

Reporting as a Mechanism for Protecting Society from Drug and Psychotropic Substance-Related Crimes

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Abstract

The serious nature of narcotic and psychotropic substance offences has prompted the Algerian State to mobilize all available legal and material resources to combat them and to pursue and prosecute their perpetrators. Perhaps the most significant development in criminal policy concerning drug control is the involvement of citizens through a reporting mechanism, within the framework of a comprehensive approach based on two fundamental elements: financial and non-financial incentives and the provision of adequate safeguards for the protection of informants. This approach aims to achieve greater effectiveness in this field and has been pursued by the Algerian Government through the issuance of Executive Decree No. 26-272, which establishes the modalities for implementing these two elements.

Keywords: Drug offences; psychotropic substances; reporting; financial incentives; protection safeguards

Introduction

Drug and psychotropic substance offences constitute among the most serious crimes threatening national and societal security and represent one of the most complex challenges to human security, given their interrelated health, social, economic, and security dimensions.² Therefore, the competent authorities strive to curb such offences and combat their perpetrators through various means and mechanisms, while involving members of society in their prevention and control, in pursuit of the fundamental objective of the law, namely the prevention of crime rather than merely addressing its consequences.

In Algeria, combating narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances³ has received considerable attention within a comprehensive approach adopted by the public authorities. This approach has been reflected in a range of legislative policies combining deterrence, treatment, awareness-raising, and the provision of the necessary material support to institutions involved in this process.⁴

Despite the significant attention devoted by the State to addressing these offences, the competent authorities have recognized the responsible citizen as an essential partner and an effective contributor to preventing and combating such crimes through cooperation with the relevant authorities by means of a reporting mechanism.

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² According to the 2024 national report issued by the National Office for the Fight against Drugs and Drug Addiction (ONLCDT), the alarming figures reflect the scale and seriousness of this crime. See National Office for the Fight Against Drugs and Drug Addiction (2024).

³ Drugs and psychotropic substances are characterized not only by their harmful effects but also by their continuous development and diversity. Among the latest forms of drugs are what are known as new psychoactive substances (NPS) (Behloul, 2026, p. 12).

⁴ See Messaadi, (2026, pp. 6–7).

In return, the State encourages and incentivizes informants financially while ensuring their protection against malicious acts and retaliation.

This approach is not entirely new; however, it has yielded positive results in several countries that have experienced significant increases in crime, most notably Mexico⁵ and the United States⁶, as well as other countries that have suffered from the consequences of drug-related crime. Accordingly, Algeria's adoption of this approach may contribute to achieving positive results, pending, of course, a favourable public response to this legal framework.

The importance of studying this topic stems primarily from several reasons.

From a theoretical perspective, Algerian legislation has not regulated the reporting of crimes as a general legal theory. Rather, provisions relating to reporting have been introduced through specific legal texts, the most recent of which is Executive Decree No. 26-272⁷, concerning the provision of rewards and safeguards for informants.

Furthermore, the legal provisions governing reporting differ in determining its legal nature. Some confer a mandatory character upon reporting and classify it as a legal duty, whereas others regard it as a moral obligation that does not impose a binding duty upon citizens.

From a practical perspective, the reasons for selecting this topic include the following:

Contributing to the prevention of offenders from escaping punishment, promoting the achievement of justice, and reducing crime, while preserving evidence and facilitating the prompt adjudication of cases through assistance provided to the authorities by reporting crimes and identifying their perpetrators.

Reporting constitutes an effective mechanism for protecting society against drug-related offences, given the position of the informant and the potential ease with which those involved in such crimes may be identified.

It is also necessary to provide comprehensive safeguards for the protection of informants and to preserve their anonymity, as they represent a crucial link in reaching offenders while simultaneously constituting the most vulnerable party in confronting them. Financial incentives also play an important role in enhancing the effectiveness of reporting, particularly in environments conducive to the spread of such offences.

Through Executive Decree No. 26-272, the Algerian legislator introduced financial and non-financial incentives, as well as safeguards designed to protect persons reporting drug and psychotropic substance offences. This represents a strategic shift in an approach that recognizes citizens as important and effective partners in combating this serious phenomenon.

Accordingly, the following questions arise: To what extent is reporting an effective mechanism for protecting society against drug and psychotropic substance offences and for pursuing their perpetrators?

