue to increase. There has been increased reporting of Emirati nationals being arrested for selling narcotics to local Emirati citizens. There are no significant precursor chemical control issues. The UAE government has made significant commitments of human resources and funding towards building new drug control institutions and conducting counter-narcotics law enforcement operations. The UAE hosts and funds a UN Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) semi-regional office. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration’s (DEA) Dubai Office coordinates with the UAE Government to combat UAE- and regionally-based drug trafficking organizations. UAE authorities passed approximately 57 leads to DEA on drug couriers in 2013, the majority of whom were arrested after landing at their final destination as the result of law enforcement coordination between the involved countries. DEA works with Dubai Police to promote drug-awareness efforts in schools, and U.S. Department of Homeland Security offices in Abu Dhabi and Dubai coordinate with UAE law enforcement officials to investigate smuggling crimes in the UAE and the region. These investigations include shipments of contraband in cargo containers and/or by passengers traveling through air, land, and sea borders throughout the region. Abu Dhabi has an analyst deployed at the U.S. Customs and Border

Protection’s National Targeting Center to assist in targeting contraband cargo.

1. Place and date of meetings of mini-Dublin groups

The next meeting is scheduled for October 2016

2. Prioritized identification of needs for external assistance
3. The needs for external assistance concern the cooperation between the United Arab Emirates and Interpol against the drug trafficking.

3. Mini-Dublin assessment of needs

3.1. Emerging threats/trends

Drug usage is one of the most serious problems facing contemporary U.A.E. society alongside crime, poverty, unemployed divorce and violence.

3.2. Political initiatives

Programs and initiatives focus on reducing the spread of drugs, supporting research, studies, and policy formulation in the area of drug control, relying on international experiences in fighting drugs, and providing social, cultural and health awareness to members of community

3.3. Recommendations

Shared responsibility, emphasis on multilateralism, balanced approach, developed mainstreaming and respect of human rights, the need of assistance to third countries and application of the balanced approach in reducing the supply and demand for drugs.

SAUDI ARABIA

1. General situation in the country

Drugs situation in the host country including production, trafficking and demands related issues

A majority of drug users in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia fall in the 12-22 age group, an close to 40 percent of them rely on substance to fill a vacuum. The CAPTAGON pills are the most popular among the young people with drug addictions. Each pill consists of lead, acid, contraception and mercury, a structure that cause damage to brain cells among users. As for proposal discussed by the Shoura Council to impose drug screening for employees and students, Abdelelah Al-Sharif, the secretary general of the National Committee for Narcotics Control and Assistant director of Anti-Drug and Prevention Affairs said the commission supports any proposal adopted by official authorities aimed at protecting the society and children, and reducing the rate of the drug use.

2. Short update on the country's anti-drug strategy

2.1. *Changes / additions to the counternarcotics (CN) institutional framework*

The national project for drug prevention, launched in Saudi Arabia is an innovative effort to build preventive programs and apply quality standards in the area of reducing demand for drugs and psychotropic substances, in coordination with the Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC). The program which attends to all groups, especially youth, aims to build role models and support parents, teachers, and interest parties in promoting awareness and protecting their community for abuses.

2.2. *Legal / legislative changes, including money laundering and chemical precursors*

Over the past decade, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has undertaken a number of anti-money laundering initiatives and measures. It has been in the fore front amongst the active participating countries in combating money laundering and its related activities. The Kingdom derives its attitude towards anti-money laundering from its commitment to the Islamic Sharia'a teachings, domestic regulations and international recommendations equally. One of the most prominent initiatives in this concern is the Council of Ministers' resolution no. (15) dated 17/1/1420H providing for the implementations of the 40 Anti-Money Laundering Recommendations in accordance with the regulations applied in the Kingdom, and forming a permanent anti-money laundering committee entrusted with the functions of establishing the measures needed to follow up and implement the said Recommendations, reviewing all issues related to anti-money laundering in the Kingdom and reporting to the King the obstacles and difficulties faced by the authorities concerned in the implementation of the 40 Anti-money laundering Recommendations and making proposals and views to overcome them.

2.3. An assessment of the government's political will to conduct a comprehensive and resolute anti-drugs policy

Saudi Arabia cooperates with various international organizations in that respect. Domestically, the Government was working to establish further regulations in its legal and judicial realms, including those surrounding due process procedures for the arrest and temporary provisional detention of alleged criminals. In that, it was working to effectively uphold Sharia law. The plan for judiciary for the next 20 years had been set up. That project, which aimed to develop and institute the judicial facilities in all fields, was also tasked with creating future visions on 5- and 10-year timelines that would bolster justice mechanisms and enhance the overall justice environment.

The General Directorate for Narcotic Control has launched awareness campaigns, in cooperation with other Ministries like the Ministry of Education, focusing on young people.

Saudi Arabia launched an anti-drugs awareness campaign targeting especially 5 million school and university students. This national strategy plan will be carried out in cooperation with 25 government and private agencies and includes the launching of a website as well as a special television program, the organization of 13 exhibitions in different regions of the country, the production of video programs with the participations of leading football stars and the distribution of 2 million copies of a booklet on the harmful effects of using amphetamine narcotic tablets, heroin and hashish.

3. Enumeration of major bilateral and multilateral counternarcotics (CN) programs (including that support demand reduction)

Saudi Arabia has acceded to the main UN Anti-drugs Conventions of 1961, 1971 (as amended by the 1972 Protocol) and 1988, as well to the Convention against the Organized Crime. The Saudi Government has signed bilateral agreements on drugs with Yemen, Pakistan, Libya, Turkey, the Czech Republic, Iran and Malta. Cooperation on fighting drug trafficking is also included in security agreements as those signed with Germany, France, Italy, Poland, while negotiations with other countries are still ongoing. Saudi Arabia also participates in international conferences and seminars aimed at tackling the problem of drug use and trafficking.

4. Place and date of meetings of mini-Dublin groups

The next meeting is scheduled for October 2016

5. Prioritized identification of needs for external assistance

The needs for external assistance concern the cooperation between Saudi Government and Interpol against the drug trafficking.

6. Mini-Dublin assessment of needs

6.1. *Emerging threats/trends*

Drug usage is one of the most serious problems facing contemporary Saudi society alongside crime, poverty, unemployed divorce and violence.

6.2. *Political initiatives*

Programs and initiatives focus on reducing the spread of drugs, supporting research, studies, and policy formulation in the area of drug control, relying on international experiences in fighting drugs, and providing social, cultural and health awareness to members of community

6.3. *Recommendations*

Shared responsibility, emphasis on multilateralism, balanced approach, developed mainstreaming and respect of human rights, the need of assistance to third countries and application of the balanced approach in reducing the supply and demand for drugs.

KUWAIT

1. *General situation in the country*

Drugs situation in the host country including production, trafficking and demand related issues

The State of Kuwait's proximity to major drug source and transit countries such as Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iran, and its role as a sea and air transportation hub, have made the country vulnerable to heroin and other illegal drugs trafficking. International drug trafficking organizations exploit Kuwait's role as an important route by using it as a destination country for facilitating drug trafficking inside its borders.

Rising volumes of drug seizures over the past several years indicate that traffickers increasingly use Kuwait as a destination point, using the security breaches from the Kuwait International Airport and Shuwaikh Port. There is no evidence of major drug cultivation or production within Kuwait.

Kuwait authorities continue to interdict drug smuggling attempts, due in part to cooperation between the Kuwait Police's Department of Anti-Narcotics and law enforcement from other countries, as well as awareness campaigns that have resulted in strong collaboration with residents. Kuwait has a zero tolerance policy towards illegal drug use and drug trafficking is treated as a severe crime. The rate of illegal drug use in Kuwait is low by international standards. The most common drug threats are hashish, illegal pharmaceutical drugs, and, minimally, heroin and cocaine. Fenethylamine, an amphetamine-type stimulant, may be the most widely available drug in the region. Use of new psychoactive substances, pharmaceutical drugs, and hashish continues to increase and poses an emerging threat.

