FORENSIC AND PHARMACEUTICAL INVESTIGATION OF DRUG RELATED SITUATION IN TAJIKISTAN: FACTORS, SCALES AND TENDENCIES

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Key words: drug related situation; narcotic drugs; illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs; drug related crime; drug misuse

Data about cultivation of opium poppy and production of the opium raw product in Afghanistan for 2000-2012 have been presented in the paper. It has been shown that the amount of opium produced changes from year to year synchronously with the sown areas, and Afghanistan became the monopolist on the production of narcotic drugs of the opium group. 58% of Afghan peasants call increasing in prices of drugs as a reason of the opium production increase. It was noted in 2012 the opium production was reduced by 36% in spite of opium poppy sown increase, it was connected to the opium poppy disease and adverse weather conditions. The crop yield of opium poppy in Afghanistan has been analysed — in 2009 it was 56 kg/ha that was in 5.6 times higher than in the “Golden Triangle” countries. The Republic of Tajikistan has turned into the transit corridor for transfer of Afghan drugs in the countries of CIS and Europe owing to large extent of the national boundary with Afghanistan. Data about withdrawal of narcotic drugs by types for 2002-2012 in the Republic of Tajikistan have been presented in the paper. It has been shown that in 2002 86% of heroin and 77% of opium excluded from the illicit trafficking in the countries of Central Asia was withdrawn. It has been noted that in 2005 the amount of withdrawn heroin and opium was almost twice reduced, and it was connected with the withdrawal of the Russian border guards from the Tajik-Afghan boundary. Subsequently in 2006-2007 the tendency of decreasing the volumes of heroin withdrawn from the illicit trafficking and increasing the amount of the confiscated opium raw product was fixed, and it was connected with exposing and destroying the laboratories of heroin production during January – August, 2006 on the territory of Afghanistan. In 2008-2012 the tendency of increasing the cannabis part in the total volume of confiscated narcotic drugs was observed. In 2012 the drug related situation in Tajikistan was described by the least amount of the withdrawn narcotic drugs. Data about the number of citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan detained by drug related crimes in the CIS countries have been analysed; it has been shown that in whole the tendency to decrease the number of such detentions is observed. Data about the number of drug dependent citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan, who are on record by a specialized clinic, have been given – heroin abusers are 81.1%, and the number of injection drug users has been increased and is 67.5%. More than half of HIV-infected persons are injection drug users. Thus, the illegal production of narcotic drugs in Afghanistan continues to remain the main factor of criminogenic development of the drug related situation in the Republic of Tajikistan. As a result, the increase of narcotic drugs volumes withdrawn from the illicit trafficking and the increase of the number of narcotic drugs users, including injection ones are observed. The injection use of narcotic drugs is the main way of HIV-infection distribution in the country.

Results and Discussion

In the Central Asia region the illicit production of ND in Afghanistan continues to be the powerful factor determining the criminogenic development of the drug related situation. The part of Afghanistan in the world illegal heroin market increased during the last years from 40 to 75%. Approximately 80% of heroin consumed in Europe, where about 1 million persons use it, are of the Afghan origin [1, 4, 8-13].

Data about cultivation of opium poppy in Afghanistan for 2000-2012 are presented in Fig. 1 [7-13].

As was obvious from Fig. 1, in the period under research the sharp slump of areas of opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan in 2001 — to the level of 8000 ha — was observed. However, in the next few years the situ-
ation related to volumes of opium poppy sown began to develop in opposite direction. In 2007 the opium world production reached the greatest level, and Afghanistan became the monopolist in production of ND of the opium group. Its part – on a world scale – in cultivation of opium poppy and production of ND of the opium group was 82% and 93%, respectively. It was estimated by the experts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) that in 2007 3.3 million of men – or 14.3% of the Afghanistan population – were involved in opium poppy cultivation [8].

In the next three years the areas of opium poppy sown began to decrease. In 2008 its cultivation area was reduced by 36000 ha, it corresponded to 19%, nevertheless on a world scale the Afghanistan part continued to be ~85%. In 2009, 123000 ha of areas were occupied by opium poppy sown. In spite of the fact that against 2008 decreasing the opium poppy sown by 22000 ha (14%) was observed, Afghanistan continued to lead on a world scale – it accounted for 70% of opium poppy cultivation areas. In 2010, the rate of illicit opium poppy cultivation in Afghanistan remained unchanged, and in 2011-2012, the tendency to the gradual increase of areas of opium poppy sown appeared – firstly to 131000 ha, and then to 154000 ha (that was practically to 2008 volumes) that were 7% and 18%, respectively, in relative indices.

