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Asif Abdul Razzak and Dubai Bank: how the Nehir case led to an international financial network

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Editorial illustration by ‘Kartel Khimprom’ based on a published photograph of Asif Abdul Razzak. The background and composition were created using AI; this is not a documentary photograph of the event.

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Key points of the case

Background	Details
Name in sources	Asif Abdul Razzaq
The region involved and international links	Spain; financial links with the UAE
Status based on verified reports	The media reported his arrest in Dubai on 8 September 2026; the European arrest warrant remains in force; his subsequent legal status is unknown

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What links Asif Abdul Razzak to Nehir?

In the Spanish alert, Razzak is credited with an operational and financial role in the so-called Dubai Bank. It mentions 1,835 kilograms of cocaine in 92 packages and the alleged financial transactions that facilitated the shipment on the vessel Nehir. [1]

The investigators' theory describes a network of intermediaries, hawala-style transactions and crypto-assets. The name 'Dubai Bank' refers to an alleged informal network; it cannot be described as a licensed bank on the basis of this profile. [1]



Asif Abdul Razzak. Photo from the Europe's Most Wanted / ENFAST wanted notice.

The suspect's file

Asif Abdul Razzak

Asif Abdul Razzak is a Pakistani national wanted by Spain in connection with a case involving drug trafficking and money laundering. In the European investigation, he is linked to the financing of a consignment of cocaine seized on board the vessel Nehir and to a payment system known as Dubai Bank.

The dossier was compiled based on an earlier wanted notice. The discrepancies with subsequent reports of the arrest are explained in this article.

The sunken vessel and the second hidden consignment

The Spanish Ministry of the Interior describes the start of the investigation in 2021. After the cocaine was discovered, the vessel Nehir was towed to Gijón; it sank as a result of taking on water. The investigation later established the existence of another hidden consignment – approximately 1,650 kilograms – which, according to the ministry, members of the network retrieved from the sunken vessel. [2]

This part of the story explains why the case did not end with the initial seizure. Investigators had to establish the subsequent movements of the cargo and the people facilitating the operation. The sizes of the first and second consignments reflect different episodes in the discovery and handling of the cargo.

What has been officially reported about Operation Drakkar

In September 2026, the Spanish Ministry of the Interior reported that 21 people had been arrested in an international operation. In Spain, the main phase took place on 22 July, when 15 people were arrested. Arrest warrants executed abroad led to arrests in the UAE, Egypt and the Netherlands. [2]

The official description mentions property, cars and bank accounts. The total value of assets identified, seized or frozen is estimated at around 20 million euros. These figures relate to the operation as a whole and do not constitute a published estimate of Razzak’s personal wealth. [2]

Has Razzak been arrested, or is he still wanted?

Reports dated 8 September mentioned Razzak’s arrest in Dubai. His name is explicitly mentioned in the article about the international operation, whilst official reports on the arrested network leader do not disclose all individual identifiers. [3]

At the same time, the European arrest warrant dated 7 September remains accessible, marked as ‘failure to appear in court’. This discrepancy means that it cannot be used without reservation as evidence that Razzak was at liberty in November. The most accurate way to put it is: the media

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reported his arrest; the current pre-trial measure and subsequent decision are not established in verified sources. [1][3]

Why did the investigation move from the shipment to the money?

Editorial conclusion: the seizure of the consignment reveals the final physical outcome, whilst the financial trail allows us to investigate how the shipment was organised and paid for. Drakkar is therefore of interest as an attempt to trace the links between the drug-trafficking incident and the network that facilitated it.

The key developments lie in the documents relating to the handover of those detained, the individual charges and the rulings on the frozen assets. It is these that will reveal which specific roles the investigation will be able to confirm individually, rather than merely describing them under the general heading of ‘Dubai Bank’.

A timeline of key events

Date	The incident
February 2021	The investigation began following the interception of the Nehir.
22.07.2026	The main phase of the arrests took place in Spain.
07.09.2026	The date of Razzak’s individual European profile.
08.09.2026	Reports on the international operation and media coverage of Razzak’s arrest.

Frequently asked questions

What role does Dubai Bank play in this case?

This is what law enforcement agencies call the alleged informal financial network. It is not the official name of a licensed bank. [1]

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Can the 20 million euros be considered Razzak’s personal assets?

No. This figure represents the total assets of the international operation as a whole. [2]

Other international cases in the archive

- Armin Moini
- Alejandro Salgado Vega

This article was compiled on 4 November 2026 based on the publications listed. Allegations and suspicions are attributed to sources; the final determination of guilt is a matter for the courts.

Sources and documents

1. Europe’s Most Wanted / ENFAST — Asif Abdul Razzaq
2. Spanish Ministry of the Interior – international operation against Banca de Dubái, September 2026
3. Crimesite / Headliner – report on Razzak’s arrest, 8 September 2026

Sources

1. Europe’s Most Wanted / ENFAST — Asif Abdul Razzaq
   https://eumostwanted.eu/index.php/razzaq-asif-abdul
2. Spanish Ministry of the Interior – international operation against Banca de Dubái, September 2026
   https://www.interior.gob.es/opencms/en/detail-pages/article/Golpe-policial-a-los-ases-del-narcotrafico-y-el-blanqueo-desmantelando-la-estructura-financiera-de-una-red-dedicada-al-trafico-internacional-de-cocaina/
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   https://crime.headliner.nl/item/internationale-onderwereldbankier-opgepakt-in-dubai-miljarden-aan-misdaadgeld-in-beeld-link-met-crimesite-19987

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