The ministry of Interior revealed that illegal drug use and crimes related to that have diminished in the country by 17 percent, in 2016. The most recent ministry statistics show that up to 7,000 drug cases have been seen by courts involving the use of no less than six million illegal drug pills, said Brigadier Adel Al-Hashash, Director of Public Relations and Security Media Department, in a press statement today marking The International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, which is held worldwide.

He said drug abuse and drug trafficking are taken seriously by the ministry of Interior, noting the ministry's continuous efforts at arresting drug offenders.

In that regard, he underscored the imperative that local law enforcement should work in unison with international bodies to track down organized crime outfits and gangs that traffic in drugs across international borders.

He noted that the ministry spares no resources in carrying out awareness campaigns to inform the public of the dangers of illegal drug use, stressing the importance of the roles of the family, the school, and society in such campaigns.

Addiction treatment expert Maith Al-Ustad warned the number of drug users of both genders in Kuwait was increasing at a “scary rate”. He said the percentage of drug users of all types reached 7 percent, which is more than double the known percentage around the world, which is 2.5 percent. He said the most dangerous drugs are “chemical” and “shabu”, which destroy brain cells and lead to insanity. He cautioned that this epidemic is spreading very fast, and the government’s reaction is not at the required level. About the age groups of drug users, he said they used to start at 17 years earlier, but it has fallen to 12 years lately, after the addiction treatment center received a female student in the intermediate stage using drugs. He said 80 percent of drugs traders are central prison inmates and all are non-Kuwaitis, who run sales operations over the phone. He said the law should be activated against those “organized gangs” by carrying out capital punishment or deporting them.

Between 2015-2016, media outlets reported several seizures of large quantities of illegal narcotics by local authorities at the maritime ports, Kuwaiti International Airport, and residences due to enhanced monitoring and enforcement measures:

- Kuwait: Director General of Kuwait's Drug Control General Department (DCGD) seized 70kg of Hashish, or Hash, 1kg of crystal methamphetamine and half kg of Heroin. The drugs were found in the possession of an illegal resident, who admitted to dealing with narcotics, DCGD said in a press release on Sunday. DCGD will continue their efforts in protecting the society and preventing this harmful substance from entering the country.
- The Criminal Court has sentenced four people to death – three Indian men and a Sri Lankan woman – for drug trafficking. The three were caught in a case related to heroin smuggling. The court found the four, including three men from Kerala guilty of possessing and selling the narcotic in the country. A case against them was registered in April 2015 following the bust at Kuwait International Airport. All four sentenced may appeal the verdicts within 30 days and the Appeal Court will review the sentences. Customs caught one of the smugglers at the airport bringing in the heroin. He later gave the names of the other defendants who were arrested in Jleeb Al- Shuyoukh.
- Narcotics detectives filed 10 drug trafficking and importing cases in the period of March 2-8, 2016 and arrested five Arabs and eight Asians in relation to those cases. The department’s statistics also showed that detectives managed to seize one kilogram of marijuana, 1,608,000 illicit pills, 780 grams of hashish, 635 grams of heroin and 290 grams of methamphetamine. In addition, detectives also arrested eight people for assisting drug dealers and helped seven families send addicted family members to the psychological diseases hospital.

- Mubarak Al-Kabeer detectives arrested a European national who planted marijuana for sale. Detectives learned earlier that the suspect sold drugs, and when they raided his home, they found a protected plantation area and marijuana seeds. He confessed to planting and selling marijuana. He was sent to concerned authorities.
- Customs officers foiled an attempt to smuggle five million narcotic pills at Shuwaikh Port yesterday. The delivery was intended for a Kuwaiti man, who claimed that the shipment carried cleaning agent. A case was filed for investigations.

2. Short update on the country’s anti-drug strategy

2.1 Changes/additions to the counternarcotics (CN) institutional framework

Kuwait’s drug trafficking punishment framework has suffered minor changes during the last years. Although

Drug Trafficking Resulting in Death

The punishment “shall be death” for attacking or resisting drug law enforcement or public servant carrying out his duties under the drug laws, resulting in death.

Drug Trafficking Not Resulting in Death

Drug trafficking “shall be punished by death or life imprisonment,” the penalty “shall be death” for recidivists, public officials, those who use individuals under the age of 18 in carrying out an offense, if the criminal has created a criminal organization, or as specified for certain drugs in a schedule to the law.

Under Article 83 of the Penal Code, if the circumstances of the crime or facts about the offender (such as his past, character or age) call for leniency, an individual may be sentenced to a term of years; the law does not restrict the application of this discretion. Thus, for most offenses, the death penalty is not mandatory in Kuwait. However, Kuwait’s anti-terrorism law prohibits application of mitigation for terrorism resulting in death. Some sources list the death penalty as mandatory for drug trafficking, but we did not find a similar provision in the drug laws excluding the consideration of mitigating circumstances.

Some sources list the death penalty as mandatory for drug trafficking, but—in contrast to the anti-terrorism law—we did not find a provision in the drug laws excluding the consideration of mitigating circumstances.

2.2 Legal/legislative changes, including money laundering and chemical precursors

In the period 2013-2015, Kuwait adopted the new administrative risk-based anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism (AML/CFT) regulatory framework.

Judging the costs and benefits of the compliance of the new framework with the FATF's standards, focusing on the structural changes, these are the main changes:

- (1) a move from a hybrid-prosecutorial to a full-fledged administrative model of financial intelligence unit (FIU);
- (2) adoption of the risk-based approach to prevention of money laundering and terrorist financing (ML/TF);
- (3) the enhancement of reporting obligations and preventive measures.

The new framework is highly compliant with FATF standards and will maintain the already low level of ML/TF in Kuwait, in comparison with the pre-2013 anti-money laundering laws and regulations, the costs of compliance for private parties, particularly financial institutions and their customers, are considerably higher, and likely to continue increasing.

Furthermore, the new framework faces other challenges: the need for an improvement of data availability and statistics on ML/TF risks across various sectors, and the need for quality supervision of reporting parties. These challenges are analyzed, and suggestions on how to respond to them are provided, along with a cautionary note on the economic and social effects of compliance with the FATF standards.

2.3 An assessment of the government's political will to conduct a comprehensive and resolute anti-drugs policy

Kuwaiti authorities committed themselves to fight against drugs trafficking and consumption, in cooperation with UNODC, the framework continuous to be outdated and needs to be improved.

3. Enumeration of major bilateral and multilateral counternarcotics (CN) programs (including those that support demand reduction)

During the 59th session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND), in March 2016, Kuwait underlined the important role of the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in building capabilities and providing know-how to countries with the objective of fighting drug dealing and trafficking.

According to a Kuwaiti official, drugs posed a real global challenge which required a serious will to fight it. Kuwait has adopted a full-fledged strategy to fight drugs, based on achieving security, as well as economic and social stability. Kuwait's public and private sectors established special centers for the rehabilitation of drug addicts who would ultimately blend back in the society.

National committees, Non-governmental organizations (NGOs), media and social media are also contributing to the warning against drugs.

Kuwait underlined its commitment to international drugs agreements, while respecting culture and religion of countries and called for stepping up cooperation at regional and international levels to tackle drug-related crimes, like money laundering.

4. Mini-Dublin group assessment of needs

4.1 emerging threats/trends

Despite the fact that Kuwait is not an illicit drugs producer or a main transit country for the organized smuggling of drugs, it remains a destination country inside GCC.

