

Russia Takes Down Dark Web Drug Market

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Roman Pimenov / Interpress / TASS

Russia's Interior Ministry has taken down an online illicit drug market operating through the anonymous web surfing software Tor, the state-run TASS news agency [reported](#) Tuesday.

The so-called Russian Anonymous Marketplace (RAMP) was said to have operated since 2012 with an estimated 14,000 members. RAMP reportedly [served](#) as an online forum for buyers to connect with dealers. Transactions were then made outside the forum and deliveries made via "dead drops."

In a response to a State Duma deputy's letter, Deputy Interior Minister Mikhail Vanichkin said RAMP was taken down in July 2017, TASS quoted him as saying Tuesday.

Related article: [High on Moscow Hills: Why Russia Is Losing the War on Drugs](#)

Hidden behind the anonymity of the so-called "dark web" and eliminating personal

interaction, the online drug trade has proven next to impossible to police in Russia.

Russia's narcotics industry turns an estimated annual profit of 1.5 trillion rubles (\$25.8 billion). One owner of an online drug business [told](#) The Moscow Times last summer that his small-scale operation in an industrial town made him around 600,000 rubles (\$10,287) per month.

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