

THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN TURKEY

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In Turkey, the law enforcement agencies are gathered into two main authorities. These are as below.

1. Under the Ministry of Interior:

- General Commander of Gendarmarie
- General Directorate of National Police
- General Commandery of Coast Guard

2. Within the Undersecretariat of Customs; there are two main service units to combat smuggling. These are ;

- General Directorate of Customs Enforcement (GDCE) and
- General Directorate of Customs
- The responsible areas of these administrations are legally as below:
- The region of Gendarmarie : .It covers rural areas. In that region, Gendarmarie is responsible, inter alia, combating smuggling,.
- The region of police: General Directorate of National Police has performed out its task, one of which is to combat smuggling, in the city areas.
- The region of Territorial Waters: Coast Guard is related authority in territorial water for, among other things, fighting smuggling.

The region of Customs: General Directorate of Customs Enforcement fulfills in these regions as the authority and responsible law enforcement agent. The main difference between GDCE and other law enforcement agencies are:

- GDCE is the only Administration, whose main aim is to struggle against smuggling.
- Generally, all units conduct their operations in their responsible region, however, if it is necessary, depending on case, an operation can be only performed jointly in other region in cooperation with relevant agent. In that context, as far as General Directorate of Customs Enforcement is concerned, fulfilling an operation in other regions is not legal necessity. Any units of GDCE can seize and do operation all over Turkey by itself, without any regional limitations from legislation.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE CUSTOMS ADMINISTRATION IN TURKEY

The principle functions of the General Directorate of Customs are implementation of customs policies, collection of customs taxes, inspection of passengers and goods, also, investigation of smuggling activities if there is any indicator related to drug smuggling during the inspection.

The main task of the General Directorate of Customs Enforcement is to prevent, prosecute and investigate any act of smuggling not only in customs areas (border crossing) but also all over Turkey as well as to be responsible for carrying out the task of the customs procedure partially in customs area. General Directorate of Customs Enforcement implements the task with regard to the prevention, prosecution and investigation of violation of customs legislation, i.e. combating all kind of smuggling and illegal activities.

As far as organizational structure of GDCE is concerned ,it has Center and District units. In the Center, under General Director, three Deputy General Directors exist. There are five Head of Departments linked to the concerned Deputy General Director. One of them is related with anti smuggling and anti narcotics activities. Head of Department of Investigation Intelligence and Prosecution of Anti-Smuggling and Anti-Narcotics.

Four Directorates have fulfilled their activities in this Department. The role of Directorate of Anti-smuggling is to coordinate districts units activities related with combating commercial fraud. That of anti-narcotics is responsible for directing and monitoring of the activities on fighting drugs smuggling done by regional units. The directorate of criminal laboratory is in the stage of being set up. The aim of this directorate is to determine whether any suspected material is drugs or not, and whether any suspected document used in customs procedure is genuine or false. The Directorate of Data Processing and Assessment has;

- performed the data processing affairs,
- collected information on seizure case, suspected persons and vehicles,
- analyzed and distributed information and intelligence.

At the regional level, GDCE has 18 district headquarters. There are also many units linked to Regional Headquarters.

Especially, after than to fall into pieces of Soviet Union. Turkey serves as a bridge between of nuclear substances provider country and illegal demander countries of these materials, due to its geographic position.

For the purpose of preventing the traffic of illegal nuclear substances, 10 radiation dose-rate meter have been started to use in the customs of Turkey after 1996

Devices such as search kits, fiberscopes, radiation dose-rate meter, drug test kit, gas data distributed and being used in province organizations of the General Directorate of Customs Enforcement, are also available for the purpose of fighting against smuggling of narcotic nuclear substances, guns, commercial goods.

If the southern and eastern neighboring countries to Turkey and some European countries producing the chemicals used in production of narcotics, assist Turkey in this effort, the fighting would reach desirable levels.

There are 72 radioactive material smuggling events in our country since 1993 but only 10 events have been determined that substances are radioactive material and others have determined that substances are poison of mercury.

Poison of snake was seized in the 962 glass tube units at the Gurbulak border gate in 1997 which is known that was using to get chemical gas for war.