NEWSLETTER N°5 - December 2018

TRAINING AND MENTORING OF THE AIRCOP TASK FORCE IN GUINEA BISSAU

A training on risk analysis, profiling and targeting of suspicious/high-risk air passengers, cargo and parcels was delivered in December 2018 to officers from the JAITF, followed by an on-the-job mentoring. Drug detection kits, urine tests and office equipment were also provided to the JAITF, thanks to German funding. The government continued showing engagement in countering drug trafficking and organized crime at airport settings, with regular seizures. Specifically, since early 2018, 23 suspects have been arrested by the JAITF and 36 kg of cocaine seized at the Osvaldo Vieira International Airport.

FIRST WORKSHOP OF MENA AIRCOP FOCAL POINTS AND HEAD OF JAITF

From 17 to 19 December 2018, AIRCOP focal points and the head of the first JAITF from the Middle East and North Africa gathered in Amman, Jordan, for a regional workshop on "Countering Terrorism at International Airports" funded by Canada. Participants engaged with experts from UNODC, ICAO, Interpol, UK Border Force and the Spanish police to discuss border security and the fight against terrorism.

INTERCOPS COOPERATION PRODUCES ARRESTS AND SEIZURES IN ARGENTINA

On 18 December 2018, following successful cooperation between AIRCOP and INTERCOPS, two Lithuanian nationals on route to Paris, France, were arrested at the Ezeiza International Airport, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, on charges of drug trafficking and cash smuggling. The AIRCOP JAITF intercepted the passengers and seized 35 kg of cocaine, 1.2 kilos of LSD and 10,000 USD hidden in their luggage.

OPERATIONAL PHASE OF WCO-LED OPERATION COCAIR VII

AIRCOP JAITFs participated in the seventh edition of the WCO-led joint operation COCAIR that took place from 8 to 17 December. Detailed results are expected in the coming weeks as data come in.

Key seizures by JAITFs

Date: 23 December 2018
Seizure: 4.5 kilos of cocaine
Place: Punta Cana International Airport, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic
Concealment: Body concealment
Route: Bogotá to Punta Cana
Airline: Avianca

Date: 26 November 2018
Seizure: 220,000 euros (Approximately 250,000 in USD)
Place: Félix Houphouët-Boigny International Airport, Abidjan, Côte d’Ivoire
Concealment: In luggage
Route: Abidjan to Beirut
Person intercepted: Lebanese men
Airline: Middle East Airlines

Date: 3 December 2018
Seizure: 7.3 kilos of heroin
Place: Kotoka International Airport, Accra, Ghana
Concealment: In luggage
Route: Harare to Accra, through Addis Ababa
Person intercepted: Zimbabwean women
Airline: Ethiopian Airlines

Date: 19 December 2018
Seizure: 7.3 kilos of cannabis
Place: Barbados
Concealment: In food cans and bed sheets
Route: Toronto to Barbados
Airline: Air Canada

Date: 28 December 2018
Seizure: 4 fake passport and 5 fake travel document
Place: Punta Cana International Airport, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic
Route: Lima to Punta Cana
Person intercepted: Dominican men