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Hanoi: Detecting 11.82 kg of rhino horn and 4,712 kg of ivory smuggled by air

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The functional forces have just discovered a package containing 11.82 kg of rhino horn and 4,712 kg of smuggled ivory transported on a flight from Doha (Quatar) to Vietnam.

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Illustration.

Specifically, at 06:30, on April 25, 2023, at the luggage island area of Conveyor Belt No. 1 (Hall A2), International Terminal T2, Noi Bai Airport, Airport Customs Branch. Noi Bai International Airport coordinated with Team 7 - Hanoi City Police, Northern Region Anti-Smuggling Control Team, Noi Bai International Airport Border Guard Police to inspect and supervise luggage, goods of people on exit and entry via air for passengers of Ninh Ba Dien (passport number P00809449 on flight QR 982 departing at 20:29' on April 24, 2023 from Doha to the airport. Noi Bai International Airport at 06:22' on April 25, 2023) with 01 piece of checked baggage (luggage tag number 0157185942) and 01 piece of hand luggage without baggage tag. Passenger Ninh Ba Dien did not declare the customs declaration for carry-on luggage at the inspection area,

When scanning the above 02 pieces of luggage through a portable scanner, the Import Baggage Procedure Team discovered suspicious images of rhino horns and ivory, so they invited Ninh Ba Dien passenger to the headquarters. for fact check. According to the inspection results, in addition to his carry-on luggage, Mr. Ninh Ba Dien also brought 01 parcel of checked goods, inside containing 04 cylindrical blocks of animal horns suspected to be rhino horns and 37 circular blocks suspected of being rhino horns. is a product made from ivory.

According to the results of on-site assessment by a representative of the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology, 04 animal horns are rhino horns, 37 circular blocks are made from elephant tusks. The examination results of the Criminal Technology Division - Hanoi City Police showed that 04 rhino horns weighed 11.82 kg; 37 circular blocks made from ivory with a mass of 4,712 kg.

According to the initial testimony of Mr. Ninh Ba Dien, on March 29, 2023, Mr. Dien completed exit procedures from Vietnam to Angola. On April 21, 2023, Mr. Dien took a plane from Angola to Doha (Qatar) and then back to Vietnam. In Angola, Mr. Dien was brought to the airport by a man named Chung (about 39 years old; with Nghe An accent; living in Angola) and hired Dien to transport 02 packages (with baggage tags number 0157185941). and 0157185942) containing rhino horn and ivory back to Vietnam with a salary of VND 50 million (Chung was also the one who paid for living and accommodation in Angola and bought a plane ticket for Dien to fly back to Vietnam). When transiting at Doha airport, Mr. Dien was asked by the authorities there to open 01 piece of luggage with luggage tag number 0157185941, discovered inside there were 04 rhino horns wrapped in foil, so he seized them. parcel above.

On April 24, 2023, Doha side let Mr. Dien board the plane to continue to return to Vietnam with 01 piece of luggage with tag number 0157185942. According to Chung's instructions, when he returned to Vietnam, someone would contact him. to get it, but currently no one has contacted Mr. Dien. This is the first time Mr. Dien has accepted to transport and hire rhino horn and ivory for Chung (Mr. Dien does not know who Chung is, only knows that Chung is the one who actively contacted and hired Dien to transport rhino horn and ivory back to Vietnam). Male).

Considering that the case showed signs of a criminal offence, the Customs authority transferred all dossiers and material evidences to the Investigation Police Agency (Police Division for investigation of corruption, economic and smuggling crimes) - Hanoi police to investigate and handle according to regulations.