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The Prison Authority that Cancelled the Narco-drone Business

During the last year alone, the Civil Guard impeded more than 150 drones, most of which were destined for inmates of the prison in Ceuta. Now the trend has collapsed under exerted pressure.

by [Carmen Echarri](#) - 04/01/2023



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During the last year alone, [the Civil Guard](#) of Ceuta impeded [over 150 drug carrying drones](#). Many of them were directed to the Mendizábal prison to supply drugs or cell phones to certain inmates. Today the situation has changed and the drones are intercepted by Civil Guard professionals or otherwise detected by [prison officials](#).

The reopening of the border and the control measures implemented at the prison level and by the security forces have been responsible for practically eliminating what had become an entire business.

When in the middle of the pandemic one of the local drug traffickers in Ceuta came up with the idea of using drones to exchange hashish for pills, he started what became a money-making machine.

Ceuta took trial measures, which were fully effective, to guarantee protection

So much so that two major operations were carried out with the objective of eliminating the infrastructure that was operating at full capacity as an alternative [to traditional drug trafficking routes](#). The impact on drug traffickers' business was timely, as they always knew how to rearm themselves to organize drug flights relying on collusion with contacts in the neighboring country.

The Mendizábal prison, the target of many of these attempts, will shortly implement the EnforceAir stationary mitigation system, which has already been successfully tested. One of the precise capabilities of this system is its ability to distinguish between authorized friendly drones and unauthorized hostile ones.

The prison of Alhaurín de la Torre has been the pioneer in the area, in the face of a real siege that was occurring, with the constant introduction of illegal goods, especially drugs and mobile phones, as well as alcohol and all kinds of pills. The goods were destined for prisoners.

Control has been taken not only by the security forces, but also by Civil Guard and prison officials

Ceuta, [as well as Melilla](#), will implement fixed installations of the mitigation systems with the objective of ensuring greater protection, and preventing contact between the prison population and the outside world, as well as preventing the introduction of materials that could cause trouble for the security at an enclosed facility such as a prison.

In many of the interceptions, the security forces discovered ongoing contacts between ex-convicts and inmates to move the illegal merchandise and fulfill the requests from the inmates.

The same situation that took place in Ceuta occurred in other prisons in the Peninsula, which will also gradually adopt this mitigation system

Prison officials have recently warned about the danger of these alternative methods for the commission of crimes, since, just as drugs or telephones can be smuggled in, small bladed weapons or parts for the manufacturing of devices can also be introduced, which could be dangerous for the prison officials themselves, unaware that the internal population may have these harmful capabilities at their disposal.

The common objective of the prisons in Spain most affected by the intrusion of these drones is to improve their security by preventing them from accessing private enclosure, through mitigation that will cause the drone to fall and, therefore, the loss of the cargo that it could carry, stopping the delivery to the recipient.

Key Points

The business. The lost operation

Once the border is open, and due to the pressure exerted by the security forces, as well as the protection that the prison has adopted, the business of shipping drugs by direct orders of the inmates has been almost eliminated.

The fear of prison officials

Drones are not only intended to carry drugs or cell phones, but there have also been attempts to sneak in small parts that can also have lethal effect.

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