

**Spot Report****The speech of Mr. Emomali Rahmon, President of Tajikistan on the occasion of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the National Drug Control Agency (DCA)**

On 29-30 May the Drug Control Agency (DCA) celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary and held an international conference on combating drug trafficking. Within the celebration ceremony the President of the Republic of Tajikistan gave a 90 minute speech, in which he made important announcements regarding the government's future actions against drug trafficking.

The President outlined that the DCA makes a vital contribution in preventing and combating the global threat of illicit drug trafficking. The confiscation of drugs within Tajikistan has risen dramatically from with just 10 kg of narcotics seized in 1990 to 2,570 kg in 1999. According to UNODC statistics, 7700 tons, equal to 79% of the world production of drugs, was produced in 2008 in Afghanistan. During the last ten years, more than 62 tons of drugs, including 29 tons of heroin, were confiscated in Tajikistan.

As a direct response to this massive drug trafficking challenge, the Government of Tajikistan started to implement comprehensive measures to counter illicit drug trafficking, including the creation of the Drug Control Agency in 1999.

Since then, in DCA operations, some jointly with CIS or Afghanistani law enforcement agencies, around 20 tons of narcotics have been confiscated, including 9 tons in Tajikistan, and 240 criminal offences by organized drug-traffickers have been prosecuted.

The President announced further planned commitments in his speech during the the DCA's 10 year anniversary celebrations. The Government identified the need to take measures on mobilizing all Government structures and forces for a comprehensive approach to illicit drug trafficking. The Government has ratified already 27 intergovernmental agreements supporting the abovementioned measures.

The Government further announced to commit its relevant agencies and structures, to implement the following objectives:

- 1.) Undertake additional measures to eliminate transnational organized crime.
- 2.) Capacity building of Law Enforcement and Military structures engaged in combating drug trafficking, including enhancing the equipment of border control points and customs clearance.
- 3.) Creation of an advanced and specialized training centre for Law Enforcement and a national dog training centre with the DCA structures.
- 4.) Extension of co-operation amongst Law Enforcement and Military structures of Tajikistan and with international partners, including conducting joint operations and investigations.
- 5.) Regular prevention events as well as advocacy within the communities, with a specific focus on schools and universities utilizing opportunities of the Committee of youth, sport and tourism, Committee on women and family, Committee on Television and Radio, as well attracting political parties, public organizations and religious community.
- 6.) Improving the treatment of drug addicts and provides safe health care with all necessary means including medication to treat drug addiction.

The president suggested that 2011 could be the “International Year of Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking” and envisaged organizing an international conference in Dushanbe.

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