

**UNODC**United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
Regional Office for Central Asia

MILESTONES

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MOU TO COMBAT TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME

UNODC and the Office of the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Uzbekistan signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to further enhance cooperation in combatting transnational organized crime, corruption, and other types of crime.

Speaking at the signing ceremony in Vienna on 14 June, UNODC Executive Director Mr. Yury Fedotov welcomed the socio-political and economic reforms in Uzbekistan and their very dynamic nature, stressing that the MoU will further support the efforts of the country in its important path of reform.

Mr. Otabek Murodov, Prosecutor General of the Republic of Uzbekistan, reaffirmed the



Government's continued commitment to fight crime in all its forms with the ultimate goal to ensure human rights, public order and security, with a strong emphasis of the Government on crime prevention.

THIRD STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

The Annual Steering Committee Meeting for the UNODC Programme for Central Asia 2015-2019 took place in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.



Hosted by the Government of Kyrgyzstan, the Steering Committee reviewed the results of UNODC's work in Central Asia in 2017.

Mr. Zhenish Razakov, the Vice - Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic, expressed particular concern about close relationship between transnational organized crime, terrorism and illicit drug trafficking at the meeting.

Ashita Mittal, UNODC Regional Representative for Central Asia, highlighted the importance of concerted efforts to stop organized crime in Central Asia at the Third Steering Committee Meeting of the UNODC Programme for Central Asia 2015-2019. In 2017, UNODC delivered over 14 million USD in technical assistance in the region within the framework of the Programme.

ACTION PLAN FOR PRISONS

The Government of Tajikistan and UNODC signed a Joint Action Plan for the establishment of new rehabilitation programmes in prisons in early April in Dushanbe as a part of the UNODC's Global Programme on the Implementation of the Doha Declaration.

As part of the Joint Action Plan, the refurbishment of two prison-based production sites is foreseen - a metal fabrication workshop in Dushanbe and a woodwork and furniture manufacturing workshop in Khujand. The rehabilitation programme will steadily employ



12 prisoners in metal fabrication and 30 in woodwork production. Moreover, 180 prisoners are expected to complete vocational training and receive a recognized diploma in these professions on an annual basis.

HIGHLIGHTS:

26 June –
**International Day Against
Drug Abuse and Illicit
Trafficking**



18 July –
**Nelson Mandela
international Day**



30 July –
**World day against
Trafficking in Persons**



12 August –
International Youth Day



26 June - International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was widely observed in Central Asia attracting tens of government and non-governmental organization, hundreds of professionals, and thousands of young people around the region. UNODC programme offices in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan provided full support to the local government in raising awareness of public on drug use prevention and drug related issues.

In Kazakhstan, UNODC jointly with USAID opened a ten-day photo exhibition titled "Each person counts: Kazakhstanis' stories of the world drug problem in photographs" by renown photographer, Mr. Nick Danziger. The photographer tells the story of people affected by drug use disorders and of professionals providing drug dependence treatment and care services to those in need within the initiatives in Kazakhstan supported by the UNODC and PEPFAR. Stories of recovery provide a personal insight into how people can manage their drug use disorders with the support of the health care system.

In Kyrgyzstan, the UNODC Programme Office observed the day widely. A series of social, motivational videos for youth was launched in Bishkek. As well as sport activities on streetball, volleyball and freestyle wrestling were organized in Osh city. Also, the Cross-Country Run took place in the E. Gareev Botanical Garden. Furthermore, UNODC conducted the State Coordination Committee on drug control meeting in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and the State Agency for Youth, Physical Culture and Sports under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic. The events attracted hundreds of boys and girls around the country, as well numerous representatives of governmental bodies, international organizations, civil society and media.



In Turkmenistan, UNODC partnered with the Ministry of Health, Ministry of Interior of Turkmenistan, local governance, Red Crescent, UNFPA, CADAP/EU and civil society organizations to organize several events to raise awareness among young people and wider public. An impressive concert in the business center of Ashgabat, an information campaign in the campuses of Chuli resort, as well as student conference at the State Medical University hosted more than 500 representatives of government organizations, law enforcement agencies, media, international and civil society organizations, and more than 400 children, youth and adolescents.