With regard to consumption, there is an increasing trend, especially regarding hashish and Captagon / Ecstasy tablets. There is no official information regarding female users, but there is some unofficial data regarding a small increase in the use of cocaine and heroin, among upper classes.

4.2 political initiatives

According to the minister of Interior, the local law enforcement should work in unison with international bodies to track down organized crime outfits and gangs that traffic in drugs across international borders.

In this regards, the ministry spares no resources in carrying out awareness campaigns to inform the public of the dangers of illegal drug use, stressing the importance of the roles of the family, the school, and society in such campaigns.

4.3 recommendations

- a) It would be helpful to convey to the Kuwaiti authorities that more thorough and detailed statistics would be conducive to a better understanding of the drug consumption situation in Kuwait.
- b) Kuwait could be assisted in raising awareness, regarding the link between drugs and HIV/AIDS.

PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

General situation in the country

The main factor facilitating the set-up and operation of drug trafficking networks in the Palestinian Territories is represented by the existence of “grey areas” in law enforcement. This is due to the different status of the tri-partite division of the Territories:

- Area A: full Palestinian civilian and security control
- Area B: Palestinian civilian authority, Israeli security control
- Area C: Israeli civilian and security control

To this is added the situation of the Gaza Strip under de facto Hamas control.

This overlap of jurisdictions and the necessity of permanent coordination between Palestinian and Israeli law enforcement, sometimes in a difficult security environment, is conducive to the establishment and operation of drug trafficking networks.

Another contributing factor is the existence of the Palestinian refugee camps, inside which regular law enforcement is very difficult, if not virtually impossible.

Regarding East Jerusalem, the data is collected by the Israeli authorities.

The same jurisdictional overlap and difficulty in amassing credible data for the whole of the Territories allows only a very general assessment regarding the dynamics of drug consumption in Palestine.

On the whole, drug use in the Palestinian Territories is rising, due to a combination of the factors mentioned above and social factors (poverty, unemployment, etc). This continues despite the religious, legal, and cultural constraints that prevail in the Palestinian society.

Drugs situation in the host country including production, trafficking and demand related issues

Heroin, sedative, hypnotics, chemical drugs, hashish, “Spice (sintetique marijuana)”, marijuana and cocaine are the most common used drugs. There has been a significant increase in heroin consumption. Nevertheless, heroin and cocaine are still the less common drugs used. In the Gaza Strip residents have developed a serious addiction to the narcotic painkiller Tramadol. The rate of drug consumption, especially among young and female demographics (heroin), has increased.

Users buy the drugs from dealers in Israel, Area C, close to checkpoints or refugee camps. The main smuggling routes are: from Egypt through Sinai to Israel and West Bank for hashish and marijuana; from Allenby (Jordan) and Rafah (Egypt) for ecstasy; Jordan Valley – Dead Sea for cocaine and heroin; north from Lebanon to Israel for hashish.

Short update on the country’s anti-drug strategy

A challenge for the Anti Narcotic Department of Palestinian Ministry of Interior is to identify the so called “closed laboratories” that produce chemical drugs and marijuana in West Bank.

Until 2014 the Anti Narcotic Department had no laboratory to test the substances that have been confiscated. After receiving a donation from the Government of Canada, the Department established a laboratory under the supervision of the Ministry of Interior where all the employees will be specialized in chemical engineering and one laboratory under the supervision of the Ministry of Health. Before the establishing of the laboratories the confiscated substances were tested in the laboratories of An Najah and Birzeit Universities.

The PA police and security services have maintained a good level of cooperation with their Israeli counterparts in combating drug trafficking.

Changes/additions to the country national institutional framework

Until November 2015 there was no Palestinian law on drugs and psychotropic substances in force, since the draft law from 2008 has not passed through the Palestinian Legislative Council. On 4th of November the President issued a law decree on drug trafficking and consumption. The law will enter into force 30 days after being published in the Official Journal. Order No. 558/1475 of the IDF, applicable in the West Bank Governorates, concerning illicit drugs, is still in force.

The maximum punishment for drug trafficking will be life sentence. As regarding to users they will be placed in a rehabilitation center instead of prison.

Legal/legislative changes, including money laundering and chemical precursors

No information provided

An assessment of the government's political will to conduct a comprehensive and resolute anti-drugs policy

Tackling psychoactive substances is a declared government priority, addressed by taking a number of actions, including establishing a national early warning system and launching targeted communication campaigns to raise awareness, in coordination with non-governmental organizations.

Combating drug trafficking is among the top priorities of Palestinian-Israeli law enforcement cooperation.

If the process of unification of the West Bank and Gaza Strip administrations is successful, an extension of the Palestinian-Israeli law enforcement cooperation is possible.

Enumeration of major bilateral and multilateral country national programs (including those that support demand reduction)

Palestine has signed agreements concerning the drug trafficking with: Russia and states of the Arab League. Recently, Palestine signed an agreement with the National Rehabilitation Center in Abu Dhabi, where Palestinian experts will be trained. Palestine participates at meetings, trainings and other activities organized by the Pompidou group/MedNET.

Reduction of drugs demand

Treatment

On May 5th 2014, the Ministry of Health of Palestine opened a center in Ramallah for methadone treatment.

On April 30th 2014, the Ministry of Health of Palestine in cooperation with the Government of South Korea started construction of the National Center for Treatment and Rehabilitation in Ramallah. The Center is scheduled to be opened in 2017.

There are 4 more centers for treatment and rehabilitation in East Jerusalem and Jerusalem area.

Place and date of meetings of mini-Dublin groups

No information

Prioritized identification of needs for external assistance (as expressed by the PA)

- Kit for initial examination of narcotics.
- Completion of the Anti-Narcotics Law Enforcement planning capability and preparation for dismantling drugs smuggling groups, especially in complicated operations.
- Improving the capability in controlled delivery, working undercover, chemical precursors control, dismantling drugs factories, source recruitments and information analyzing.
- Provide necessary technical assistance for the detection of hidden and smuggled drugs.
- Need of improving public awareness and prevention, by training specialized personnel.
- Training and advice about information collecting and analyzing, especially statistics and data from the international reports.
- Providing the PA with the (Go Case) system, to manage the investigation on the drugs- related crimes, and the related training on the information collecting and analyzing using (Go Case) system.
- Support for studies and researches on drugs fighting, and exchanges regarding the regional experiences in the same field.
- Special training on use of the internet by drug trafficking networks, and on related themes such as, analyzing the relation between drugs and terror.
- Basic supplies, such as furniture and office equipments for the Anti-Narcotics Department.
- Vehicles and transportation for the Anti-Narcotics Department.
- Out reach car – laboratory and treatment.

Mini-Dublin group assessment of needs

4.4 emerging threats/trends

4.5 political initiatives

Anti-narcotics Department police is making a serious effort to ensure the appropriate ability and quality of its work. Officers from the Department are participating at regional and international level courses in order to benefit from foreign expertise and develop the capacity of fighting against drugs.

4.6 Recommendations

Until the moment there are no information regarding the Mini-Dublin group in the host country (Palestinian Territories).

1. General situation in the country**Drugs situation in the host country including production, trafficking and demand related issues**

In the recent years, it became seeming that many of the Iraqi young people are using drugs. According to few mass-media articles, it is noticeable when visiting cafés and other leisure places that a significant ratio of the Iraqi youth is addicted. The most frequent drug users are the unemployed youth, usually coming from fragmented families and like everywhere in the world, most of them are starting in order to forget the life sufferings. The actual political, economic and social situation within Iraq, and also in the extended region (*with emphasis on Yemen: its narco-economy is affecting the neighbor countries either as transit states or consumption related*) characterized by many analytics entities as “hopelessness” led to a significant intensification of drugs consumption, and implicitly, demand.