Data about production of the opium raw product in Afghanistan for 2000-2012 are presented in Fig. 2 [7-13]. As was obvious from Fig. 2, the produced amount of the opium raw product changed year in year out synchronously with the sown areas; it was from 2002 the tendency to its increase was fixed. Thus, in 2002 3400 t were produced, in 2003 – by 5.6% more that was 3600 t, in 2004 in Afghanistan 4200 t of opium were produced; it was by 600 t or 16.6% more against 2003. In 2005, we observed the insignificant decrease of the produced opium amount – to 4100 t; it was by 100 t less than in 2004 and 2.4% in percentage terms. In 2006, we observed the sharp enhancement of the produced opium amount – to 6100 t; it was by 2000 t or 47.3% more against 2005. In 2007, the amount of produced opium in Afghanistan reached an all time high – 8200 t. In the experts’ opinion, the opium raw product of 2007 harvest will be enough in order to provide drug users of Europe for 5 years. In 2008-2010, we observed the gradual decrease of the produced opium amount: by 500 t or 6.1% in 2008 against 2007, by 800 t or 10.4% in 2009 against 2008 and sharp decrease – almost twice or by 48.1% – in 2010 against 2009. In 2011, the sharp enhancement
of the opium production was fixed again – to 5800 t; it was by 2200 t or 61.1% more against 2010. In 2012, according to the data of UNODC, in Afghanistan the opium production was reduced by 36.1%; it was 3700 t in spite of opium poppy sown increase.

The experts regard the opium poppy disease and adverse weather conditions as the reasons of such decrease of opium poppy production. Data about crop yield of opium poppy in Afghanistan for the last 6 years are presented in Fig. 3 [7-13].

As was obvious from Fig. 3, if the crop yield of opium poppy in Afghanistan in 2007 was 36 kg/ha, in 2008 this value reached 48 kg/ha. In 2009, the crop yield of opium poppy was 56 kg/ha; it was by 15% higher than 2008 level and in 5.6 times higher than level of opium harvest in the “Golden Triangle” countries. The crop yield decrease of opium poppy in 2010 and 2012 correlates with reduction of production of the opium raw product in Afghanistan.

The UNO experts have carried out the poll of Afghan peasants for the purpose of causation of the opium production increase – 58% of producers call increasing in prices of drugs as a reason, 13% – lack of food and aspiration to improve living conditions, 8% of those asked say that opium poppy is “the little that can be grown on barren Afghan soil”, and, finally, 2% justify their actions by traditions [7]. These results indicate the substantial social vector of the process.

The Republic of Tajikistan (RT) has turned into the transit corridor for transfer of Afghan drugs in the countries of CIS and Europe owing to its geopolitical position – large extent of the national boundary with Afghanistan.

Data about withdrawal of ND by types for 2002-2012 in RT are presented in Table [1-6].

As was obvious from Table, in 2002, 3958.180 kg of heroin, 1624.100 kg of opium, 998.960 kg of cannabis and 143.140 kg of other types of ND were withdrawn from the illicit trafficking. Comparison of these data with information of law-enforcement agencies of the neighbouring state showed that in 2002 in RT 86% of heroin and 77% of opium from the drug total volume excluded from the illicit trafficking in the countries of Central Asia was withdrawn.

In 2003, 5600.309 kg of heroin, 2371.005 kg of opium, 1424.920 kg of cannabis and 206.423 kg of other types of ND were withdrawn. Comparison with information of 2002 shows that the amount of withdrawn heroin has increased by 41.4%, for opium – by 45.3% and cannabis – by 42.6%.

In 2004, we observed the decrease of the withdrawn heroin amount against 2003 by 806.252 kg or 16.1%. The amount of withdrawn opium for the year mentioned was 2315.608 kg; it was by 55.397 kg or 2.3% less against 2003. The amount of withdrawn cannabis also decreased – from 1424.920 kg in 2003 to 929.983 kg in 2004.

In 2005, the amount of withdrawn heroin and opium was reduced almost twice against 2004 and was 2344.633 kg and 1104.375 kg, respectively; at the same time we observed some increase of the amount of withdrawn cannabis – from 929.983 kg in 2004 to 1164.425 kg in 2005. Experts connected the decrease of amounts of withdrawn opiates in 2005 – on conditions of volume maintainance of their production practically at the same level – with the withdrawal of the Russian border guards from the Tajik-Afghan area of the national boundary.