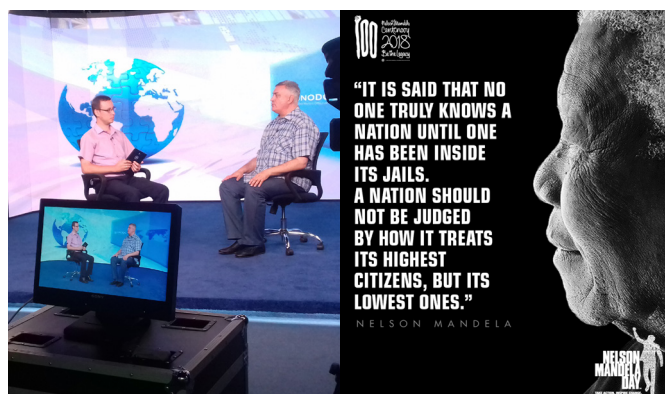
In Uzbekistan, the UNODC ROCA shared the findings of the 2018 World Drug Report with the key stakeholders and media. The press-conference hosted more than 30 representatives of the national government agencies and international community (such as EU, OSCE, various embassies), as well as media. In collaboration with one of the community centers of Tashkent city (the self-governing body "Mahalla") the UNODC drug demand prevention team conducted an open dialogue meeting for the active community members and youth leaders. Another educational activity was conducted jointly with "O'riat", a private radio company broadcasting in 8 regions of Uzbekistan. Four radio-sessions covering the Listen First campaign, drugs related legislation and treatment information got great interest from young people and were widely appreciated by the public.

Centenial: Nelson Mandela International Day 2018

On 18 July, the Central Asian states joined the rest of the world to mark Nelson Mandela International Day and raise awareness about prisoners being a continuous part of society, as well as express appreciation to prison staff for their important work and service to their communities.

UNODC partnered with authorities and prison administrations throughout the region to organize a wide range of public awareness raising initiatives drawing attention to the importance of implementing the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, known as the Nelson Mandela Rules.

In Kyrgyzstan, UNODC and the Prison Service of the Kyrgyz Republic organized volleyball tournaments - one among prisoners and the second among prison staff in one of the largest male penitentiary facilities. **In Turkmenistan**, the National Institute for Democracy and Human Rights under the President of Turkmenistan hosted an interactive lecture and contest on the Nelson Mandela Rules for cadets of the Police Academy and students of the Law Faculty of the State University of Turkmenistan and the Institute for International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. **In Uzbekistan**, during the roundtable meeting dedicated to the Nelson Mandela Rules,



UNODC presented a legal analysis of Uzbekistan's current Penal Code aiming to support the Uzbek authorities in development of a concept for the improvement of penal legislation in Uzbekistan, as foreseen by the country's National Action Strategy. UNODC teamed up with the General Prosecutor's Office to produce videos on the Nelson Mandela Rules and ongoing reform efforts in the country for wide broadcasting on national TV.

Nelson Mandela Rules in Practice: Kyrgyzstan

As a custodian of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, UNODC provides technical assistance to the Kyrgyz Republic in the field of penal reform. With support from the Government of Japan, UNODC also assists national authorities to implement the 2017-2022 State Program to Counter Extremism and Terrorism. In August, UNODC facilitated two important improvements in the prisons #27 and #47.



Prison 27 houses approximately 700 prisoners, including more than 80 who have been convicted for crimes related to violent extremism. The latter are accommodated in a dedicated wing of the prison separately from other prisoners.

On 1 August, UNODC officially handed over a newly constructed laundry facility equipped with 3 large-capacity washing machines in Prison 27.

Speaking at the official ceremony, Mr. Zhorobek Duishenbiev, the Deputy Chair of the State Prison Service of the Kyrgyz Republic, highlighted: "Thanks to the financial support provided by the Government of Japan, we have been able to improve the conditions of detention considerably. The interventions piloted in partnership with UNODC allow us to work more effectively with prisoners to promote their social reintegration

and prevent recruitment into the ranks of violent extremist groups."

"It is encouraging to see how various disengagement interventions are piloted in this prison", noted H.E. Ambassador Yoshihiro Yamamura. "Vocational training is a core element of prisoner rehabilitation. The Government of Japan fully supports the efforts of the State Prison Service of the Kyrgyz Republic to establish and implement such programs".