Does the provision of rewards for informants and safeguards for their protection facilitate the work of the competent authorities in limiting the spread of these offences?

To address this research problem, the study employs an analytical approach, as it is considered the most appropriate for interpreting the legal provisions governing the reporting process. It also adopts a descriptive approach to examine the concept of reporting and distinguish it from other related procedures.

This study is divided into two sections. The first section addresses the conceptual framework of the mechanism for reporting drug and psychotropic substance offences, while the second examines the practice of reporting within the framework of Executive Decree No. 26-272.

Section One: Conceptual Framework of Reporting Drug and Psychotropic Substance Offences

⁵ The principal legal framework governing rewards granted for reporting drug-related crimes in Mexico is the *Ley de Premios, Estímulos y Recompensas* (Law on Prizes, Incentives, and Rewards). This federal law authorizes the Office of the Attorney General (*Fiscalía General de la República*, FGR) to offer and pay financial rewards to individuals who provide useful, truthful, and timely information that assists in the investigation or prevention of federal crimes, including drug trafficking and other organized-crime offenses.

⁶ The United States has established what are known as the U.S. Narcotics Rewards Programs, under which rewards may reach \$25 million, subject to specific eligibility conditions and with guarantees of confidentiality and protection. See the U.S. Department of State (n.d.).

⁷ Executive Decree No. 26-272, dated August 1, 2026, and published in Official Gazette No. 57 on August 5, 2026, establishes the conditions and procedures for granting financial and non-financial incentives to individuals who report drug-related crimes, assist in apprehending those responsible, and/or help put an end to such crimes (Executive Decree No. 26-272, 2026)..

The Algerian legislator has adopted the mechanism of reporting drug and psychotropic substance offences as a means of contributing effectively to limiting the spread of these serious crimes and protecting young people from the consequences of drug use, addiction, and involvement in crime. This section examines the definition and types of reporting and distinguishes it from certain similar procedures.

First Requirement: Definition and Types of Reporting Drug Offences

Reporting overlaps with several legal concepts, such as complaints, notifications, and declarations, which makes it necessary to define its precise concept and identify its different types.

First Subsection: Definition of Reporting Drug and Psychotropic Substance Offences

Comparative legislation has not provided a specific definition of crime reporting⁸ but has merely established it as a mechanism or means capable of assisting the competent authorities in combating the offence being reported. Legal scholars, however, have defined it as an individual's act of notifying judicial or administrative authorities of the occurrence or possible occurrence of a crime, regardless of the method or language used in making the report⁹, or even where the information is obtained through a third party.¹⁰

Others define it as notification of a crime that has occurred or is about to occur, or where there is evidence or an indication of an intention, agreement, or determination to commit it, or where there is suspicion or fear that it may already have been committed.¹¹

In summary, a crime report is a formal notification submitted to a competent authority—usually the police or the public prosecutor—to inform it that an offence may have been committed. In practice, such notification is often the first procedural step that may lead to verification measures, the initiation of criminal proceedings, and, where justified, the prosecution of the alleged offender. A crime report may be made by the injured party, a witness, a private individual, a company representative, or any other person who has obtained credible information concerning suspected criminal conduct.

A crime report is not required to contain a complete legal assessment of the facts. Its purpose is to describe the incident, identify the persons involved, where known, specify the time and place of its occurrence, and provide any available documents, correspondence, recordings, or other evidence. The authority receiving the report is responsible for assessing whether the described conduct may constitute a criminal offence and whether there are grounds for taking further action.¹²

Accordingly, reporting a drug or psychotropic substance offence may be defined as the notification by one or more persons to the competent authorities—usually the judicial police or customs authorities—of an offence that has been committed or is about to be committed, involving narcotic drugs or psychotropic substances, whether through their use or trafficking, and which is criminalized by law. Such reporting aims to assist the competent authorities and facilitate their work in taking the necessary measures to investigate the circumstances of the offence, apprehend and punish its perpetrators, and protect society from the spread of the reported crime, while enabling the informant to obtain financial or non-financial incentives.

Second Subsection: Types of Reporting

The reporting of a crime may be associated with an offence that has already been committed or one that is about to occur. In such cases, a person intervenes by notifying the legally competent authority of the perpetrator of the unlawful conduct so that the necessary measures may be taken either to prevent the reported crime or to pursue and prosecute the offender after its commission. Depending on the nature of the offence, reporting may be optional or mandatory, while the form of reporting may be written or oral, depending on the status and circumstances of the informant.