In 2006, although heroin continued to be ~60% from the total amount of withdrawn ND in Tadjikistan (in

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Years</th>
<th>heroin</th>
<th>opium</th>
<th>cannabis</th>
<th>other types</th>
<th>in all</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>3958.180</td>
<td>1624.100</td>
<td>998.960</td>
<td>143.140</td>
<td>6724.380</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>5600.309</td>
<td>2371.005</td>
<td>1424.920</td>
<td>206.423</td>
<td>9602.657</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>4794.057</td>
<td>2315.608</td>
<td>929.983</td>
<td>43.148</td>
<td>8082.796</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>2344.633</td>
<td>1104.375</td>
<td>1164.425</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>4613.433</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>2097.492</td>
<td>1386.760</td>
<td>1305.544</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>4789.796</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>1549.681</td>
<td>2546.413</td>
<td>1174.062</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>5270.156</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>1636.367</td>
<td>1746.104</td>
<td>2690.976</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>6073.447</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>1132.686</td>
<td>1066.154</td>
<td>2372.764</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>4571.604</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>985.108</td>
<td>744.430</td>
<td>2173.178</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>3902.716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>509.842</td>
<td>490.312</td>
<td>3230.038</td>
<td>7.606</td>
<td>4237.798</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>515.283</td>
<td>626.903</td>
<td>4832.706</td>
<td>4.000</td>
<td>5978.892</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In all</td>
<td>25123.638</td>
<td>16022.164</td>
<td>22297.556</td>
<td>404.317</td>
<td>63847.675</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
2005 this rate was ~68%), some decrease of its withdrawal volumes continued to be registered – 2097.492 kg of heroin were withdrawn; it was by 247.141 kg less against 2005. However, the amounts of withdrawn opium and cannabis increased against 2005 by 282.127 kg and 141.119 kg, respectively.

In 2007, the tendency to decreasing the volumes of heroin withdrawn from the illicit trafficking and increasing the amount of the confiscated opium raw product, which had been shaped in 2006, continued to maintain. The amount of withdrawn heroin in 2007 was 1549.681 kg; it corresponded to 29.4% from the total volume of confiscated ND in 2007. The decrease against 2006 was 547.811 kg or 28.2%. The amount of withdrawn opium, vice versa, increased by 83.6% and was 2546.413 kg. The amount of cannabis withdrawn from the licit trafficking in 2007 was 1174.062 kg, and its decrease against 2006 was 131.482 kg or 11.1%.

It was estimated by the UNO experts that the decrease of heroin export and the increase of opium export was conditioned that during January – August, 2006 on the Afghanistan territory 248 laboratories of heroin production were exposed and destroyed [7].

In 2008, 6073.447 kg of ND, from which 1636.367 kg or 26.9% was heroin, were withdrawn from the illicit trafficking by security, defence and law enforcement agencies of RT. The amount of withdrawn opium was 1746.104 kg or 28.7% from the total volume of withdrawn ND. The decrease against 2007 was 547.811 kg or 28.2%. The amount of withdrawn opium, vice versa, increased by 83.6% and was 2546.413 kg. The amount of cannabis withdrawn from the illicit trafficking in 2007 was 1174.062 kg, and its decrease against 2006 was 131.482 kg or 11.1%.

In 2009, the tendency to increasing the cannabis part in the total volume of the confiscated ND in RT got the continuation – the volumes of withdrawn cannabis increased to 2372.764 kg or by 51.9%. Whereas the amounts of withdrawn heroin and opium continued to decrease, but with considerably greater speed, – by 503.681 kg to 1132.686 kg and by 679.95 kg to 1066.154 kg; it was 30.8% and 38.9%, respectively, percentage wise. Opium and heroin withdrawn in 2009 was 23.3% and 24.8% from the total volume of the confiscated ND.

In 2010, the drug related situation in RT was described by the least for the last 10 years amount of withdrawn ND – 3902.716 kg; it was by 14.6% less against 2009. The amounts of withdrawn heroin, opium and cannabis decreased by 13.1%, 30.2% and 8.4%, respectively, against 2009 and were 985.108 kg, 744.430 kg and 2173.178 kg, respectively.