Usually, the drugs used are pills such as medicines/tranquillizers meant to deal with diseases like epilepsy or mental disorders. Some of these dual use medicine/drugs are purchased in the pharmacies. In time, once the request has increased, the traffickers are providing home made products that are even more precarious. Also, taking into consideration the volatility of the Iraqi borders (*for the moment, in the context of the measures against ISIL, a comprehensive assessment of the borders permissiveness is difficult*) drugs are trafficked from abroad, from neighboring countries, easily. The main hub for drugs, concerning the local use, is considered to be Baghdad. Many vendors are getting the drugs from the Iraqi capital. Also, Basrah and Maysan Provinces are considered by the US State Department as a hot place regarding drugs.

According to an article on the website Al-Monitor, a representative of UNICEF declared that ***almost 10% of the Iraqi youth are using drugs***. Still, comparing Iraq with neighborhood countries, the production and consumption is slight.

In order to underline the extent of the drug market in Iraq, the example could be in the following deed of a journalist: *he approached a regular vendor in a market to point to the drug corner and the next step, to convince the sellers of the “bona fides” of the buyer, was also accomplished without any efforts.*

There are reports on cannabis being cultivated but no indicators showing the export of it. *In much of the country, use of cannabis and hashish is widespread and generally socially accepted.* According to the Mini-Dublin Group for Middle East evaluation in 2013, opiates, cannabis, cocaine, and synthetic drugs (like and usually crystal methamphetamines) including pharmaceutical drugs are reportedly readily available in Iraq. The synthetic drugs comprise hallucination pills Keptagon, Amphetamine, Baltan, Brazikone. Since the end of the Iran-Iraq war in 1988, there have also been major issues with prescription drugs like Benzhexol and Diazepam. One regular way of smuggling the drugs across the border is to package them along with normal pharmaceutical products.

Note: It has also been reported that PKK members had controlled and taxed cannabis plantations, not only in Turkey but also in the Kurdish regions of northwestern Iran and northern Iraq. Furthermore, much of the cannabis that is smuggled into Iraq from Iran is transported through Iraqi Kurdistan to Turkey and on to Europe. The PKK is also known to be involved in heroin trafficking.

(<http://sensiseeds.com/en/blog/cannabis-in-iraq/>).

An Al Jazeera TV show has showed images of a significant drugs “seizure”. ***The drugs were found in the bag of an ISIL fighter and looked like heroine or opium.*** Relating to this matter, the media reports are presenting a significant increase in trafficking and using drugs within the ISIL controlled areas (and in the regions under other extremist organizations). It was proved that the suicidal attackers are provided specific drugs in order to act without emotions. Also, the consumption become frequent within the members of the extremist and terrorist organization in Iraq and Syria, especially when involved in belligerent actions.

Concerning the trafficking matter, Iraq is positioned between the producer’s countries like Afghanistan, Yemen and the consumer’s countries in the west. The routes mentioned by the 2013 Mini-Dublin Group are still being used according to the press reports, but there are no information available about the way the security situation impacts the drugs trafficking, excepting the fact that the internal consumption in on a growing trend. With the nowadays border volatility within the large swathes of land controlled by ISIL, the likelihood for using a third route through Syria had to be considered, according to the press reports about ISIL fighters intensively use of drugs. Also, it is likely that the route through Iraq to Kuwait is avoided due to the increased security measures taken by the states neighboring Iraq in the anti-ISIL war context.

According to the US State Department report on the drugs issue in Iraq (2013), the country relatively porous post-conflict borders (and the nowadays borders in the war context) are poor deterrents to increasing volumes of narcotics trafficking. Methamphetamine and hashish from Iran and fenethylamine pills (*an amphetamine-type stimulant, or ATS*) from Syria are trafficked into Iraq for transshipment to other Middle Eastern countries and for domestic consumption. Heroin and opium originating in Afghanistan are trafficked into the country via Iran, and then onward to international markets through neighboring countries, especially Syria and Turkey.

2. Short update on the country's anti-drug strategy

US State Department/ Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs report from March, 2013 mentions:

- The Government of Iraq generally maintains that the country does not have a significant drug abuse or internal trafficking problem. However, some elements of the government increasingly acknowledge expanded activity in both areas. The Ministry of Interior's (MOI) Port of Entry Directorate and Directorate of Border Enforcement and the Ministry of Finance's (MOF) General Directorate of Customs share responsibility for deterring and interdicting contraband across Iraq's borders. The MOF Civil Customs Officers and MOI Customs Police search vehicles crossing into Iraq. However, *this focus on seizing drug shipments at the borders has rarely been accompanied by further investigation into the sources of the narcotics or by arrests and prosecutions of top leaders of drug trafficking enterprises. The Iraqi Federal Police do not devote significant resources to drug cases.*

The Embassy assessment is that there aren't up to date trained Iraqi structures to really address the drugs issue, the focus of the force institutions being on combating terrorism, especially ISIL.

- Iraq's drug laws are in need of reform, as the vast majority of laws date from the 1960s and do not reflect advances in law enforcement or treatment. *Personal use can carry sentences from three- to 15-years' incarceration and trafficking can draw a life sentence or the death penalty.* Convicted drug users can request treatment in lieu of incarceration, but treatment capacities would be grossly inadequate if this option were routinely implemented. According to the online mass-media, an important hospital in Iraq has only 10 beds that can be used for such cases even though the medical section was specially design for mental illnesses.

- Iraq does not have interdiction programs specifically targeting drugs. Rather, interdiction efforts are included in routine border control duties. Traffickers have adapted more sophisticated concealment methods in response to more frequent searches of vehicles by border authorities. The government first seized fenethylamine pills in 2009, and seizures have increased substantially each year since. At the beginning of 2012, Iraqi border authorities seized several shipments of heroin exceeding 50 kilograms before they could enter Syria. Law enforcement officials in Basrah contend that the city has become a central entry point and a major distribution center for drugs in Iraq. *At the present time, border authorities are seeing an increase in drug seizures, and have some concern terrorists could be turning to increasingly lucrative narcotics trafficking as a revenue stream.*

- According to The Guardian the consumption of crystal meth is doubling year on year, but the Iraqi city's anti-narcotics force operates on a shoestring budget in order to counter this phenomenon. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/aug/16/no-one-smuggles-oil-any-more-basra-police-battle-crystal-meth-epidemic>

2.1. Changes/additions to the country national institutional framework

Ministry of Interior established a Narcotics Central Bureau in 2004:

- Establishment of anti-narcotics offices in police directorates of all governorates;
- Forming in November 2004 of the National Committee for Anti-Narcotics and Mentally Affecting Material as an implementation of the Arab strategy of anti-narcotics issued by the Council of Arab Ministries of Interior. The National Committee comprised, at the time, the following Ministries: Interior, Health, Labor and Social Affairs, Justice, Education, Human Rights, the Municipality of Baghdad etc.
- Opening new channels for continuity and cooperation concerning anti-narcotics means with the Arab countries through the Arab Bureau for Narcotics and the Regional Bureau for North Africa and Near East in order to participate in relevant conferences and workshops. Cooperation also exists with UNDOC office in Cairo.
- Participation in preparing a code draft on narcotics and mental affecting material with other offices and departments, paving the way for the legislation.
- Following-up the work of narcotic offices like seizing operations, inquiries and investigation with the convicts and the process of destroying the narcotics.

- Formation of central commission for destroying the narcotics.
- Participation of 25 officers in a seminar dealing with narcotics held in Amman by Arab health Organization.
- Participation of 25 officers in a seminar in the United Arab Emirates on international narcotic affair.
- Participation with the Ministry of Health in preparing for the celebration of the World day of anti-narcotics.
- Sharing workshops with the Ministry of Health concerning field studies for the narcotics phenomenon and other mental affecting material in order to proceed with building a data base on fighting narcotics in Iraq.