1. Types of Reporting According to Form

Reporting may be classified according to its form, depending, on the one hand, on the nature of the guarantees provided by law and whose implementation the competent authorities are responsible for ensuring and, on the

⁸ Transparency International defines whistleblowing as “the disclosure of information concerning corrupt, illegal, fraudulent, or hazardous activities committed within or by organizations in the public or private sector that raise concerns or pose a threat to the public interest, by individuals or organizations capable of taking action.”

⁹ See Mehdi (2017, p. 309).

¹⁰ See Sorour (2016, p. 410).

¹¹ See Jad (1988, p. 109).

¹² See Criminal Law Poland (2026).

other hand, on the spatial and temporal circumstances of the informant and the nature of the offence. In this respect, reporting may take the following forms:

A. Written Reporting:

This occurs when a person notifies the competent authorities in writing, either by letter or electronically. In the report, the informant sets out the facts to be reported, describes the alleged offender, and provides all relevant circumstances surrounding the offence. The informant may disclose their identity or conceal it for fear of retaliation. The competent authorities deal with the report as important evidence that may assist in uncovering the circumstances of the reported offence.¹³

B. Oral Reporting:

This may be made through any means other than writing. For example, the informant may contact the competent authority, which often provides dedicated telephone hotlines for informants, and notify it of the circumstances of the offence. Alternatively, the person may appear in person at the premises of the competent authority and provide information orally. In such cases, the informant's identity becomes known, making it the responsibility of the authorities to ensure that person's protection.

2. Types of Reporting According to Legal Nature

Reporting is an act of citizenship through which an individual performs their duty as an active member of society by participating and cooperating with the competent State authorities in the prevention of and protection against crime and violence.

While reporting may reflect courage and civic responsibility, it may also involve danger and risk, which can create hesitation or indifference regarding the decision to report. The State may therefore make reporting mandatory for certain offences, particularly for certain categories of public officials, while maintaining its optional nature in other cases.

A. Voluntary Reporting:

Voluntary or optional reporting depends on the informant's freedom to decide whether or not to make a report. It is therefore an optional form of notification available to any individual—whether a citizen or resident—who becomes aware of the commission of an offence for which the initiation of proceedings does not require a complaint. Such a person may approach the competent authorities without being subject to a legal obligation to do so. This reflects the spirit of civic engagement and contributes to the development of a culture of reporting.

B. Mandatory Reporting:

Most legal systems impose mandatory reporting, particularly in relation to corruption offences and serious crimes. Reporting may therefore constitute a legal obligation incumbent upon a public official or any person assimilated thereto who becomes aware, during or by reason of the performance of their duties, of the commission of an offence that does not require a complaint for the initiation of proceedings. Such persons must notify the competent authority immediately, and failure to do so may constitute a disciplinary violation and may expose them to legal accountability.

The distinction between voluntary and mandatory reporting reflects the legal system's awareness of the need to balance individual responsibility with professional obligations. In both cases, however, moral responsibility remains relevant, particularly where reporting may contribute to protecting a right or saving a life.

Second Section: The Legal Nature of Reporting and Its Distinction from Similar Procedures

Despite the importance of reporting as a preventive and effective mechanism in combating crime and contributing to the prompt initiation of public prosecution, the legislator has not imposed a general obligation on individuals, in their capacity as citizens, to report crimes, except in certain cases involving their status as public officials or employees. This requires an examination of the legal nature of this procedure and its distinction from similar mechanisms.

First Subsection: The Legal Nature of Reporting Drug-Related Crimes

The legal nature of reporting varies according to the degree of obligation established by the law regulating it, as well as the constitutional and moral perspective adopted toward such conduct. With regard to reporting crimes

¹³ From a practical perspective, a properly prepared crime report can have a significant impact on the course of a case. An unclear, incomplete, or poorly documented report may delay the authorities' response or make it more difficult to obtain evidence. By contrast, a clear report supported by relevant facts and supporting documentation helps define the scope of the case and reduces the risk of overlooking essential circumstances at the initial stage.

involving narcotics and psychotropic substances, reporting may be regarded as an act of citizenship and as falling within the scope of constitutional duties. A citizen should not remain a passive observer of the activities of drug trafficking networks and expose himself, his property, and his personal security to danger. Rather, positive action through reporting may have a preventive effect by facilitating and expediting the process of investigation, pursuit, and apprehension of offenders, thereby contributing to the prevention of crime.

