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TAJIKISTAN'S DRUG CRISIS

VIDEO

BITTERSWEET HARVEST

AUDIO

Opium production fell for the first time in three years in Afghanistan, according to a recent UN Report. But the scale of the country's drug trade remains vast. Almost ninety percent of the world's total opium production comes from poppy fields in Afghanistan. Heroin, one of the most addictive drugs known, is derived from the opium poppy plant. One third of the country's drug production flows north, to Central Asia. (27")

ARCHIVE DRUG
APPREHENSIONS/TAJIKISTAN

Nobody knows for sure but experts believe that up to 100 tonnes of heroin passes through Tajikistan every year – equal to the annual heroin demand in western Europe and North America combined. (12")

CARAVAN/AFGHAN SIDE

Drugs are smuggled through the rugged, mountainous, often porous Afghan/Tajik 1344 kilometres frontier. (8")

INFLATABLE DINGY

Traffickers use inflatable boats to cross the Pyanj River that separates both countries. UN's Office on Drugs and Crime Programme Manager in

Tajikistan, Sergey Bozhko... (10")

BOZHKO: (In English)

SERGEY BOZHKO ON-CAMERA,
PROGRAMME MANAGER, UN
OFFICE ON DRUGS AND CRIME,
TAJIKISTAN

"In recent history even there were quite big seizures of drugs in this area. Actually close to this outpost. In one single operation, border guards managed to seize more than one tonne of heroin." (12")

NARRATION

GUARD LOOKING/BINOCULARS/
OBSERVATION TOWER

As the interview was being recorded, suspicious movement was spotted across the Afghan side. (5")

Until last year, Russia was in charge of patrolling the Tajik-Afghan border. Now the responsibility to fight drug mafias belongs solely to the Tajik authorities. (10")

SHOEV PREPARES TO GO OUT
ON PATROL

A new day begins for Lt. Colonel Khurshed Shoev. One of the most experienced soldiers in the Tajik Border Guards Unit, he has lost count the number of times he clashed with drug traffickers. (11")

ON PATROL, TALKS ON RADIO
INSTRUCTS SOLDIERS

Shoev, who has 80 highly trained men under his control, has reliable information that last night a shipment arrived from across the river. (10")

SHOEV:

SHOEV ON-CAMERA

"We are now going to search this area. Afghan drug traffickers are active and might have left

drugs somewhere... “ (5”)

NARRATION

SOLDIERS OPEN CANNABIS BAG Shoev’s men find bags of cannabis hidden in the forest. A drop in the ocean in a country struggling to contain a major drug crisis. (9”)

CONFERENCE, PRESIDENT
ARRIVES At an International Counter-Narcotics Conference held last May in Dushanbe, Tajikistan’s capital city, the country’s president Emomali Rahmonov, described the extraordinary difficulties faced by his government. (12”)

RAHMONOV: (In Russian)

EMOMALI RAHMONOV,
PRESIDENT OF TAJIKISTAN “This is drug aggression. It has had a huge impact on us. We had no experience on how to deal with this and it affected negatively our efforts...” (9”)

NARRATION

TWO GUARDS BRING BOXES,
STORE DRUGS, EXAMINE
OTHER BOXES AND BAGS Illicit narcotics arrive at Tajikistan’s Drug Control Agency storage center. These are recently apprehended drugs, kept here until criminal court cases begin. The cannabis, opium and heroin stored at this facility are worth over one billion US dollars on the black markets in Russia and western Europe. (22”)

LABORATORY TECHNICIAN
CHECKING CHEMICALS The UN Office on Drugs and Crime supports Tajikistan’s law enforcement agencies, providing training and equipment as well as working with Tajik authorities to strengthen their control along the Tajik/Afghan border. (12”)

NARRATION

CROWDS, DUSHANBE SIGHTS The social impact drug trafficking is having on this impoverished land-locked nation of seven million people is tremendous. Tajikistan is still recovering from a bloody civil war that ended less than a decade ago. (13")

MAN IN JAIL, JAIL DOOR CLOSES
BEHIND HIM Although largely a transit country, some of the drugs remain, fuelling increased levels of crime, corruption, HIV/AIDS and drug addiction. An estimated 55,000 Tajiks are heroin addicts. (12")

DRUG
APPREHENSIONS/TAJIKISTAN What moves the trade is profit. While a kilogramme of heroin costs 500 US dollars in Afghanistan, the same kilogramme, in Moscow, costs 10 thousand dollars.
Drugs are threatening the political stability of the region's young democracies, says UN Central Asia Representative for Drugs and Crime, James Callaham. (22")

JAMES CALLAHAM, ON-
CAMERA, CENTRAL ASIA
REPRESENTATIVE, UN OFFICE
ON DRUGS AND CRIME CALLAHAM: (In English)
"The institutions are not that mature enough, not that strong. Corruption is an issue. We are already seeing in some countries a clear effect of drug money in the politics of the country." (12")

NARRATION

DRUG/INCINERATOR

At the Drug Control Agency, 140 kilos of raw opium and heroin burn in an incinerator. (3")

To win the war against international drug trafficking much more needs to be done in both producer and consumer countries. Meanwhile Tajikistan, producing no opium or heroin of its own, continues to pay a high price for its strategic front-line position in Central Asia...(16")

UN LOGO

This report was prepared by the United Nations. (4")