In cooperation with the Ministry of Health, it communicates about the needs and requirements of Iraq, with the United Nations Office on Drugs, Crime and Legal Affairs in Vienna, the UNDOC office in Cairo and with other competent international bodies.

The MoFA follows the situation of Iraqi convicts of narcotics offences abroad and provides to the MoI and MoH with valuable information which stems from the prosecution of the convicts, especially on trafficking.

The overall assessment of the Embassy regarding the above-mentioned issues evince that, even though there is a legal framework (that needs serious improvements), there are not really well structured institution for implementing the procedures (*the case being similar for other dimensions of the administrative activities within Iraq*).

2.2 legal/legislative changes, including money laundering and chemical precursors

The Anti-Money laundering Act of 2004 is still in force. It governs financial institutions and criminalizes money laundering, financing crime, and structuring transactions to avoid legal requirements. The Act calls for the establishment of the Money Laundering Reporting Office.

In 2016, Iraq has started a consolidated cooperation with international organizations related to the anti-corruption efforts and to the monetary transactions. Even though that it is assumed that the drugs related dealings are not reflected within bank accounts (*avoiding to use the banks financial services is a general situation in Iraq*).

2.3 An assessment of the government's political will to conduct a comprehensive and resolute ant-drugs policy

Due to the extremely fluid political and security situation in Iraq, the ISIL phenomenon having nowadays epic characteristics, anti-drugs strategies does not constitute a priority of the government. In the strategic priorities and the extended governing program set up by the Iraqi inclusive government set up in September 2014, there is no reference to the drugs issue. The ambitious social, economic, security and even political measures, if followed, might though have a reduction effect on the local demand.

The mini-Dublin Group in 2013 mentioned that a CN Legislation was being reviewed at the Parliament. This legislation if approved will also allow for more flexible rules regarding HIV treatment modalities. Proposals were made to enforce severe punishment against traffickers and also that there is a policy of displaying on TV and radio offenders of CN laws. Still, in the last two years of activity of the Iraqi executive and Iraqi Parliament, only one important piece of legislation was passed (Political Parties Law – and, the media is assessing that the provisions are not implemented accordingly).

Note: Iraq still makes extensive use of the death penalty, but it may only be applied to drug trafficking offences if it is shown that the offences were committed in order to fund or abet insurgency. However, there is widespread belief on the part of the Iraqi authorities and media that drug trafficking is inextricably linked to insurgency, and suspected drug traffickers are often accused of having links to terrorist organizations (<http://sensiseeds.com/en/blog/cannabis-in-iraq/>).

Working with the MOH in 2015, the United States completed a nation-wide survey on the prevalence and demographics of substance abuse that will inform the development of a national strategy to decrease substance abuse, and implementation of the strategy. The results of the survey report show an increase in substance abuse, with a 3.7 percent lifetime prevalence use rate, as compared with a 2004 WHO report indicating a less than one percent rate. Iraq's political leadership continues to focus on restoring stability. While securing resources to counter drug trafficking and reduce domestic demand is important, it will not likely be the top priority for the Government of Iraq. For example, in 2015, Iraqi pharmacies are only beginning to require a doctor's prescription before providing medicine and drugs to consumers.

3. Enumeration of major bilateral and multilateral CN programs (including those that support demand reduction)

a) Capacity Building Integrated Border Management – CBIBM

The program was implemented between 2007-2009 being funded by Japan and United Nations Country Team Iraq. In January 2009, the Immigration Training Extension Centre (ITEC) was opened in Basrah to allow residential course for 60 students at a time.

b) Integrated Border Management Project - IBM

Promoting active intra-service and inter-agency amongst Iraqi state agencies and ministries involved in border management, at both the national level and the Border Crossing Points in the Basrah region as well as by enhancing common surveillance capabilities for the flow of legal persons and goods through targeted infrastructure upgrade and improved border management training. According to the Mini Dublin Group in 2013, this will be complemented by institutionalizing cooperative data collection, sharing and analysis for the risk management, as well as enabling the rational appropriation of new IBM concepts by the Government of Iraq. The project aimed to establish an Integrated Border Management Model at the Borders in Basrah region which can be replicated at national level.

c) HIV/AIDS Project in Iraq and Inclusions of UNDOC elements on IDUs (Injecting Drugs Users)

IDUs are perceived to be at great risks concerning HIV transmission, considering the permissive conditions for the spread from Iran to Iraq of this phenomenon. Regarding the Iraqi case, no data is available at the official level.

Interventions among IDUs are one of the priorities of the Iraq Trust Fund (*UNDOC has proposed the development of a partnership with the Ministry of Interior to better institutionalize the prevention programs*).

Due to the fact the significant amounts of money from Iraq Trust Fund were used to cover other governmental needs (*starting with 2015, when the price of the barrel crashed and the financial crisis in Iraq appeared*), the Embassy appreciates that we will witness delays in implementing the above-mentioned projects.

d) The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was, in august 2014, in the process of implementing a joint program - currently suspended due to the precarious security situation - with the World Health Organization and the Iraqi Ministry of Health to improve treatment within the very few specialized sections in hospitals.

e) Pursuant to the 2008 U.S.-Iraq Strategic Framework Agreement, the United States continues to fund counter-narcotics assistance programs. U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection officers work with the Iraqi Directorate of Border Enforcement to improve border control. In 2012, CBP officers trained passport police officers on techniques for detecting suspicious behavior, narcotics identification, and luggage examination. Iraqi Civil Customs and Customs Police repeatedly request further counter-narcotics training. At the request of the Iraqi Federal Police, U.S. advisors provided drug identification materials to assist police at checkpoints with identifying bulk shipments.

f) The United States also funds the Iraq Drug Demand Reduction initiative. Working with the Iraqi Ministry of Health, that initiative led to development of a national substance abuse training, research, and treatment center in Baghdad to integrate substance abuse intervention and treatment services into the Iraqi primary health care system. This initiative also helped form the Iraq Community Epidemiology Working Group, which produced the first comprehensive profile on the nature and extent of drug abuse in Iraq.

g) The United States also provided training on evidence-based substance abuse treatment to Iraqi health care professionals in 2014, who are replicating this training to other Iraqi health care professionals throughout the country. Additionally, U.S. assistance to Iraqi civil society organizations has led to the development of anti-drug coalitions and outreach drop-in-centers to prevent substance abuse through grassroots community engagement.

4. N/A

5. Prioritized identification of needs for external assistance

Assessment: in the special Iraqi case, in order to reach the second stage that requires specialized assistance such as training of the officers, offering instruments, providing and sharing know-how at the preventing, deterring and combating levels etc., there is an urgent need to solve the country's security, ethnic, religious, social, political and economic issues.

6. Mini-Dublin group assessment of needs

6.1 Emerging threats/trends

The volatility of the security situation and the implicit collapse of the social stability might be conducive to an increase in the drugs users' proportion. Also, the trafficking related issues might develop accordingly to the evolution of the conflict: increased trafficking in some areas and contracted in others. Due to the significant state investment in the security related fields, a reduction might be witnessed.

6.2 Political initiatives

Assessment: in order to increase the prevention measures effect, also the traditional and religious leaders (that are already preventing drug abuse by talking about the consequences) should be consulted and involved in the different programs developed.

For example, the tribal leaders of the Maysan Region (which borders Iran to the South-East) were reportedly supporting drugs related activities. Furthermore, the media source mentions that drug trafficking has been a popular trade in the southern province of Maysan since the 1990s.