Citizenship requires the reporting of crime on the basis that the protection of the state and society and the preservation of their interests constitute a shared responsibility between citizens and public authorities.

Silence and concealment of offenders are inconsistent with the true meaning of citizenship and with moral and religious responsibility. If the state has a duty to provide social security, ensure safe living conditions, and protect citizens from the risks of crime and violence, citizens likewise have, at least morally, a responsibility toward the state and society to contribute to the achievement of these objectives. This raises the question of whether reporting drug-related crimes constitutes a legal duty and obligation or merely a moral duty.

A review of the relevant legal provisions, particularly the aforementioned decree, indicates that the Algerian legislator has not established any legal obligation to report such crimes or imposed liability for failure to do so. Rather, reporting has been treated as a moral duty incumbent upon individuals by virtue of their constitutional status as citizens. The apparent purpose is to encourage citizens to participate voluntarily with the competent authorities, as they constitute important and effective partners in combating this social scourge.

As participants in uncovering the circumstances surrounding such crimes, citizens who provide reports may make a significant contribution to the pursuit of offenders and the identification of criminal networks. Such conduct represents one of the highest expressions of citizenship.

Beyond the specific provisions of the decree, the legal nature of reporting may, in its broader context, also be understood as a constitutional duty within the framework of the obligations enshrined in the Algerian Constitution, particularly those relating to the protection of the country's independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity, national unity, and the symbols of the state.¹⁴

In conclusion, although the law does not impose a legal obligation or establish liability for failure to report crimes involving narcotics and psychotropic substances, reporting should nevertheless be regarded, at least from a moral perspective, as a noble civic act grounded in a framework of constitutional, legal, and ethical duties whose culture should be promoted within society.

Second Subsection: Distinguishing Reporting from Similar Procedures

The concept of reporting is sometimes confused with other related legal concepts, such as confession, complaint, and testimony. The main distinctions between these procedures are discussed below.

1. Distinguishing Reporting from a Complaint

A complaint differs from reporting in that it is submitted exclusively by the injured party or victim for the purpose of protecting his or her rights or seeking the punishment of the offender. In certain offences, it may constitute an exceptional prerequisite for the initiation of public prosecution and may also operate as a procedural limitation.¹⁵ Reporting, by contrast, constitutes a general notification to the competent authorities concerning the occurrence of a crime or offence and may be made by any person, even if that person has not suffered any direct harm, with the aim of protecting the public interest.

2. Distinguishing Reporting from a Confession

Although confession and reporting are similar in that both may be made before the same competent authority and may contribute to the initiation of public prosecution, a confession is distinguished by the fact that it constitutes an explicit admission by an accused person that he or she has committed an offence, either wholly or partially. It may be made only by the principal offender, an accomplice, or another accused person in relation to his or her own conduct. It is regarded as one of the strongest forms of judicial evidence and may be made before an investigating judge or a trial court. Consequently, the law subjects it to strict legal safeguards and conditions to ensure its validity and to prevent it from being obtained through coercion.¹⁶

¹⁴ See Articles 7–9 of the Algerian Constitution.

¹⁵ See Article 399(4) of the Algerian Penal Code.

¹⁶ See Article 213 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

3. Distinguishing Reporting from Testimony

Testimony differs from reporting in that it involves providing detailed information concerning the facts of a case before a judge in order to assist in the formation of the court's conviction. It generally takes place at a later stage, during the investigation or trial, and usually requires the taking of a legal oath. Testimony is given by a person who has been legally summoned to provide reliable and direct evidence under penalty of legal liability.¹⁷

Section Two: The Practice of Reporting within the Algerian Approach to Combating Drug-Related Crime

The culture of reporting crime is relatively recent in our society and is often perceived by some members of the public as an act associated with stigma and betrayal, so to speak. It is also associated with indifference and a lack of concern, particularly when the crime or conduct being reported does not directly affect the individual or his or her immediate surroundings. From this perspective, the Algerian legislator intervened to overcome the fear experienced by citizens by adopting a realistic approach based on two fundamental pillars: incentives and protection, the substance of which is contained in the aforementioned decree.

Although this approach is positive in principle, it is not without practical complexities, particularly regarding the guarantees of protection, the nature and form of incentives, and the issue of how to deal with malicious reports.