Prison 47 On 15 August 2018, the State Prison Service of the Kyrgyz Republic opened a new entrance facility in prison 47, in the capital city of Bishkek. As part of the new facility, which was established in partnership with UNODC, the Prison Service also inaugurated a refurbished room for prison visits by family and friends.

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"When prisoners regularly see their family and friends, this can have a positive impact on their psychological health and motivate them to desist from future offending," said Mr. Koen Marquering, Acting Head of UNODC in the Kyrgyz Republic. "It is important to help prisoners maintain, or re-establish, contact with their family during their time in custody."



Central Asia: Together against Trafficking in Persons

In July, the Central Asian states joined people around the globe in marking the World Day against Trafficking in Persons with activities aimed at promoting the integration of the rights and specific needs of children in the response to trafficking in persons.



In Uzbekistan, the International Press Club (IPC), a non-governmental mass media organization, jointly with the UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia hosted a public debate dedicated to the day with high-level participation from the General Prosecutor's Office, the Ministry of Interior and the Agency for External Labor Migration under the Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations, OSCE, IOM, ILO, UNDP and other representatives of international community. They discussed the implementation of Uzbekistan's legislation to counter human trafficking and how the government and civil society can work together to prevent this crime and provide a protective environment for victims. The debate was aired on one of the most popular national TV channels.

In Kyrgyzstan, government, civil society and the international community came together to launch a campaign to inform the public on the risks of becoming a victim of trafficking. Under the slogan "Together against Trafficking in Persons" the campaign serves to disseminate information about available channels for information and support, such as a hotline for victims and a free mobile application, which provides people with useful links and contacts to ensure safe migration. In one of the main parks in the heart of Bishkek's city centre, an exhibition was also opened to the public. Entitled "In search of a better life", the exhibition features a series of art-installations, which highlight the scale of human trafficking and the plight of victims.



In Turkmenistan, the Institute for State, Law and Democracy under the President of Turkmenistan hosted an interactive lecture for students on the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Trafficking in Persons Protocol. UNODC held consultations with national counterparts from the Ministry of Interior and its Institute, the General Prosecutor's Office and the Parliament to present a newly released analytical report [on Turkmenistan's national legislation to combat trafficking in persons](#). UNODC also gathered government counterparts and international partners to demonstrate a recently launched [training film entitled "Victims not Villains"](#) on the prosecution of cases of human trafficking in accordance with international standards.

Victims, Not Villains!

Protecting victims and addressing their needs were promoted in "[Victims, not villains!](#)", a new training film funded by the U.S. Government and presented by the Office of the General Prosecutor of the Republic of Uzbekistan and UNODC at a round table dedicated to the tenth anniversary of the adoption of Uzbekistan's Law on Combating Human Trafficking, in April.

Mr. Gayrat Khidoyatov, Uzbekistan's Deputy Prosecutor General noted: "Thanks to the joint efforts of State bodies and civil society under the auspices of the Anti-Human Trafficking Interdepartmental Commission we have managed to reduce the number of trafficking cases."

The new educational film highlights the role of prosecutors, judges, lawyers, social workers and non-governmental organizations in ensuring that court proceedings in which trafficked



persons are involved are not prejudicial to their rights, dignity or physical or psychological well-being. The film is produced to be used to train criminal justice practitioners in all the countries of Central Asia on the investigation and prosecution of human trafficking.

Youth of Central Asia Come Together to Adopt Healthy Lifestyle, Drugs and Crime Prevention

Contributing to the theme for International Youth Day 2018 - "Safe Spaces for Youth", and further promoting the role of girls and boys in preventing drugs and crime, the UNODC Programme for Central Asia 2015-2019 have been implementing various initiatives facilitating the creation of safe spaces for youth in the communities.

Marathon in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan:

UNODC jointly with the United Nations Population Fund and International Organization for Migration teamed up with the Ministry of Sports and Youth Policy, the Football Federation and the Sports Club of People with Disabilities of Turkmenistan to mark the International Day of Families, that is observed worldwide on the 15th of May every year.

At the sports event which gathered over 120 men, women and children, participants ran a mini-marathon and competed in various sports disciplines, such as football, table tennis and chess. UNODC worked with youth on the topics related to combatting trafficking in persons. Participating youth volunteers designed and displayed posters with key messages, such as "Have a heart for victims of trafficking", "Some things should never be for sale. Act to Stop Human Trafficking" and "We must all get on board to Stop Human Trafficking. It is everybody's business".



