

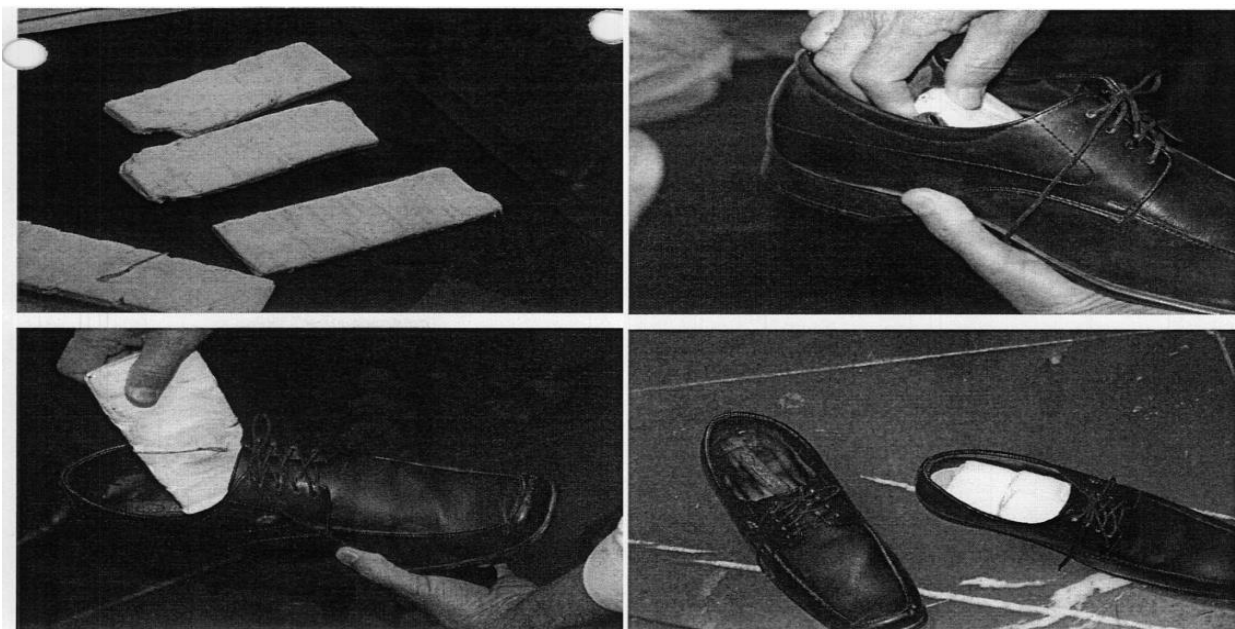
CASE STUDY #9: GOLD DETECTION AT HAMID KARZAI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

On 08 June 2017, person X was ticketed on a commercial flight from Hamid Karzai International Airport to Kandahar International Airport and then to Dubai, United Arab Emirates. Two travel bags of the subject were suspected at Hold Baggage Screening (H.B.S) checkpoint In Hamid Karzai International Airport and were taken for further check to Customs Office based at the airport.

Following a physical search of the bags, 4 gold bars packages weigh 11.724 kilograms that had been packed carefully with white-color scotch tape, recovered from both bags in the presence of person X, representatives of Border Police, Customs, National Directorate of Security and Olive Group. During the inquiry at the airport, person X has stated “I had placed gold bars at my shoes and after passing from x-ray machine at the exit point of Customs, I sat on the chair, took the packages off my shoes and placed those gold bars in my bags and then handed over the bags to the airline”.

However, after checking the security cameras of the airport, it is noticed that person X has only one bag with him while entering to the airport’s terminal and the second bag is brought to the terminal by person Y. Person X and person Y enter to the toilet of the terminal after one another and in a while coming out from the toilet, one of them went to airline’s counter and handed over the bags. It is also noticed that after the bags are handed over to the airline counter, person X goes into terminal’s hall while person Y leaving the airport’s terminal. Thus, the Customs Department submitted the case to the Border Police on the suspicion of money laundering and gold trafficking. It is worth mentioning that the seized gold bars were placed in the custody of Da Afghanistan Bank (Central Bank) pending for investigation.

After a thorough investigation of the case by the competent authorities, the subject was fined 4,980,930.00 AFN (around 72,558.596.00 US Dollars) in accordance with Article 186, Paragraph 2 of Customs Law and the gold bars were returned to the subject.



SOURCE: Customs Department, Ministry of Finance