



**The Islamic Republic of Iran's
Activities and Achievements
in the Field of Combating Narcotic Drugs
(June 2020)**

**Permanent Mission of the Islamic
Republic of Iran to the United Nations
and International Organizations in Vienna**

Narcotic Drug seizure in June 2020

- About 65439 kg of various narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances were seized throughout Iran in June.
- The highest seized type was Opium with 54133 kg, followed by 5488 kg of Hashish, 2407 kg of Morphine, 1436 kg of Crystal, 1113 kg of Heroin, 480 kg of Grass and 321 kg of other substances including precursors and psychotropic pills.

Europe is the Destination of 100 Percent Morphine Seized in Iran

According to the Deputy Chief of the Iranian Drug Control Headquarters for Counter-Supply and International Affairs, 100 percent of the morphine, including some types of heroin, seized by Iran is for consumption in European countries. Noting that international assistance in the combat against narcotics has declined due to sanctions, the Deputy Chief expressed hope for the European countries in taking care of their own people's health and safety.

Commemoration of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

The Drug Control Headquarters of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the UNODC Country Office held an event on the occasion of International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on June 25, 2020. A number of ambassadors and diplomats, representative of the United Nations in Tehran, representatives of UNICEF and the

World Health Organization attended the ceremony.

The opening session was addressed by Dr. Eskandar Momeni, Secretary-General of the Drug Control Headquarters, Mr. Alexander Fedulov, UNODC Iran Country Office Representative, Mr. Baharvand, Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs, and the Austrian Ambassador to Tehran.

In his statement, Dr. Momeni referred to the high complexity and intertwining narcotic drug challenges with other crimes in present times, the efforts and hard work invested in the combat against drug trafficking especially in the West Asian region and the high financial and humanitarian costs of the Islamic Republic of Iran. "Our least expectation from countries and regional and international forums is to act in accordance with the principle of shared responsibility for the comprehensive combat against narcotics, psychotropic substances and precursors, backed up by the effective help and comprehensive support of the brave and courageous Iranian forces" Dr. Momeni said, adding that "this assistance and support will eventually lead to a significant reduction in transit and drug trafficking in the West and Europe".

The Deputy Foreign Minister while referring to the Islamic Republic of Iran's costs in the field of counter-narcotics, as well as the high number of Iranian seizures, emphasized on the central role of the UNODC in this area and said that: "Some countries are seeking legalization and decriminalization of some



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types of narcotic drugs, which is at odds with the goals set out in the international conventions to achieve a world free of drug abuse and trafficking." The Deputy Foreign Minister also pointed out that the imposition of illegal sanctions and unilateral coercive measures have prevented international cooperation, especially in the field of counter-narcotics. "The problems posed by these sanctions disrupt the fight in such a way that other countries cannot stay immune from the consequences and the responsibility of which lies with those who impose these illegal actions by putting pressure on the international community," Mr. Baharvad said.

Ambassador Schultz praised Iran's efforts as a barrier to drug trafficking from the region to Europe and Austria and the seizure of significant amounts of narcotic drugs. He added that: "The Mini Dublin Group Members in Iran appreciate the cooperation of the Drug Control Headquarters and the UNODC Country Office in Iran and their successful implementation of drug control initiatives."

Mr. Fedulov read the statement of the Executive Director of UNODC on the occasion of 26th June, followed by a presentation of the latest findings of 2020 World Report on Drugs and Crime. "Health-oriented, rights-based and gender-accountable approaches lead to ensure public health," he noted and emphasized that Iran's efforts in seizing narcotics were significant, reporting that 90 percent of opium, 26 percent of heroin and 48 percent of morphine

were seized worldwide by Iran, according to a 2020 report by the UNODC. Fedulov added that the Iranian government's efforts to participate in the global counter-narcotics challenge are commendable, and that UNODC is working to improve the level of cooperation and joint discussions on these matters with Iran.

**Unilateral Sanctions pose a Serious
Obstacle in the Combat against Drugs**

Dr. Kazem Gharib Abadi, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Vienna addressed the special event of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on the occasion of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. "Despite the measures taken by the international community, the world continues to face growing narcotic drug problems and drug abuse has increased around the world, especially in developing countries," Ambassador Gharib Abadi said and added that "the only way to overcome the drug challenges is to promote international cooperation as well as enhancing national and regional efforts." He also stressed that any approach aimed at decriminalizing and legalizing certain types of narcotic drugs would undermine international efforts to achieve a world free of drug abuse. Gharib Abadi also pointed out that "the Islamic Republic of Iran, despite unilateral, illegal and illegitimate US sanctions and the lack of support by the international community, has



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been seizing the largest amount of narcotics in the world for the consecutive years. Thus, the UNODC and other international organizations are expected to acknowledge the comprehensive and effective national campaign of the Islamic Republic of Iran in countering and addressing the world drug problem in a way that adequate international support is provided and necessary solidarity shown.

**Memorandum of Understanding between
the Drug Control Headquarters and the
Islamic Republic News Agency**

The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) and the Drug Control Headquarters signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the fifth day of the Anti-Narcotics Week (24 June 2020) consisting of following provisions:

- Cooperation in cultural, promotional and educational areas with lifelong Help;
- Prevention of drug abuse;
- Development of public participation in counter-narcotics;
- Treatment and harm reduction among addicts;
- Social support for recovered;
- Confrontation, and combat against small and large drug producers and distributors.

**Joint Statement by Iran and Afghanistan
on the Combat against Narcotic Drugs**

In a joint statement issued at the end of the official visit by the Acting Afghan Foreign Minister to Tehran, the two sides stressed on the need for close and effective monitoring and control of the common borders by the border guards and pledged to prevent illegal border crossings, human, drugs, and any other substances trafficking into each other's territory.

**Settlement of 90 Percent of Notorious
Addicts in Iran**

The Director General of Prevention and Treatment of Addiction of the Iranian Welfare Organization announced that 90 percent of the notorious addicts in the country were settled. He added that there are about 30,000 addicts in the country and the remaining 10 percent will be also settled after the collapse of COVID-19.