



UNODC: opium situation in Afghanistan improved



Picture : <http://opioids.com>

Afghanistan has undergone a political transformation during the last 2 years, which is testimony to the courage of its people and leaders. The process surged forward with the entry into force of Afghanistan's first ever Constitution and election of President Karzai. The upcoming elections of September 18 will move the country even closer towards democracy.

UNODC will release its full Afghan Opium Survey in early autumn. It expects to confirm a decrease in cultivation from 131,000 hectares in 2004 to 104,000 hectares this year, a decline of 21%.

There are several explanations for this benign result:

- The success of the President in convincing a large number of farming communities to abstain from poppy cultivation is evidence of the respect Afghanistan have for his elected office.
- Law enforcement and civil and religious fatwa launched against drugs (the opium eradication programme).
- Market correction: downward pressure on prices.

The UN commends the Government of Afghanistan for its commitment to drug control and the positive outcome realised in 2005.

As a consequence of the lower Afghan poppy harvest in 2005, UNODC expects that, worldwide, opium cultivation will decrease by about 16 % this year. The global share of Afghanistan's opium cultivation is thus expected to decline from 67% in 2004 to 65% in 2005.

Since October 2004 the government in Afghanistan ordered provincial governors to eradicate opium fields. UNODC was asked to assist in verifying the outcome.

About 4,007 hectares were eradicated in the spring 2005, which translated into about 4 % of the total 2005 opium cultivation.

The central government also undertook separate eradication campaigns, run by a special purpose Central Poppy Eradication Force (CPEF) and the Afghan National Police (ANP).

Unfortunately, while so many Afghan growers cooperated with the Administration in 2005, nature did not. Heavy snow and rain conditions in winter-spring 2005, as well as the absence of large scale poppy diseases resulted in the yield increase from 32 kg per hectares to 39 kg this year.

Whether this year's decline will persist or even accelerate over the years, will depend on the ability to stay the policy course, to address the corollaries to illicit drugs and to sustain development assistance.

The Afghan situation is similar to the one in the Golden Triangle and the Andeans: some of the poorest people are being affected by the loss of income from drugs as cultivation declines. Thus the international community must have the wisdom to fight drugs, corruption, terrorism and poverty simultaneously.

The complete version of the report on the Opium situation in Afghanistan as of August 29, 2005 is available on UNODC website: www.undoc.org

Decline in Youth Drug Use in the USA

Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt announced a 9 percent decline in illicit drug use among American youth between the ages of 12 and 17 from 2002 to 2004. Marijuana use also declined by 7 percent among young adults between the ages of 18 and 25 during this same period. Marijuana continues to be the most commonly used illicit drug, with a rate of 6.1 percent (14.6 million current users) for the U.S. population 12 and older. The findings are from the 2004 National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) released September 8, 2005 at the annual National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month press conference.

The survey findings, released by HHS' Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), show that overall 19.1 million Americans, or 7.9 percent of the population ages 12 and older were current illicit drug users meaning they used an illicit drug in the past month. This rate was similar to the rates seen in 2002 and 2003, around 8 percent of the population ages 12 and older.

Particularly striking was a decline in current use, defined as used in the past month, of marijuana among boys ages 12-17, from 9.1 percent in 2002 down to 8.1 percent in 2004. But marijuana use by girls in that age group did not decline and remained at about 7 percent. Similarly, for the 18-25 year old category, the cohort with the highest illicit drug use rates, there were declines in current marijuana use from 17.3 percent in 2002 to 16.1 percent in 2004; and use of hallucinogens from 1.9 percent in 2002 to 1.5 percent in 2004.

"Prevention and treatment are key in the federal strategy. We in the federal government will work with our state and local partners..."

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Swedish top rider gives a promising example



From left to right: Giacomo Muccioli (San Patrignano), Tomas Hallberg (ECAD), Åke Setreus (ECAD), Christer Karlsson (KRIS)

FEI European Jumping Championship (EJC) held on 20-24 July was organised by San Patrignano, which is one of the biggest international rehabilitation centres for drug addicts, might become a trend-setter for significant sport events in the future. For the first time a sports competition of such scale and dignity was arranged by former drug addicts. It was for the first time the former drug addicts had an opportunity to convey a drug policy message.