First Section: The Content of the Algerian Approach under Decree No. 26/272

Through the aforementioned decree, the Algerian legislator adopted two important elements: incentives and protection, both of which are intended to encourage citizens, particularly young people, to participate in this collaborative effort to reduce crimes involving narcotics and psychotropic substances.

First Subsection: The Incentive Component

Decree No. 26/272 establishes the conditions and procedures for providing incentives for identifying the perpetrators of crimes involving narcotics and psychotropic substances and/or apprehending them and/or putting an end to the crime.

Under this decree, the competent authorities, represented by the judicial police services and customs authorities, may grant financial or non-financial incentives to persons who provide information that may lead to the identification of the perpetrators of such crimes, their apprehension, or the termination of the criminal activity, provided that the competent Public Prosecutor is informed thereof.¹⁸

1. The Nature of the Incentives and the Mechanisms for Determining Them

The head of the investigation service of one of the competent authorities determines, on a discretionary basis, the amount of the financial incentives and also determines the non-financial incentives, which may include protection and the facilitation of certain procedures.

These incentives are determined according to the nature of the crime or crimes concerned, their temporal and geographical scope, the circumstances in which they were committed, and their degree of complexity.

The provisions of the decree further stipulate that the mechanisms and criteria for determining financial incentives, the applicable maximum amount, and the list of non-financial incentives shall be established by a joint decision of the Minister of National Defence, the Minister responsible for the Interior, the Minister of Justice, Keeper of the Seals, and the Minister responsible for Finance.¹⁹

2. Payment and Confidentiality of Incentives

Financial incentives are paid following the identification of the perpetrators of the crimes concerned, their apprehension, or the termination of the criminal activity, as appropriate. They may also be paid in partial instalments depending on the nature of the crime, its temporal and geographical scope, the circumstances of its commission, and its degree of complexity, or at each stage of the implementation of the relevant procedures. The decree provides that the persons concerned may not challenge decisions granting or refusing to grant incentives. The procedures for the payment of financial incentives are determined by a decision of the Minister responsible for Finance or by a joint decision with the relevant minister.

¹⁷ See Article 357 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

¹⁸ See Article 2 of Executive Decree No. 26-272.

¹⁹ See Article 3 of Executive Decree No. 26-272.

The financial incentive is paid against a receipt that is kept confidential by the investigation service. The receipt contains information relating to the service concerned, the identity of the beneficiary, the amount of the incentive, the file number, and its date, without a copy being provided to the beneficiary.²⁰

3. Exclusion of Investigation Officers from Incentives

The funds allocated to cover these incentives are included within the programme appropriations of the ministerial sectors to which the services responsible for combating the crimes provided for under Law No. 04-18 relating to the prevention of narcotics and psychotropic substances and the suppression of their illicit use and trafficking, as amended and supplemented, belong.

Furthermore, officers and employees responsible for investigating and recording such crimes are not entitled to benefit from the incentives provided for under this decree.²¹

Second Subsection: The Protection Component

Citizens cannot be expected to participate in the State's efforts to combat crimes involving narcotics and psychotropic substances without adequate guarantees to protect informants against all forms of malicious retaliation by offenders involved in the reported crime. These guarantees are primarily based on several mechanisms, including:

1. Confidentiality of Informants' Identities

The disclosure of an informant's identity constitutes one of the principal concerns of persons considering whether to report a crime. Accordingly, the law requires the competent authorities to preserve the confidentiality of information and documents that may reveal the identity of informants, subject to strict penalties.²²

2. Protection of Personal Data

This is achieved by refraining from providing copies of receipts or investigation records containing information relating to the beneficiary to any external party and by keeping such documents in special confidential records held by the investigation services.

Second Section: Issues Arising from the Implementation of Decree No. 26/272

Despite the positive nature of the mechanism introduced by the Algerian legislator, and notwithstanding the fact that numerous international experiences have preceded it in this field, its implementation is not without certain challenges that may hinder the optimal application of the law. Among the most significant concerns and issues are the protection of informants, the manner in which authorities deal with malicious reports, and the implications of these matters for combating crimes involving narcotics and psychotropic substances.

First Subsection: The Issue of Guarantees Protecting Informants against Malicious Retaliation

The principal fear and concern faced by persons reporting crimes involving narcotics and psychotropic substances is that the criminal group or drug traffickers may discover the identity of the informant, thereby exposing the individual to malicious or retaliatory acts affecting his or her person, property, or family. This requires the judicial and security authorities to adopt strict measures, particularly with regard to preventing the disclosure of the informant's identity.

