

• About Us • Jobs • Contact Us • Talk China [RSS](#) [Choose A Language](#) ▾

[CHINESEFILMS.cn](#) • EZ FM • London • Sydney • Washington

[Home](#) | [Webcast](#) | [China](#) | [Business](#) | [World](#) | [Sports](#) | [Travel](#) | [Video](#) | [Showbiz](#) | [Learn Chinese](#) | [Learn English](#) | [Radio](#) | [The Messenger](#)

[Correspondents'Corner](#) [Asia - Pacific](#) [Americas](#) [Africa](#) [Europe](#) [Middle East](#) [World Bodies](#)

Wed Jul. 21, 2010

## U.S. Experts Debate Washington's Narco Policy in Afghanistan

2010-07-21 09:21:25 [Xinhua](#) [Web Editor: Yang Yang](#)

by Matthew Rusling

U.S. anti-drug policy in Afghanistan is pushing up prices for narcotics produced in the war-torn country, which increases the amount of cash in Taliban coffers, said a recent report issued by New York University. But other experts seem to disagree.

The study, entitled "Drug Production and Trafficking, Counterdrug Policies, and Security and Governance in Afghanistan," makes a simple economic argument:

Reducing the supply of poppies -- flowers from which heroine is derived -- by developing other crops and targeting traffickers drives drug prices up.

That increases profits for the Taliban, which is partially financed by the drug trade.

The study's authors, Jonathan Caulkins, Mark Kleiman and Jonathan Kulick, wrote that total eradication of drug trafficking in Afghanistan would eliminate the flow of funds to drug sellers, although they made no such policy recommendations.

But a partial reduction will raise prices and shift revenue toward "the most problematic purveyors of unlawful violence," said the study, which is sponsored by the Center on International Cooperation at New York University.

The Bush administration's push for poppy eradication was blasted by critics as counter-productive and the Obama administration has opted more toward alternative livelihoods for poppy farmers, as well as high level interdiction.

Worldwide demand for heroine is high and the war-ravaged country produces more than 90 percent of the world's opium.

Afghanistan is a major supplier for places with serious drug problems such as Europe. The heroine market in the United States is supplied mostly by Colombia and Mexico, the study noted.

But Richard Barrett, coordinator for the UN al-Qaida / Taliban Monitoring team, said the Taliban is not benefiting financially from attempts to tackle Afghanistan's drug trade.

"If you are selling a lot at a low price you are getting as much profit as if you are selling a little at a high price," he said.

"If you are taking out processing laboratories and convoys of raw opium or processed opium you are impacting the sellers directly."

Last year prices were lower than they have been for years, in spite of anti-narcotics efforts, he said, adding that the numbers of poppy-growing provinces has decreased.

Ted Galen Carpenter, vice president for defense and foreign policy studies at Cato Institute, said traffickers who are not impacted by the anti-drug campaign could see less competition and a resulting increase in profits. Barrett, however, said, "you can't say 'I don't want to crack down on those criminals because those other criminals will benefit as a result.'"

"It must be right to crack down on anyone who is deeply involved in the drug trade," he said.

While most Afghan farmers produce opium, another door many be opening to help Afghanistan profit from the cross-border sale of legal goods.

On Sunday Pakistan and Afghanistan inked a deal to allow Afghan trucks to freely travel across Pakistan and bring their goods to markets in India.

### Correspondents' Corner

[more »](#)



• [To Preserve or Not to Preserve is Not a Question for Lamu Town](#)



• [Be with Ostrich at Ostrich Show Farm in Western Cape](#)

### Review



• [Suicide Vest Is Vital Clue after Uganda Blasts](#)

• [Series of Deadly Attacks in Iraq Related to U.S. Pullout Plan: Analysts](#)

• [Afghanistan: What Does "Ready to Withdraw" Mean?](#)

• [Clinton's Pakistan Visit a Frustrated Move to Restore Trust](#)

• [International Troops Bound for West Bank?](#)

### In Depth

[more »](#)



• [Japanese PM Yukio Hatoyama Resigns](#)



• [Oil Spill Impact](#)

### Talk to CRI

Your Name

Your Email

-- Countries and regions --

Submit

[View the Messages](#)

Previously, trucks were prevented from moving rapidly over the border into Pakistan, which often caused perishable items to rot.

The deal could provide an alternative income for Afghan poppy farmers who could shift their production to other crops, some experts said.

 FORUM
  PRINT
  SHARE
 



Latest Messages

Your questions and comments

Name  E-mail



CRIENGLISH.com claims the copyright of all material and information produced originally by our staff. All rights reserved. Reproduction of text for non-commercial purposes only is permitted provided that both the source and author are acknowledged and a notifying [email](#) is sent to us.

CRIENGLISH.com holds neither liability nor responsibility for materials attributed to any other source. Such information is provided as reportage and dissemination of information but does not necessarily reflect the opinion of or endorsement by CRI.

• **World**

Video  
Reporters' Corner  
Photos  
Also in the News  
Audio

• **Webcast**

Video  
Radio Programs Directory  
Web Extra  
Schedules

• **China**

Weekly Features  
China News  
Chinese Press  
Gallery  
M Zone  
Society

• **Business**

Audio  
Markets  
Editor's Choice  
Biz Photo  
Special Coverage

• **Travel**

Destinations  
Editor's Pick  
What's in  
On the Road

• **Showbiz**

Chinese Films  
Music & Stage  
Art & Literature  
Video  
Photo Gallery  
Special Coverage

• **Language Learning**

Ask Pingping and Jules  
Chinese Studio  
Elementary Chinese  
Pop Charts  
English News  
English Snippets

Home | About Us | Jobs | Contact Us | Talk China | The Messenger | Bridging the Straits | About China | Weather



Web
  english.cri.cn

Director: Liu Chi | Designer: ZN & LWY | Web Developer : Ricci

Copyright by CRIENGLISH.com, 1998-2010. Email:crieng@cri.com.cn Registered Number:05064898