ECAD was present in San Patrignano to promote its name as a partner and to contribute with its knowledge about European anti-drug policy.

ECAD contacted Swedish top female rider, Malin Baryard, before the event to ask her to lend her name for the Championship. The Italian organisers did not make a secret of the fact that she was among the most wanted guests there. A young female horse rider with a fantastic beaming smile, who has recently become a mother – who can attract more attention?

“ I gladly accept this offer”, - announced Malin Baryard. “All children have the right to grow up in a drug-free atmosphere. I was lucky enough not to see drugs in my childhood. Drugs were hardly even mentioned. I have nothing against becoming a role model. I am already one, no matter if I want it or not. So in this case it is better to be a good model.”

We, people who work against drugs, might be too careful when asking a role model if he/she wants to participate in the event of this grade. There are so many strong personalities who would love to get into this position if we only asked...

A representative of the International Championship organisers in Germany next year listened very attentively about the cooperation between ECAD and San Patrignano centre before the EJC. He was interested in the possibility to link sports with a message to the society.

Social sponsoring could probably be one of the ways to attract more cities to get invol-

ved in the organisation of various big events. Working in positive environment to change the common view on drugs in society can bring some lucrative results in the long term for the organising cities.

So how did the Championship end? The Centre had its own horse in the competition, but it did not get any of the prizes. However, the audience marked a special victory of the equipage with extensive ovations for just taking part in the competition. Butterfly Flip, the horse of Malin Baryard got infected during the competition and refused to join in.

Heavy rain showers went on for several hours during two days of the Championship, but the event was still very much appreciated by the participants, the public and the press.

ECAD had a chance to show itself acting in a different environment. Common interest to our exhibition was remarkable and we should be satisfied with all the attention we were given by the massmedia all over Europe. (Even a Japanese newspaper wrote an article about Malin Baryard, ECAD and San Patrignano.

Some facts about San Patrignano:

- *Collective treatment Centre for drug addicts, most of the patients are heroin addicts.*
- *About 1800 persons live in three places near the city of Rimini in Italy.*
- *Around 70% are still drug-free after 2 years of treatment “graduation”.*
- *San Patrignano does not accept money from the state and it is impossible to get a place in the centre for a payment.*
- *60% of expenses are covered by own production and the rest comes from private donations.*

Tomas Hallberg, ECAD

Heroin addicts poisoned with cattle medicine

U.S. health officials suspect that clenbuterol – a drug that promotes lean muscle growth in cattle – has been used in heroin production or as a substitute of it. On the East Coast there were registered lots of poisoned heroin users.

Touches of the drug were found in the urine of eight heroin addicts in New York and Connecticut during the first three months of this year. Narcotic substance clenbuterol is illegal in the United States, and

has been involved in 18 poisoning cases in New York and in four other states situated on the Atlantic Coast.

Poisoning with clenbuterol is characterised with high palpitation and exceptionally quick heart beating, chest pains and great unease. Those who were sick claimed that they snorted, not injected a substance, which they believed was heroin right before becoming sick. Centres for Disease Control and Prevention presumed that these cases con-

cerned clenbuterol poisoning. Federal Agency based in Atlanta claims that clenbuterol was sold to the addicts as heroin.

Heroin use took over United States avalanche-like in the 90-ies, due to the development of the purified drug forms that allowed snorting the drug instead of injecting it.

Reuters informs that 3,7 million people in the USA were registered as heroin users in 2003, according to the data from the National Institute on Drug Abuse. / Reuters Health

French addicts go to Belgium in search of methadone

French heroin addicts cross the borderline between Belgium and France (Kortrijk and Bergen) in order to ask for methadone treatment, writes Expatica News. According to the Belgian newspaper "De Standaard", many doctors in Belgium are violating the rule of 150 methadone patients legally allowed to be treated with methadone in the country.

Methadone use is legally regulated since April 2004 in Belgium, when doctors were given the right to prescribe the drug and pharmacies would sell it.

It was estimated that around 2000 French drug addicts cross the border with Belgium for the methadone dose on the regular basis. This data comes from the Belgian Institute of Pharmacology where methadone users are registered.

