

General Administration of Customs Combats Five Smuggling Ills Including “Foreign Garbage”

Xinhua News Agency, Beijing, February 7 On the 7th, reporters learned from the General Administration of Customs that customs agencies throughout China will launch a yearlong joint special campaign to combat smuggling, “Sharp Sword at the Gates of the Country 2017.” This campaign will target the illegal smuggling of “foreign garbage,” agricultural products, resource products, key tax-related commodities, and drugs and firearms. Special focuses of combat and centralized regulation will be carried out against these activities.

In particular, with regard to “foreign garbage,” the focus will be attacking the illegal smuggling of industrial waste, electronic waste, domestic waste, waste plastic, and other solid waste. With regard to agricultural products, continued support will be given to the efforts to combat and control the smuggling of rice, corn, beef, lamb, and other frozen goods, plus sugar and other agricultural products. The actual supervision of coal, mineral products, and other resource products will be further strengthened; focus will be placed on gangs and chains. Concentrated special strikes will be conducted when appropriate. With regard to key tax-related commodities, while combating tax-related smuggling in traditional areas, channels, and commodities, the analysis and research on the risks of smuggling in emerging areas, new industry formats, and new trade methods will be strengthened. Combat will focus on industry and gang smuggling. With regard to firearm and drug smuggling, the supervision of postal and freight channels will be strengthened to push deeper into blocking the sources of drugs and firearms.

During this campaign, customs agencies throughout China will also further strengthen contact and cooperation with local governments, related departments, and industry management associations to expand comprehensive anti-smuggling governance efforts and promote the implementation of the centralized combat and regulation of complete smuggling chains “from purchase to shipping to storage to sale.”

It is understood that customs agencies’ anti-smuggling work in 2016 achieved positive results. During the entire year, a total of 2,633 investigations of smuggling crimes were initiated, a growth of 17% over the same period during the previous year. These cases included 1,446 cases of tax-related smuggling crime totaling RMB48.79 billion in value, reflecting growth of 16.1% and 11.9% over the previous year, respectively, plus 1,187 cases of non-tax-related smuggling, reflecting growth of 18.1% over the previous year.