

Criminal Sciences

**Selected training papers
Knowledge and capacity building
of officials and personnel of drug control in Iran**

[Table of contents](#)

[Introduction](#)

Table of Contents

Introduction

By Abbassali Alizadeh, Head of Tehran Justice Administration

Compilation Process of "Criminal Sciences" and methodology

By Alireza Jamshidi

Part one: Penal Law

Chapter one: Substantive penal law

Dr. Mansour Rahmdel, **General Penal Law of Drug Related Crimes**

Dr. Mansour Rahmdel , **Special Penal Law of Drug Related Crimes**

Chapter two: Procedural Penal Law

Dr. Firouz Mahmoodi Janaki, **Right of Defence**

Shariar Tarkhani, **Collection of Evidence**

Amir Hossein Niazpour, **Modalities for issuance of Order of provisional measures for drug related suspects**

Mohammad Reza Saaki, **Reasons for contradictory verdicts**

Ahmad Mozzafari, **Court procedures for the juveniles in drug related cases**

Chapter three: International Criminal Law

Dr. Mohammad Ali Ardebili, **Mutual Legal Assistance and Extradition**

Dr. Mohammad Ali Ardebili, **Controlled Delivery**

Dr. Sadegh Salimi, **Anti Money Laundering regulations**

Dr. Seyed Hassan As'adi, **International Drug Control Conventions, with special emphasis on 1988 Vienna Convention**

Introduction

Some two hundred million people worldwide in the post-industrial age are affected by the menace of the abuse illicit drugs- both natural and synthetic.

According to the report of United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime released in 2002, the number of cannabis users exceeds 147 million; Amphetamine 33 million; Cocaine 13 million; Opium 13 million (9/2 million use Heroines); and Ecstasy 7 million, with a total of more than two hundred million people. This comprises more than 3 percent of the world population and 4/2 percent of the people over the age of 15. Alcohol users are estimated around 10 percent and tobacco users are estimated to be 50 percent which are not considered in the above figure. More than 60 percent of the world addicts are living in populated continent of Asia, 20 percent in Europe and the remaining in other continents.

In our country, more than two million people are using drugs and taking into account considering the average size of family (5/2 individuals per family), more than ten million family members are suffering from drug use. The drug related deaths are increasingly on the rise in the country.

While, according to reports, the circulation of money resulted from drug trafficking, is almost five thousand billion Dollars per year, its benefit for the drug traffickers being five hundred billion US dollars. In this context, the practice of organized crime and money laundering inflicts severe damages to the economy of the nations.

In Iran, if the total budget spend by Drug Control Headquarters and its twelve member agencies for drug campaign, are calculated, we will come to huge amounts. If we also consider the side expenses and also harms and diseases caused by drug use, we will come to the conclusion that:

"(Narcotics, is the important cause for economic illness which endangers the health of the human community."

During many years, the drug traffickers have transited Narcotics from Afghanistan through Iran; that was despite all the obstacles created by the government of Islamic Republic of Iran. The figure for seizures of Narcotics is very high in our country. The Narcotics seizures from 1979 to 2003 have been about 2500 tons. It must be mentioned that during the last 25 years, about 12,500 tons of Narcotics has entered Iran through Pakistan and other countries and the greatest part of it from Afghanistan. Comparison between figures of seizures shows that the drug transit through Iran is increasing annually.

Moreover, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime is also active in Iran. This office is implementing a co-project with Drug Control Headquarters called LAS to upgrade the level of awareness among those groups involved in Anti-Narcotics campaign and to improve the quality of the campaign and has organized training courses and specialized workshops throughout the country. During the implementation of this project, the implementers have been the Legal and Judicial Assistance of Drug Control Headquarters. A Call for Papers was published in "Iran" daily newspaper on 1 June 2003 and after gaining the attention of criminal sciences experts, university professors, more than 50 articles were gathered. These articles were taught to the participating Judges Disciplinary Forces and the employees of prison organizations, during the training workshops in different parts of the country by the authors of the articles or experts.

We hope that the actions taken in this project will help in improving the Anti-Narcotics campaign and will reduce the harms to the society.

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