

Dubai Customs officials seize 8kg of heroin

Dubai Customs officials at Cargo Village have seized eight kilogrammes of heroin hidden in a shipment of car parts

- WAM
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Dubai: Dubai Customs on Monday foiled an attempt to smuggle 8 kg of heroin through Cargo Village into the country.

A Dubai Customs inspector suspected the shipment after running it through a routine scan, where it was found that the shipment contained nine auto parts that were distributed in two boxes.

White powder was found after drilling a hole into one of the parts inside the boxes and analysis tests showed the powder as heroin.

Omar Ahmad Al Muhairi, First Director of Air Cargo Operations in Dubai Customs, said drug smugglers usually resort to many complex measures to sneak in the drugs.

"However, this was by far the most complex attempt that the Dubai Customs inspectors were able to foil due to the modern method of concealing drugs and the proficiency of the gang behind the attempt," he said.

"This attempt increases our suspicion about the involvement of the auto parts company since the parts made of steel were welded in such a professional manner," Al Muhairi said.

Legal procedure

Al Muhairi said the heroin was handed to the office of the Anti-Narcotics Department in Cargo Village so the necessary legal procedures could be taken and within the framework of cooperation between Dubai Customs, the Anti-Narcotics department and Dubai Police.

Al Muhairi reaffirmed that Dubai Customs takes all necessary measures to ensure that harmful substance do not enter the country. "Dubai Customs are keen on further improving the capabilities and experience of its inspectors," Al Muhairi said.

"We currently have 70 inspectors assigned in Cargo Village, and they undergo training programmes to efficiently use up-to-date scanning equipment and to foil such smuggling attempts," he added.

Operations

According to the latest figures, during the first half of 2010, the Air Cargo Operations department in Dubai Customs has foiled 14 drug smuggling operations. Seven of these attempts were transit packages from African and Asian countries heading to western countries, and another seven attempts in air cargo packages.

In these attempts, six hashish, five opium, one heroin, one qat, and one opiate drug smuggling operation was foiled.

The highest number of drug confiscations was recorded in June 2010 with a total of eight attempts which were foiled, followed by March during which month at least three attempts were foiled by the Customs officials.

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