Prolonged procedures for prosecuting persons accused of crimes involving narcotics and psychotropic substances, as well as the transfer of files from one authority to another, may increase the risk of the informant's identity being disclosed and may consequently place his or her life at risk.

Accordingly, the competent authorities should establish effective mechanisms to ensure that the identity of the informant remains protected from any possible disclosure, including through the use of encryption tools and other modern means.

The most effective means of protecting an informant is to prevent the disclosure of his or her identity, as the competent authority is concerned primarily with the substance and reliability of the information provided rather than with the identity of its source. This approach is commonly adopted by informants in many parts of the world.²³

²⁰ See Articles 4–6 of Executive Decree No. 26-272.

²¹ The legislator excluded officials and employees from receiving financial incentives in order to ensure that the competent authority and its personnel remain beyond suspicion and free from any form of doubt or potential conflict of interest.

²² See Article 9 of Executive Decree No. 26-272.

²³ See Orr (2025).

Second Subsection: The Issue of Malicious Reports

The mechanism for reporting crimes involving narcotics and psychotropic substances was established and encouraged with the aim of serving the public interest and assisting the competent authorities in detecting such crimes, apprehending their perpetrators, and ensuring their punishment. It was not intended to serve as a means of malicious retaliation, revenge, or the settlement of personal disputes.

Accordingly, a person submitting a report should not deviate from the purpose intended by the law and use reporting as a tool to intimidate, harass, or threaten an adversary.

Decree No. 26/272 does not expressly address malicious reporting. This is unsurprising, given that the Decree contains provisions intended to provide incentives and protection for informants, while also ensuring that potential informants are not discouraged by fears of legal proceedings merely because a person reported for a drug-related offence is subsequently found to be innocent.

The question that therefore arises is whether a person may be prosecuted for submitting a false or malicious report when the competent authorities establish that such conduct has occurred.

A review of the legal provisions regulating the financial and non-financial incentives granted to informants shows that they do not provide for prosecution in such circumstances. This may be explained by several considerations. First, from a general perspective, the law seeks to encourage all citizens to participate in efforts to combat this serious form of crime by offering financial and non-financial incentives and providing them with comprehensive protection.

Second, the person submitting a report may simply be mistaken. Good faith should therefore be presumed, particularly given that an ordinary citizen may lack the competence and resources available to the competent authorities to determine whether sufficient evidence exists to establish criminal responsibility.

The competent authorities must also respect the presumption of innocence of the person who is the subject of the report and ensure that the information received is not used for purposes other than those permitted by law. Finally, the legal framework should include provisions establishing liability on the part of persons who knowingly submit malicious reports.

Conclusion

The adoption of a legal framework establishing the conditions and procedures for incentivising the reporting of information to the competent authorities for the purpose of identifying perpetrators of crimes involving narcotics and psychotropic substances, apprehending drug traffickers, or bringing such criminal activities to an end forms part of the State's broader policy embodied in the National Strategy for Combating Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances (2025–2029).

The participation of citizens in this collaborative process can contribute to more effective and timely efforts to combat crimes involving narcotics and psychotropic substances, which are being promoted and trafficked on a massive scale, reflecting the magnitude and seriousness of this phenomenon.²⁴

The inclusion of financial incentives in the legal framework may increase the likelihood of widespread citizen participation in reporting drug traffickers and assisting in the identification of their networks and locations, provided that adequate protection guarantees are also ensured. On this basis, the competent authorities should adopt certain measures to strengthen the effectiveness of this approach, including:

- Increasing the value of financial incentives in order to encourage young people to report drug-related crimes, as merely symbolic incentives may be insufficient given the degree of risk involved.
- Raising awareness through all forms of media and communication platforms and ensuring the participation of public institutions of all kinds in this initiative.
- Establishing effective protection mechanisms and providing broader guarantees to remove fear, suspicion, and uncertainty from the minds of potential informants.

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²⁴ On August 21, 2026, the Central Service for Combating Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (SCLTISSP) seized 10.4 million pregabalin capsules and more than 33 kg of cocaine, and arrested 25 individuals, highlighting the seriousness of this crime (Ministry of Interior and Local Authorities, 2026).

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