

TRANSLATION OF 28 MAY OCRTIS [STATEMENT](#) ON GI-TOC ARTICLE



- Subject: Right of reply from the Central Office for the Repression of Illicit Drug Trafficking (OCRTIS)

Following the publication on the net of an article "Strange days for hashish trafficking in Niger" literally translated into French " Les jours étranges pour le trafic de hachish au Niger " by an international press group, "Global Initiative", relayed by some national press organs, the management of OCRTIS has the honor to provide a right of reply, the content of which follows.

For several years, Niger has imposed itself in the fight against drug trafficking in all its forms by consistently succeeding in large seizures, the record of which was reached on 2 March 2021, with 17 tonnes of cannabis resin from Beirut (Lebanon).

These performances, hailed by OCRTIS partners, are the result of the professionalism of its staff and the support of the hierarchy at the highest level.

However, for the past few days, OCRTIS has been following the circulation of serious information on social media from an article of the "Global Initiative" of which its imposture is its element.

Indeed, some passages of the article in view of their extremely dangerous character for peace and social cohesion, leave no doubt as to their tendentious nature, the objective of which is to tarnish the image of OCRTIS and beyond, of the whole of Niger.

Moreover, OCRTIS wishes to clarify that the management of the file of the 17 tons of cannabis resin was made in the greatest transparency, such that it is ridiculous to believe in the allegations of the article according to which part of the drug would have been fraudulently subtracted.

Indeed, three special units secured the operation: from the seizure, through the guarding of the site where the drug was stored, and its transport to the incineration site: in such a way that it is impossible for such a scenario happen.

In addition, the 17 tonnes of cannabis resin were incinerated on 24 April 2021 in accordance with article 142 of ordinance 99-42 of 23 September 1999 relating to the fight against drugs in Niger in the presence of the ministers in charge of Interior and Justice, members of the National Drugs Control Commission, judicial authorities, officials of the Defense and Security Forces, technical partners, civil society and the national and international press.

The OCRTIS also challenges anyone to bring the slightest evidence of these allegations and reserves the right to take legal action so that the authors of this impostor article, who, according to well-informed sources have never set foot in Niger, suffer the rigors of the law.

Finally, OCRTIS reassures national and international opinion that these totally unfounded accusations have no bearing on its determination to continue the fight against drug trafficking in Niger with the usual professionalism, integrity and rigor.