

CASE STUDY #5: CASH DETECTION AT HAMID KARZAI INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

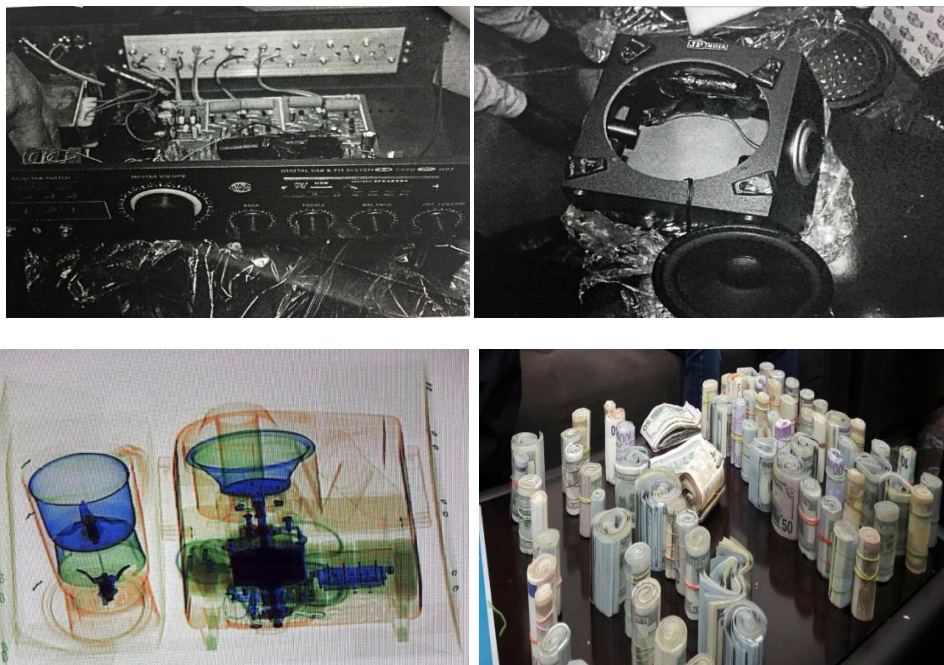
On 22nd of January 2017, subject arrived at Hamid Karzai International Airport through a direct flight from Indira Gandhi International Airport of Delhi, India and was stopped after he was found in possession of cash exceeding the regulatory threshold that had not been declared to the Customs Department at the airport.

The cash which had been placed and concealed carefully at the juicer and loudspeaker mixer systems, detected during an x-ray checking of the travelers' luggage at the airport. Upon a physical search, 23,000 CHF, 238,700 US dollars, 141,500 Indian rupees and an amount of 95910 EUR were found at the juicer and loudspeaker mixer systems.

Following an inquiry, the subject had stated that the seized cash belongs to another person who lives in India and he was paid 40,000 INR by him for carrying this money into Afghanistan. Hence, the Customs Department submitted the case to the Border Police on suspicion of money laundering and the cash was placed at the custody of Da Afghanistan Bank pending further investigation.

In accordance with the procedure, FinTRACA has proactively conducted an analysis on the case of the suspect and afterwards the case was disseminated to the Attorney General Office for the supporting their investigation.

After a thorough investigation of the case by the Attorney General's Office, no evidence of money laundering was found. However, as per the Article #8 of the Cash Courier Regulation of Afghanistan, he was fined 15% of the total seized cash (3,569,282 AFN or approximately 52,313.07 USD) by the Customs Department for violating the Regulation. Accordingly, the seized cash was returned to him after paying the fine.



SOURCE: Customs Department, Ministry of Finance