In France it is forbidden for family doctors to prescribe methadone since 1986. It is being distributed to the patients by special

daily centres. So people who need methadone have to go there at a day time. It seems difficult for those who have a job, so they choose to go to Belgium instead, writes Expatica.

There are many difficulties in connection with this methadone-use pattern. One of the doctors used to give such "methadone consultations" at the train station restaurant in Lille, after which a young man died.

There are 20 000 methadone users registered in Belgium. Half of them take methadone regularly and the other half uses it occasionally. Later this year a proposal from the Liege University doctor Jean Reggers to give heroin to the heroin addicts is going to be reviewed. That is in order to avoid swapping AIDS-infected needles between addicts. That is to be done by the Federal Health Ministry.

Source: Expatica News

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"...and we will redouble our efforts to deal with drug use in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina," Secretary Leavitt said. "Clearly the data show by working together as a nation, we can achieve success in preventing drug abuse."

An area of concern is the increasing non-medical use of prescription medications among young adults. The 2004 survey shows about 6 percent of young adults used medications non medically in the past month, and 29 percent had used in their lifetime. From 2002 to 2004 there was an increase in lifetime prevalence of non-medical use of narcotic pain relievers in the 18-25 age group, from 22 percent to 24 percent. Hydrocodone and oxycodone products showed increases in lifetime use among young adults ages 18 to 25.

By SAMHSA.gov

New drug substance control programme ratified in Latvia

After some painstaking and meticulous work Latvian Cabinet of Ministers has on the 16 of August adopted a new **programme on drug substance control and restriction measures for 2005-2008**. The programme has been worked on for 3 years and is based on the EU recommendations for the EU Drug Strategy for 2005-2012.

The programme focuses on two policy domains - demand and supply reduction, and international co-operation and research, information and evaluation. It is elaborated in concordance with the World Health Organisation's strategy "Health-21" (Health in the 21 century). It also follows all UN Conventions against drug abuse.

Latvian government has set the following priorities in the field of drug substance control:

- Drug abuse reduction, especially among young people
- Better rehabilitation and resocialisation possibilities for drug addicts
- Decrease of drug abuse and dissemination related crimes as well as drug smuggling curtailment
- Drug abuse related crime reduction and harm reduction in the country.

The aim of the programme is to encourage drug supply and demand reduction as well as diminishing of lethal cases, crimes and

health problems in connection with drug abuse. There is also a number of **subgoals**:

- To establish productive interaction between institutions involved in the field of narcotic drugs dissemination and control, and international co-operation
- To ensure the elaboration of the plan concerning drug supply and demand reduction based on the general anti drug policy and single action planning in order to solve customary drug-connected problems and to ensure financing of this plan
- To elaborate a long-term prevention programme for different target groups, to make sure it is put into action, properly co-ordinated, continuously financed and its executive tasks are distributed
- To improve existent rehabilitation programmes and their availability (for prisoners as well), also to develop co-operation between different branches and **biopsychosocial** (directed to work against biological, psychological and social consequences of the drug abuse) **medical approach**, as well as to elaborate and expand alternative programmes (particularly those directed against the social and biological consequences of drug abuse)
- To improve co-ordination, co-operation and information exchange between juridical institutions involved in drug supply reduction (police, customs, border troops etc.) and to unite information systems of these institutions

- To strengthen the juridical basis, structures and resources of the Latvian national monitoring system - to ensure data accumulation, analysis and dissemination in compliance with the demands of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction
- To elaborate educational plan for the specialists involved in fighting against drugs and drug addiction, to work on the criteria for different fields and activities and its evaluation; to perform systematically and regularly the evaluation of all factors connected to the drug spread and its consequences, as well as the evaluation of outcomes of the introduction of this programme.

Some feasible results of the programme:

- Diminished impact of the drug connected crime level on the social security of people
- Decreased spread of drug addiction and its negative influence on health in the society and on general welfare
- Continuous and stable curtailment in the number of drug addiction diagnoses, also diminished number of intoxications or harmful substance connected death cases, especially among young people under 25.

The programme will be implemented within the period of 3 years and will be financed with app. 7 mln lats (app. 12 mln Euro).

