



Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
Manila 1099

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21 January 2019

CUSTOMS MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR
NO. 20-2019

To: All Deputy Commissioners
All Directors and Division Chiefs
All District/Port Collectors
And Others Concerned

**Subject: Regional Intelligence Liaison Office Asia-Pacific (RILO A/P)
Alert No. 1/2019, Methamphetamine Trafficking from/via Kuala Lumpur**

Attached is the electronic mail dated 17 January 2019 of Ms. Sun Hwa Cho (Sunny), CEN Manager, RILO A/P, World Customs Organization relative to the RILO AP Alert No. 1/2019, Methamphetamine Trafficking from/via Kuala Lumpur.

For your information and guidance.

For record purposes, please confirm the dissemination of this circular throughout your offices within fifteen (15) days from receipt hereof.


REY LEONARDO B. GUERRERO
Commissioner

JAN 24 2019





RILO AP
Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific
 Bridge across borders

ALERT 1/2019

Methamphetamine Trafficking from/via Kuala Lumpur

DATE	17 January 2019
SOURCE OF INFORMATION	DSINS Air (Japan Customs) and Korea Customs Service
CONTACT	Regional Intelligence Liaison Office for Asia and the Pacific #721 Eonju-ro, Gangnam-gu, Seoul, 06050, Korea Tel: +82-2-510-1935 / Email: office@riloap.org

Description

According to DSINS notifications, Kuala Lumpur has emerged as a frequent departure of methamphetamine trafficking destined to the East Asia. Recently, Japan and Korea Customs often detected methamphetamine trafficking from Kuala Lumpur, transported by air passengers, especially of Malaysian nationality. Table 1 illustrates methamphetamine detection by air couriers routed from or via Kuala Lumpur International Airport since late October, 2018.

Table 1. Methamphetamine trafficking from or via Kuala Lumpur Airport

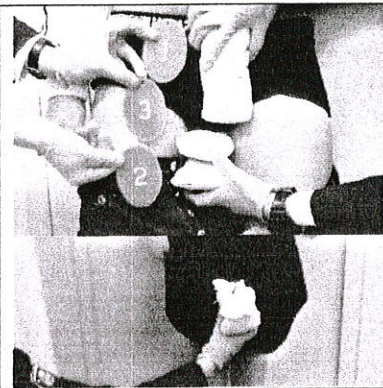
1	26 Oct. 2018	Kansai, Japan	1.99	KR (M, 49)	False bottom of Suitcase	KH REP – MY KUL – JP KIX (AK543, D7001)
2	2 Nov. 2018	Haneda, Japan	2.19	MY (M, 16)	On the body (thighs & calves)	MY KUL - JP HND (D7522)
3	14 Nov. 2018	Kansai, Japan	0.74 0.25	MY (M, 23) MY (F, 38)	On the body (underwear, underwear & sanitary napkin)	MY KUL – JP KIX (D7001)
4	4 Dec. 2018	Narita, Japan	2.08 2.08	MY (M, 18) MY (M, 33)	On the body (thighs, thighs & right calf)	(MY KUL) KR PUS – JP NRT (JL960)
5	9 Dec. 2018	Narita, Japan	Un- known	MY (F, 25) MY (M, 42)	Inner framework of suitcase	MY KUL – JP NRT (MH88)
6	22 Dec. 2018	Haneda, Japan	0.83	MY (M, 28)	On the body (shoes)	MY KUL - JP HND (D7522)
7	24 Dec. 2018	Haneda, Japan	2.69 2.74	MY (M, 19) MY (M, 31)	On the body (abdomen & thighs)	MY KUL - JP HND (D7522)
8	27 Dec. 2018	Gimhae, Korea	4.38	MY (M, 22)	Inside the suitcase	MY KUL – KR PUS (D7518)
9	3 Jan. 2019	Gimhae, Korea	1.02	MY (F, 34)	On the body	MY KUL – KR PUS (D7518)

* Case 8 and 9 were not reported to DSINS yet.

Remarkably, several common elements were noted from the trafficking cases included in the Table 1 as follows:

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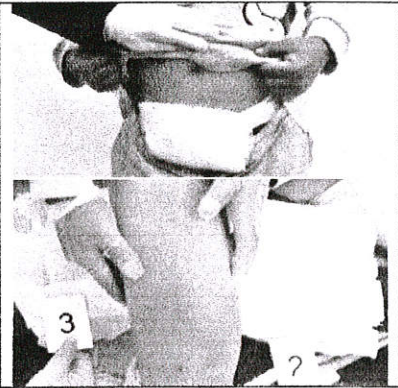
- **Offender:** Most of the couriers were Malaysians (12 persons out of 13 persons), 10 of which seemed to be of Chinese ethnicity based on the observed appearances (i.e. photographic image) and the names (i.e. 3-syllable names) released by Japan and Korea Customs;
- **Concealment Method:** On the Body (6 cases out of 9 cases, 9 persons out of 13 persons) and Luggage Concealment (3 cases, 4 persons);
 - **Brand of Suitcase:** The 3 pieces of suitcases in the 2 cases (Case 1 and 5) included the expression of POLO in the brand names.



Case 3
(underwear, sanitary napkin)

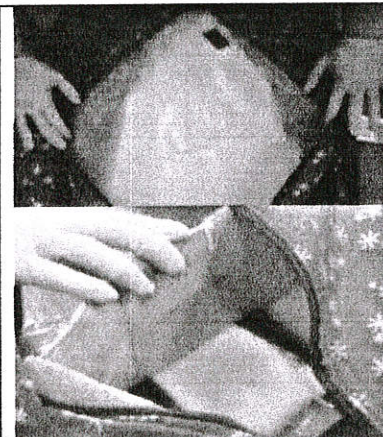


Case 4
(around thighs and right calf)



Case 7
(abdomen and thighs)

* Photos Courtesy of Japan Customs



Case 1
(Suitcase Brand: POLO RESORT)



Case 5
(Suitcase Brand: UNITED POLO CLUB, W.POLO)
False compartment was created on the sides of the suitcases using the screws, carefully hidden by putting on tapes. When removing the tapes and screws, white powders fell from the screw holes.

* Photos Courtesy of Japan Customs

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- **Group of 2:** The 4 couriers who had departed from or destined to Busan, Korea (Case 4, 8, 9) were confirmed to be travelling in a group (*a group of 2 persons*) by the airline reservation data according to the Korea Customs. Though not confirmed whether they were a group by the airline data, two couriers using the identical concealment method and flight were shown in the Case 3, 5 and 7 as well.
- **Urgent Booking:** The couriers of Case 4 arrived in Korea on 3 December before traveling to Japan on the next day. Their air tickets to Korea were booked and purchased on 2 December, on the previous day of their travel. Likewise, couriers of Case 8 and 9 showed the tendency of urgent booking (*1~2 days in advance of travel*).

Recommendation

RILO AP would like to draw Members' attention to the air passengers showing similar characteristics, especially those traveling from Kuala Lumpur. Since similar seizures have been continuously made as of now, Members who have encountered the similar cases are encouraged to provide information of such cases or trend to RILO AP.

In addition, Members are recommended to make full use of advance passenger information and airline booking data for risk profiling and passenger targeting. At the Regional Workshop on Countering Drug Trafficking by Air Passengers organized by RILO AP in October, 2018, participants took note of the important risk indicators including urgent booking, duration of stay, itinerary, number and weight of luggage, travel agency, etc.

Finally, in order for timely identification of the trafficking trend, Members are encouraged to actively participate in the joint enforcement projects or operations coordinated by RILO AP such as DSINS and Operation Mekong Dragon.

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