<http://www.niqash.org/en/articles/security/5204/>

6.3 Recommendations

Iraq's political leadership has not yet acknowledged the country's growing role as a transit and consumer country for illegal drugs. Iraq needs to provide adequate resources to counter drug trafficking and reduce domestic demand. The Iraqi government should also modernize outdated drug control laws to improve law enforcement, drug abuse prevention and treatment.

ISRAEL

1. General situation in the country

Drugs situation in the host country including production, trafficking and demand related issues

1.1 Production / Demand

Although Israel is not a narcotics producing country, it constitutes a transit point for large proportions of drugs reaching Israeli territory via neighboring countries. Still less than 10% of drugs seized in Israel are produced inside the country. Israeli authorities are convinced that drug trafficking is overlapping with other criminal activities (e.g. arms trafficking).

During the last years the use of “hydro” method of home-growing marijuana has been widely established.

Although there are no major changes in the demand for the well-known substances, Israeli authorities observe that the use of “grass” and ecstasy among the young population, as well as the demand for cocaine, in general, has been growing.

1.2 Trafficking

Given that Israel is not a producing and manufacturing country, most efforts have been targeted to counter illicit drug trafficking and supply.

Trafficking occurs mainly through land and sea borders. Over the last years, Jordan has been established as a transit country. The “Shalom” border with Jordan, from the south part of the Dead Sea to Eilat, is main gateway for heroin, cocaine and amphetamine. Heroin and hashish are smuggled from Lebanon, while hashish and marijuana are being smuggled through the border with Egypt.

Also, Thailand is a major source for methamphetamine “YABA”, while South America is the main source for cocaine, by carriers and luggage.

Since 2005, Israel has become a “transit” country for heroin and cocaine smuggling, transferred from Lebanon and Jordan to Egypt, in exchange for hashish which is supplied to the local Israeli market.

The Israeli authorities consider that there are “good relations” between traffickers from the north and the south of Israel. Drug trafficking is flourishing as significant traffickers from neighboring countries have local connections in Israel, despite the strong security measures along the latter’s borders.

Israeli nationals have become quite prominent internationally in trafficking networks, especially for cocaine and ecstasy. Domestic organized crime is involved in the distribution of drugs and more recently in a gang war.

1.3 Drug consumption patterns

According to the Drug Unit of the Israeli National Police:

- Cocaine is an established drug in the Israeli market with a relatively high supply from the “source” countries in South America.

- Heroin reaches Israel from “source” countries in Asia.

- Cannabis remains the most popular drug, mainly in the forms of hashish and marijuana. During 2009, there was a significant increase in the number of “hydro” marijuana labs seized by the Police. Consumers in Israel show a preference for Moroccan and Indian hashish.

- The MDMA amphetamines (ecstasy) are the most popular by-product in Israel, most of which is smuggled from “source” countries in Europe. For the first time in 2009, “YABA” spread in the Israeli market, destined for the use of Thai workers.

2. Short update on the country’s anti-drug strategy

2.1 Changes/additions to the country national institutional framework – n/a.

2.2 legal/legislative changes, including money laundering and chemical precursors

In July 2013, the ‘Kiosk Drug’ law passed its final reading in the Knesset, expanding the police’s authority to confiscate materials suspected as hazardous to public health or safety. The law was introduced following increasing numbers of cases of young people using dangerous substances sold in kiosks.

A Memorandum of Understanding between the European Monitoring Centre for Drug and Drugs Addiction (EMCDDA) and IADA was signed on 4 February 2014 in Jerusalem. A representative from IADA attended the 2nd Reitox week in May. Among relevant sources of expertise of interest, one can mention the New Psychotropic Substances (NPS), for which an Israeli expert participated in the International Forum on NPS organized by the EMCDDA and by NIDA. Israel appointed a national correspondent to the EMCDDA.

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Executive Director, Yury Fedotov, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in Jerusalem, on the 8th of June 2014, which furthers cooperation between UNODC and Israel in countering drugs and crime.

2.3 an assessment of the government's political will to conduct a comprehensive and resolute anti-drugs policy

Due to the multi-faceted and complex nature of the drug problem, which touches on many different areas and demands the involvement of a variety of government agencies, the Prime Minister of Israel is the Minister responsible for the realization of Drug Control Authority Law. However, in 2009, the parliament approved the government's decision to grant the Minister of Internal Security responsibility over the Israel Anti-Drug Authority.

The State of Israel devotes much effort to the implementation of a comprehensive demand reduction strategy. Coordinated by the Israel Anti-Drug Authority (IADA), in cooperation with relevant ministries such as the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Social Affairs and Social Services and other governmental agencies and NGOs, evidence based prevention and treatment programs are implemented throughout the country, targeting the general and at risk populations. IADA also addresses addiction as a chronic health disorder, and aims to provide adequate and accessible treatment and rehabilitation solutions to all drug and alcohol abuse victims.

3. Enumeration of major bilateral and multilateral country national programs (including those that support demand reduction)

In the multi-lateral front, Israel has strong working relations with international organizations working to fight the plague of substance abuse, among them: UNODC, INCB and WHO. Cooperation with our European counterparts: European Council and European Union have also raised to a new level, in particular collaboration with the Pompidou Group and the EMCDDA.

Israel showed interest in cooperation with the EU in the fight against drugs.

At a regional level, cooperation between neighboring countries is essential and necessary in order to control the flow of illicit drugs and crime. A Memorandum of Understanding agreed upon by Israel and the Palestinian Authority in Cairo in 2005 paved the way for information exchange regarding drug demand and supply reduction. Mutual study visits also took place with our Jordanian counterpart.

4. Place and date of meetings of mini-Dublin groups - n/k

5. Prioritized identification of needs for external assistance

Israel Anti-Drug Agency works closely with MASHAV - the Center for International Cooperation of the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, organizing courses for participants from developing countries around the world in Israel, and on-the-spot short term courses, given in the participants' home countries (Africa - Ghana, Senegal, Nigeria, Kenya and Seychelles, South America - Ecuador, and Eurasia - Kazakhstan, Russia and Armenia).

6. Mini-Dublin group assessment of needs

6.1 emerging threats/trends – n/k

6.2 political initiatives – n/k

6.3 recommendations

The European Commission's Progress Report in 2011 noted that there had still not been any sustained follow up to the recommendations of the Mini Dublin Group on establishing a central anti-drug unit within the Israeli police. No indications on developments in this field were registered until 2014. However, Israeli authorities made efforts on maintaining accurate records of information exchange with neighboring countries on regular individuals involved in drug trafficking activities.

OMAN

Drug use situation in Oman

One of the important behaviors of modern humans happens to be using substances. A behavior that generally has negative health consequences, which can easily turn serious. Substance abuse is a common health challenge in the Middle East and North Africa Region. Geographical characteristics of Oman as being located close to the southern crossroad of drug trade routes from Afghanistan to Europe and Africa makes it vulnerable to drug-related health challenges, among which are the harmful effects of drug addiction per se and its negative consequences such as HIV/AIDS. Historically, Oman has been a trading hub between the greater Indian Peninsula and the Eastern African communities, a clear contemporary sign of which is the current large and fluctuating expatriate regions. This not only may be regarded as a potential vulnerability for drug trade and precipitation in Oman, but also might have the potential of inclining the health burden towards the negative consequences of drug consumption within the country.

Prevalence of substance misuse has so far been low in Oman. Negative health consequences of drug consumption, especially injection drug use is of potential significance. An incremental trend in opioid use in Oman, however, had reported recently.

In addition to this strategic location, globalization, the negative impact of media, weak family bonds and interactions are among the factors that favor the drug use phenomena in many countries including Oman.

