

CCP Central Committee Instruction on Eradicating the Spread of Narcotics

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To: All Central Bureaus and Sub-bureaus, for transmission to Provincial, Municipal, and District Party Committees; and copied to all Major Military Region Party Committees for forwarding to Provincial Military Regions and Army Party Committees:

In the current movement against corruption, waste, and bureaucratism, numerous grave offenses have been exposed within state organs in sectors such as railways, shipping, postal services, public security, judicial administration, and taxation. Many internal personnel have been found harboring or colluding with unscrupulous merchants, drug traffickers, hoodlums, and even counterrevolutionaries to traffic narcotics, precious metals, and contraband. Similar cases have also been uncovered within military units.

These criminal activities have caused serious damage to the country and the people. They represent a toxic legacy of old Chinese society. Although some improvement was seen in many areas after the liberation of the country, the problem remains serious overall.

To eradicate this malignant remnant of the old society, it is imperative to launch a mass campaign, prominently and forcefully, across the nation — with focused targets — in order to conduct a comprehensive and decisive purge. The following directives are issued:

1. Prioritize the Elimination of Drug Trafficking

Although drug trafficking, smuggling of precious metals, and general contraband smuggling are often interlinked and simultaneously uncovered, drug trafficking causes the most harm to the nation and the greatest damage to the people. Therefore, the current campaign must focus on eradicating narcotics trafficking.

If a case involves multiple charges (e.g., trafficking drugs, smuggling gold/silver, and contraband), it may be treated as a consolidated case. For cases involving only gold/silver or contraband, and not drugs, they should be handled according to existing government laws.

Drug traffickers with a counterrevolutionary motive should be treated as counterrevolutionaries.

2. Rely on the Masses to Root Out Drug Crimes

Eradicating the production, trafficking, and protection of narcotics requires the awareness and active participation of the masses. In regions currently undergoing the "Three-Anti" and "Five-Anti" movements, this issue should receive immediate attention. Personnel should be assigned to organize and analyze existing materials, continue to uncover both internal and external leads, and launch targeted investigations into major cases to fully grasp the situation.

Then, toward the end of the "Three-Anti" and "Five-Anti" movements, a focused and coordinated anti-narcotics campaign should be launched, utilizing existing movement teams to carry out the purge in government organs and society alike. In areas where the anti-corruption movements are nearing completion, work can begin simultaneously in offices and communities, or sequentially, but must ensure tight coordination for an internal-external pincer attack.

For drug-related crimes already exposed during the "Three-Anti" and "Five-Anti" movements, except in particularly severe cases that require immediate arrest, most suspects need not be arrested yet,

and those already arrested should not have their cases closed. Final disposition should await the launch of the anti-narcotics campaign, to build momentum.

3. Key Departments and Regions for the Campaign

Drug traffickers rely on railways and transportation routes to smuggle drugs. They often bribe or collude with personnel from public security, judiciary, taxation, etc. Border control and customs are the critical choke points for drugs entering and exiting the country.

Thus, this campaign must prioritize the following sectors:

- Railways, roads, sea and river shipping
- Postal services, customs
- Public security (including border patrol)
- Judicial and tax authorities

Under the unified leadership of local people's governments, these departments must act seriously and thoroughly to eliminate all narcotics-related offenses.

In terms of geography, focus should be placed on:

- Large and medium-sized cities
- Border areas and key ports
- Regions previously known for narcotics abuse
- Major drug production zones
- Transport and distribution hubs
- Customs and exit/entry points

Each Central Bureau should determine specific priority areas.

4. Policy on Offenders: Severe Punishment + Reform

Offenders exposed or who voluntarily confess during the campaign should be handled with a policy of strict punishment for a few, reform and education for the majority. That is:

- Severe punishment for producers and those engaged in organized, large-scale trafficking
- Leniency for individual and small-scale traffickers
- Severe punishment for ringleaders, leniency for accessories
- Harsh treatment for repeat offenders, leniency for first-time offenders
- Strict punishment for those who refuse to confess, leniency for full confessions
- Future violations punished harshly, past behavior treated leniently

Focus enforcement on organized producers, large-scale traffickers, and seriously derelict public servants.

For those whose cases are not especially serious but who confess thoroughly, show genuine remorse, and report others or provide valuable leads, punishment may be reduced or waived.

Pure drug users should not be the target of this campaign. Their numbers are large and total eradication is not realistic during this phase. They should not be equated with producers and traffickers. Moreover, if production and trafficking can be wiped out, the phenomenon of drug use will naturally fade away.

5. On the Issue of Drug Cultivation

At present, this problem is primarily found in ethnic minority border regions. It should be gradually resolved through future work. In the interior, any poppy cultivation must be strictly banned and inspected. If it cannot be resolved during this campaign, it should be addressed afterward through separate measures.

Central Committee of the Communist Party of China

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