The amount of ND withdrawn from the illicit trafficking in 2011 increased and was 4237.798 kg – by types of ND against 2010 the situation was the following: heroin – 509.842 kg and by 48.2% less; opium – 490.312 kg and by 34.1% less; cannabis – 3230.038 kg and by 48.6% more. The amount of withdrawn cannabis in 2011 was 76.2% from the total volume of the confiscated ND.

In 2012, the increase of withdrawal volumes of all three types of ND against 2011 was noted – insignificant for heroin (by 1.1%) and considerable for opium and ND of the cannabis group (by 27.9% and 49.6%, respectively).

In whole, the drug related situation in Tadjikistan in 2011-2012 was described by the record withdrawals of ND of the cannabis group. It can be explained by the variety of reasons: the increase in the world of demand for cannabis, particularly for Afghan hashish, conditioned, including by relaxation of prohibitions on soft drugs in a number of countries; the increase in state control and other arrangements directed at reduction of opium poppy sown in Afghanistan that led to the increase of cannabis production in the country – the care of plant did not require high cost and brought high profit (the crop yield of cannabis in Afghanistan was 145 kg/ha). The decrease of the volume of withdrawn ND of the opium group whereas was, in our opinion, the consequence of effective realization of international projects on blocking the delivery ducts of precursors for opiates production.

In 2012, 16593 ordinary crimes were registered by law-enforcement agencies of RT, 895 (5.4%) from them were related to ND. The problems of economic devel-
development, including labour unemployment, promote involvement socially exposed and low-bracket category of the population involved in the stream of labour migration in drug dealing. Data about the number of RT citizens detained by drug related crimes (DRC) in the CIS countries are presented in Fig. 4 [5].

As was obvious from Fig. 4, the number of RT citizens detained by drug related crimes in the CIS countries in 2000 was 1792 persons. In spite of some increase of this number in 2004 against 2003, in 2007 against 2006, and also in 2010 against 2009, in whole the positive development of the situation is observed; there is a tendency to decrease of the number of such detentions. In 2011, the number of RT citizens detained by drug related crimes in the CIS countries was 445 persons. This tendency is the evidence of certain efficiency of set of measures directed to prevention of narcotism.

According to the official data of Drug Abuse Service of the Ministry of Public Health of RT 7231 persons are on record by a specialized clinic as of December 31, 2012; it is by 2.6% more against 2011. At the same time the number of drug-dependent women has decreased by 8%; in 2011-238, in 2012-219. As well as in previous years heroin abusers prevail in the country – 5865 or 81.1%. In 2012, the number of injection drug users increased to 4882 persons; it is 67.5% from the total number of ND users. According to the data of the republican Centre of prevention and struggle against AIDS in 2012 the number of HIV-infected persons was 4674, 2355 of them were injection drug users [5].

CONCLUSIONS

The illegal production of ND in Afghanistan continues to remain the main factor of criminogenic development of drug related situation in RT. As a result, the increase of ND volumes withdrawn from the illicit trafficking and the increase of number of ND users, including injection are observed. The injection use of ND is the main way of HIV-infection distribution in the country.

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2007 г. фиксировалась тенденция к снижению объемов героина, изъятых из незаконного оборота, и увеличению количества конфискованного опия-сырца, что связывают с выявлением и уничтожением в январе-августе 2006 г. на территории Афганистана лабораторий по производству героина. В 2008-2012 гг. наблюдалась тенденция к увеличению доли каннабиса в общем объеме конфискованных наркотических средств. В 2010 г. наркоситуация в Таджикистане характеризовалась наименьшим количеством изъятых наркотических средств. Проанализированы данные относительно количества граждан Республики Таджикистан, задержанных за наркопреступления в странах СНГ, и показано, что в целом наблюдается тенденция к снижению количества таких задержаний. Приведены данные относительно количества состоящих на диспансерном учете наркозависимых граждан Республики Таджикистан за 2012 г. – больные героиновой наркоманией составляют 81,1%, число потребителей инъекционных наркотиков возросло и составляет 67,5%. Более половины ВИЧ-инфицированных состоят из потребителей инъекционных наркотиков. Таким образом, нелегальное производство наркотических средств в Афганистане продолжает оставаться основным фактором криминогенного развития наркоситуации в Республике Таджикистан. В результате наблюдается рост объемов наркотических средств, изъятых из незаконного оборота, рост числа потребителей наркотических средств, в том числе инъекционных. Инъекционное потребление наркотических средств является основным путем распространения ВИЧ-инфекции в стране.