As a response to escalating drug use problem, the National Committee for Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances was established after the Ministerial Decree no 82 in 2000 following the Royal Decree no 17/99 dated March 1999, that issued a law for combating drugs and psychotropic substances. The Committee is currently under the leadership of the Minister of Health and is responsible for the following:

- setting policy for import and export, production, manufacture and cultivation of narcotics, psychotropic substances and drug trafficking
- coordinating cooperation between the various governmental and non-governmental agencies concerned with narcotics and psychotropic substances
- developing plans of action for prevention and control against illicit use of use of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances

The state's strategy in the fighting against drugs can be summarized as following:

1. The legislative and security:

- Law for combating drugs and psychotropic substances issued by the Royal Decree no 17/99 dated March 1999. The law is also updated by the Royal Decree no .../ 2015.
- National Committee for narcotics & psychotropic affairs issued on 2000 & updated on 2016. The Ministry of Health heads it.
- Executive Office of NCNP was formed on 2002. It is the technical and administrative body of the National Committee on Drug and recommendations. It is task to implement the resolutions of the National Commission on Narcotic Drugs and help them achieve their goals and accomplish its tasks.
- National drug abuse registry was formed on 2004. Its task is to record and monitor for all cases of addiction in the Sultanate from all mental health sections of all regions in the Sultanate to know the true magnitude of the problem.
- The Committee for control and inspection of narcotics and psychotropic substance was issued in 2001 by Royal Decree No 17/ 99 and Ministerial Decree No 134/ 2001
- The inspection team on narcotic substances and psychotropic substances formed on 2005 based on Ministerial Decree no 289/2005. The team members given authorization status of judicial officers. The tasks of inspector's team is to examine and inspect all pharmaceutical institutions, hospitals, health institutions, whether private or public.
- Drug Enforcement Administration – Royal Oman Police

Educational side:

- Concepts include drug education curriculum
- Competitions Awareness programs
- Production of a CD-ROM for students grade 10-12
- Mass media drug awareness programs

2. Preventive side:

All ministries and the Royal Oman Police, Sultan Qaboos University

3. Therapeutic side

- establishing treatment & rehabilitation centers
- training medical teams
- working on harm minimization programs

5. Future projects

- opening national treatment & rehab Center
- Project of National strategy for Drug combat (2016-2020)
- empowering the role of NGOs in the field

Summary of the Oman National Strategy against Narcotics and Psychoactive substance 2016-2020

The national Strategy (approval from Cabinet is awaited)

Strategic vision

- towards a safe community of the danger drugs and psychoactive substances

Strategic Mission

- reduce drug supply and demand through developing national capacities in control and prevention efforts.

Strategic objectives and Programs

1. Development of national capacity in substance use prevention and awareness

1-1 raising public awareness against drugs

1-2 provide specialized professionals in the areas of prevention and awareness

1-3 development of human resources to assist in drug preventive efforts

1-4 develop the capacity of school teachers in the prevention and early detection of drug abuse among students

1-5 develop religious drug prevention programs

1-6 integration of substance use challenges into National Curriculum

1-7 development of young people skills

1-8 develop extracurricular education program

1-9 the development of life skills for young people

2. Strengthening national capacity in the rehabilitation and re-integration

2-1 improving treatment and rehabilitation of drug users

2-2 reintegrate drug users into society (aftercare)

2-3 provide specialized medical staff in the areas of treatment and rehabilitation

2-4 establishment of drug replacement therapy

2-5 rehabilitation of drug users' families

2-6 the development of community health services to prevent relapse

3. Development of national capacity in substance use control

3-1 develop administrative capacity in the fight against drugs

3-2 capacity development in the use of modern technology

3-3 strengthen the technical capacity for drug control

3-4 develop and activate surveillance systems

3-5 control and rationalize medicines prescription

3-6 development of legislation and laws relating to narcotics drugs and psychotropic substances

3-7 promote regional and international cooperation in the fight against drugs and psychotropic substances

4. The development of national capacity in drug use surveillance and research

4-1 promote scientific research in the field of drugs and psychotropic substances

4-2 development of national capacity in the production and dissemination of knowledge about drugs and psychotropic substances

Substance addiction summary statistics

The total number of cases registered in the National Registry of Addiction from 2004 to the end of 2015 was (5345) cases. These cases had reported from the various health institutions from various provinces of the Sultanate. They represent cases that seek medical care and do not represent all incident cases of drug abuse. Males reported represented 99% of the total registered cases, while female represented (1%).

QATAR

1 – Through “communication and international” of the Drug Enforcement Department, the following task were carried: -

- Constant exchange of many drug- related information at the international, regional and sub-regional level, in different parts of the world.
- Preparation of lists of carriers and international drug traffickers through airports and other ports.
- Information and analysis of seizures.
- Activating the controlled delivery mechanisms.
- Activating Traffic Controller of narcotic substances mechanisms, across the state ports to be seized with the recipients at the final destination.
- This office has a special archive for the exchange of information at the international level, in addition to a database of contact points around the world base.
- The office is concerned with external training through training courses at Foreign academies and institution specialized in combating drugs so as to raise and promote the efficiency of staff and upgrading their expertise and abilities.

2- Increased coordination and cooperation with regional and international security, especially with organizations and law enforcement agencies, keeping in mind, their importance in achieving security and peace in the world. The communication and cooperation offices rose up to 63 in Arab, regional and international offices during 2016, and thus prevent drugs entering the country.

Qatar has received many letters of appreciation and praise-peer participation in controlling the number of cases in different countries through dissemination information which led to seizures of narcotic substances and dismantle smuggling rings, and most prominent of these entities, “Britain’s National Agency for the fight against crime”, the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), the US drug Enforcement administration.

3- Also it cooperates with international bodies and organizations such as the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the International Narcotics Control Board, the International Criminal Police (Interpol), the Arab Bureau for drugs, the regional center of information and coordination in Central Asia, and the Criminal Information Center for Drug Control Cooperation Council, the joint work cell, and coalition naval forces in Bahrain on combating drug smuggling and infiltration and piracy.

4- **International Participation** -As the State of Qatar is concerned in the participation of the international community, in the fight against drug meetings, as a fertile field for the exchange of information and benefit from the experiences and practices which is successful in addressing the drug problem.

5- **Conferences and seminars held:** The State of Qatar has hosted numerous conferences and seminars, **including:**

- Organize Qatar First International Forum on Drugs on “International experience in the detection of smuggling and methods of concealing and routes”.
- “Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice”
- “Second Meeting to link regional and international networks on the fight against drugs”.

6- **Conclude bilateral agreement:** Qatar held a number of agreements with other countries to strengthen cooperation mechanisms at the regional level, so as to serve the regional fight against drugs.

7- **Controlled delivery:** The State of Qatar succeeded through joint operations with the corresponding state and application mechanism “controlled delivery” to foil attempts to smuggle drugs into the country and set a number qualitative drugs seizures.

8- **Joint investigations:** State of Qatar was keen to organize a joint investigation under the Code of Criminal Procedure, and in this context, the State of Qatar is keen to apply this mechanism to gather and strengthen the evidence and dismantle international smuggling rings and arrest the masterminds of criminal activities.

3- Human Resources and Training

Best human resources will be selected, to join the department, also the department is keen to raise the abilities and the performance of the staff through training courses and programs whether internally or externally, also cooperate with international bodies to combat drugs by training the staff.

- **Internal Courses:**

Many courses were held in many disciplines, in the field of drugs combating, such as:

(training course on security awareness – other laws affiliated to drugs combating laws – basic training course for the eleventh batch of police recruits – investigative techniques methods of gathering information – Internet Investigation course – seizer and conservation of drugs – detainees handling – precursor and chemicals used in drugs- enforcement officers rights and duties)...etc.