Sports Festival in Dushanbe, Tajikistan:

UNODC in partnership with the State Committee on youth, physical culture and sports under the Tajik Government conducted first sport festival "Line Up, Live Up" aimed at crime prevention among youth through sports. Attended by some 500 people, the festival was held on 22 June 2018 in Dushanbe city, and marked the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

The festival was organized as part of the UNODC's Regional Programme for Central Asia and the Global Programme for the Implementation of the Doha Declaration, adopted at the 13th United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Qatar 2015, as well as the Tajik Government's Programme on "Policy of youth development for 2017-2020".

According to Rizoshodi Nazarzoda, first Deputy Head of the Tajik State Committee on youth, physical culture and sports: "The relevance of this event is to promote the importance and role of the value of health for the younger generation, as well as popularization of sports among youth." "Sportive youth - healthy nation," he added.

Youth Campus in Jash Bulak, Kyrgyzstan:

The "Jash Bulak" youth forum took place from 6 to 12 August on the southern shore of Issyk-Kul lake for over 200 young people aged 18-28 from all seven provinces of Kyrgyzstan, and served as an example of a safe space for youth. The summer camp was organized by the State Agency for Youth, Physical Education and Sports in partnership with UNODC and other partners.

According to Mr. Mirlan Parhanov, Deputy Director of the State Agency for Youth, Physical Education and Sports: "Jash Bulak" is an innovative platform aimed at stimulating youth participation and leadership in community development and promoting healthy life styles and engagement in sports". During the forum, activists from the provinces of Kyrgyzstan promoted active youth engagement in the second "100 days against trafficking in persons" awareness raising campaign, which started on 10 September 2018.



Border Security in Central Asia

COUNTERING ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFICKING IN UZBEKISTAN

UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia held an official launch ceremony of the Interagency Mobile Teams on countering illicit drug trafficking in Uzbekistan in Tashkent on 25 June 2018.

Six Interagency Mobile Teams (IMTs) comprised of the officers of the Ministry of Interior, the State Security Service and the State Customs Committee are established.

During the ceremony, UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia handed over to the national beneficiaries 30 vehicles and a range of specialized equipment procured from donor funding by the Government of Japan. The initiative received a highest-level support through the Resolution of the President of Uzbekistan ad-



opted in June 2017 which institutionalized the implementation of activities.

H.E. Ambassador Nobuaki Ito noted: "The total value of the equipment to be procured is around 1.1 million USD, including 30 vehicles and the machinery with most advanced technology."



STRENGTHENING THE TAJIK-AFGHAN BORDER

In early May 2018, upon completion of the construction works, the Border Forces of the State Committee for National Security of Tajikistan - jointly with UNODC and a financial support from the Government of Japan - opened the "Taghob" Border Post in Shahrituz at the Tajik-Afghan border.

"I believe that today's opening ceremony is a new step for future increasing cooperation between the Border Forces and the partners" - said Colonel-General Rajabali Rahmonali, Commander of the Border Forces of the State Committee for National Security of Tajikistan (SCNS RT) in his welcoming speech.

In addition to construction works done, the Border Post is supplied with office and domestic equipment, furniture and other appliances. Also, the officers of the border outposts and posts of this stretch at the Tajik-Afghan border received training on all aspects of border control.

INTER-REGIONAL NETWORK OF CUSTOMS AUTHORITIES AND PORT CONTROL UNITS

In May 2018, in Avaza, Turkmenistan, during the Fifth Annual Inter-Regional Meeting under the UNODC and the World Customs Organization (WCO) Global Container Control Programme, organized by the Government of Turkmenistan jointly with UNODC Regional Office for Central Asia, ten CCP participating states agreed on establishing the Inter-Regional Network of Customs Authorities and Port Control Units.

The meeting brought together around seventy senior and expert-level officials from Customs Administrations and other competent authorities of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, Georgia,



the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as donor countries and partner organizations to further strengthen inter-regional cooperation among CCP participating states and discuss priorities and needs in container control field. The meeting resulted in adoption of the

Outcome Document supporting the establishment of a regular information exchange mechanism via Inter-Regional Network of Customs Authorities and Port Control Units in the framework of CCP. The document is an important step towards further strengthening regional and international practical cooperation among ten CCP participating states.



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