Andrejs Vilks, ECAD Regional Office director
in Latvia

AFROCAD: Africa to step up its battle on illicit drugs

In its 2004 report presented in Vienna in early March 2005, the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) said that *Africa remains the world's weak spot in the fight against drugs because most countries on the continent lack the means to combat trafficking.*

It warned that while cannabis remains "a major issue of concern" throughout Africa, the trade and trafficking in and abuse of cocaine, heroin and amphetamine-type stimulants was also on the rise in many countries in the region. Though drug seizures increased in 2004, notably in West Africa, the INCB implored countries in the region to "enhance their efforts to combat drug trafficking and abuse" and the international community to help it to do so.

In one of the recent and most positive developments in Africa, this call was promptly heeded in Port Louis in Mauritius during the four-day (21 - 24 August, 2005) **21st International Federation of Non-Governmental Organisations (IFNGO) International Conference on Substance Abuse Prevention.**

This year's conference, which carried the theme "*Mobilising Community Resources*

To Prevent Drug And Substance Abuse", was attended by delegates from the Asian and African Continents, other than the IFNGO affiliates, with major discussions on substance abuse and its related socio-economic and health consequences.

But most of all, this anti-drug related event in Port Louis is bound to go down in history for a joint declaration, aptly called the **Mauritius Declaration**, launching the proposal to approve the setting up of an all-Africa, non-profit organization, AFROCAD (African Cities Against Drugs). This initiative does not come out of the blue, but it was first mooted during the first conference of World Cities Against Drugs (WCAD), which took place May 12th-13th, 1998, under the aegis of European Cities Against Drugs (ECAD).

Stockholm-based ECAD, with 245 Signatory Municipalities in 27 European countries thus far, is Europe's leading organization representing millions of European citizens bound by the common purpose of a drug-free Europe with efforts and initiatives against drug abuse in line with the UN Conventions, which oppose legalization and pro-

mote policies to eradicate drug abuse worldwide.

As a further stage, the organisation Doctors For Life acted as a facilitator during its National Drug Conference in late July 2000 in Pretoria by hosting 21 South African mayors for the establishment of South African Cities Against Drugs (SACAD) as a sister organisation of ECAD. Therefore, AFROCAD has to be seen in a way as the a natural outcome of these developments. According to Mauritius National Agency for the Treatment and Rehabilitation of Substance Abusers (NATRESA), the launching of AFROCAD in Port Louis was attended by some 325 national and foreign delegates, under the chairmanship of Mauritius President Anerood Jugnauth.

AFROCAD, a non-profit organization incorporated in the City of Port Louis, Mauritius, aims to promote and develop the fight against drugs through democratic means, as well as to provide experience and knowledge about the work against drugs and drug abuse at local, national and international levels.

By Alberto Carosa

Scotland: Maxie Richards fights hard



Maxie Richards och Iain Duncan Smith

One of Scotland's most tenacious fighters for a drug free society, Maxie Richards, was

chosen as a role model for an award named after her. Maxie Richards Award was initiated by Iain Duncan Smith's Centre for Social Justice. Mr. Smith, the establisher of the Centre, is a former leader of the Conservatives.

Maxie Richards became a well known figure for a drug-free treatment of drug-addicts in Glasgow. She has been helping to return to the constructive lifestyle for hundreds of young people, even taking them to her own home.

Maxie has also been a prominent spokeswoman for ECAD. For a long period of time she has been trying to influence Scottish

cities to become members of our organisation, she has organised impressively big conferences with ECAD speakers in Glasgow.

We congratulate Maxie Richards, an outstandingly strong and inspiring woman, who fights hard against the wind.



ECAD:s Office in Stockholm congratulates its colleague, Åke Setreus, with his decision to quit smoking on September 11, 2005.

*Our European societies have experimented and evaluated both tolerance and intolerance to illicit drug use and drug abuse. It is our reflection upon this which guides us towards non-use. This in regard to our **healthy** well being.*



ECAD ECAD is Europe's leading organisation promoting a drug free Europe and representing millions of European citizens. Drug dealing and drug abuse cause enormous problems in Europe. Nations and their citizens are affected by the consequences of drug abuse. ECAD member cities work to develop initiatives and efforts against drug abuse supporting the United Nations Conventions which oppose legalisation and promote policies to eradicate drug abuse worldwide. Has your city joined ECAD?

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