- **External courses**

There is a continuous cooperation with several parties to organize a special courses for law enforcement officers in different fields (Turkey – Jordan – United States) as well as the Arab Gulf states.

4-National and International legislation:

A- Development of drugs combating legislation within the state:

Narcotic Drugs and dangerous Psychotropic Substances Control Law No (9) 1987 and its amendments (Law No. (7) 1998 and Law No. (20) 2003 and Law No. (1) 2006), and its provisions was in line with international trends in the scale of penalty and the gravity of the offences. The most preeminent features of severe punishment were death penalty or life imprisonment along with the confiscation of property and money derived from the drug business.

- Establishment of a specialized prosecution of drugs offences office.
- Issuance of money laundry and terrorism financing act No. (4) 2010.

- Establishment of the National Committee to combat money laundering and terrorism financing, in 2002.
- Issuance of Law No. (14) 2014, combating cybercrimes, so as to prevent the misuse of the Internet or other modern media to promote drug trafficking.
- Establishing of combating cybercrime center, to combat all forms of cybercrimes in the state, carrying out research and investigation and collecting evidence in such crimes. The center is considered as the most modern center, in the region, using the latest technology reached by modern science, also use the latest equipment in fighting these crimes.
- Criminalize all forms of participation in drug crimes, whether in agreement or inciting or assisting, through articles No. (38) (39) of the Qatari Penal Code.
- Establishment of the Permanent Committee for drugs and alcohol affairs, which holds the task of drawing up plans and programs and policy-making in the fight against drugs.
- Establish the Anti-Economic Crimes Department – CID – Ministry of Interior.
- As the international gang of drug trafficking do not cease in trying and thinking to innovate, develop, manufacture a new types of drugs and doping, as in each year, the manufacture of new types have an impact and its effect is different from what was manufactured before. The more they ban a drug or a new anesthetic, the drug dealers quickly invent another drug to replace the previous one, so as to avoid criminalization.

Also, some medicines, which have the possibility of mental and psychological impact as a side effect, were not prohibited, so used by drug abusers this situation needs a prompt legislative intervention, in this respect, the State of Qatar did an update of the drug control legislation and relevant laws to keep in line with the emerging developments, renewable and variable in new drugs, in this respect the state did *the following*:

- On 16.06.2014, the State of Qatar added the drug pregabalin (Lyrica) with its pharmaceutical forms and concentrations, and its commercial names to Annex II of the Act (19) 1993 use of psychoactive medicines.
- Qatar globally was the first in the inclusion of the drug (Lyrica) to the schedules, subject to the law.
- Also pioneered in the inclusion of (Tramadol) drug to the schedules in 1999.

B- The continuing co up at the international level:

Within the development of the State of Qatar in all fields, including the air transport which connected Qatar to many countries over the world, and the opening of Hamad International Airport, which accommodates all these trips, preventive measures were taken by the administration, especially, smuggling through flights, The Drug Enforcement Administration has taken several measures and plans for the long term, namely:

- Application to pass information of the traveler and the final point of destination.
- Coordinate with most airlines.
- Coordinating visits with countries, especially supplying countries.
- Recruit of sources and informants outside the state.

C- In the field of international conventions

- Ratification of the Arab Convention on illicit trafficking in drugs and psychotropic substances in 1995
- A member in the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961, and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971, and the United Nations Convention to combat illegal trafficking of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for the year 1988
- Arab Convention against Money laundering and terrorism financing, 2010.
- Arab Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, 2010.
- Also Qatar did an excellent contribution in the field of combating money laundering through its membership in the (FATF), Qatar is the first country to move out of the follow-up process to update process every two years. It has continued to develop its anti-money laundering in line with the new amended recommendations and methodology of FATF (forty commandment for money laundering and nine commandments for the financing of terrorism).

5- Demand reduction:

First:

The Drug Enforcement Administration through the service “Twasal - connecting”. An advice service which have a specialist in family affairs, awareness training and psychology, social workers and educators, their tasks were **as the following:**

- Prevention and awareness, to raise the awareness of all segments of the community about the dangers of addiction through organizing, an exhibition, events and seminars.
- Use the social networks and the media to raise awareness about the seriousness of the drug among the community.
- Raise the level of awareness of school children about the drugs
- Providing consultancy, which include advice, guidance and mentoring
- Open channels of communication with all segments of society to increase confidence and positive interaction.
- Develop a spirit of cooperation and partnership between the police departments and community members to share the responsibility of society security.
- Coordination with the concerned authorities on the treatment of drug users.
- Conduct a family training to detect drug abusers and how to deal with them.
- Celebrate the international Day to Combat Drugs, during this event lectures were held and gifts were given to audiences adults and children in competition & Brochures and leaflets were distributed to raise awareness of the addiction harm.

Secondly: the role of the Permanent Committee for drugs and alcohol affairs in the field of drugs awareness:

In 06/01/1999 the Council of Ministers Resolution No (1) 1999, the formation of the Permanent Committee for drugs and alcohol affairs

And alcohol – as part of the Arab strategy to combat the illegal use of drugs and psychotropic substances, which included in its membership representatives of various ministries and governmental and non-governmental bodies, their terms of reference **as follows:**

- 1.– Proposing the general policy for the prevention and treatment and rehabilitation, awareness programs through the issuance of publications, seminars, lectures, or any other means could be used in this area.
2. – Cooperation with the concerned authorities.
- 3.– Development and authentication of the cooperation with other bodies and regional and international organizations.
- 4.– Follow-up the implementation of resolutions and recommendations
- 5.– Encourage studies and research related to the field work.

With the formation of this committee, the responsibility has been transferred in a form, to work in a wider participation covered by the various ministries and agencies responsible for the protection of society and its members, of the risk of drug abuse. This is clear to us that there are conscious and a new understanding of the seriousness of the spread of drug use from the official side, and rely on anti-drug devices will not be enough alone, because the problem of drug abuse manifold, they are not a security problem, but also is a social, health, psychological, religious, educational and cultural problem. Then the role should not stand only on the security authorities, but requires the distribution of roles and the concerted efforts to all government institutions, social organizations, economic, health, religious, educational, sports, and civil society institutions.

In the area of awareness and protection, the role of preventive education adopted the Council of Ministers 01/06/2010 – national strategy to combat drug were activated in Qatar. This qualitative event happened in the field of upgrading programs and plans of preventive education from the risk of drug abuse. Where a clear vision and goals, plans and programs include control and education and preventive treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts, were formed.

This constitutes a methodological framework for workers in limiting the spread of the drug phenomenon in society.

6- Efforts in the treatment of addicts:

DEA approach a modern vision in dealing with addict, is to treat an addict as a patient:

- Qatari anti-drug law allow the Court instead of the punishment set forth herein, may order the deposit of proven addiction to drugs or psychotropic substances dangerous to be admitted to one of the specialized clinics (sanitarium) where instead of imposing a sentence of imprisonment, Article No. (37).
- To encourage addicts for treatment, there will be no legal prosecution, Article No. (38) state “that no criminal proceeding are held on each of the forward-abusing narcotic substances or psychotropic substances care, who by his own requested treatment”.
- To preserve the family which is the first step in building the society, Article No. (39) state that, “it is permissible for a couple or any of relatives up to the second degree, to ask the public prosecution, a spouse or a relative who complains about his addiction substance abuse to be admitted to a health clinic for treatment”.
- State of Qatar established, a center, “Naufar”, which is the largest treatment center for addicts in the Middle East, it is a spa and a psychological unit. It is a new monument for the treatment of addicts, and is a quality addition to the current existing therapeutic centers. In order to provide the best level of therapeutic, rehabilitative and preventive services a comprehensive community care and integrated educational programs and applied research for patients, were available.
