

# Kazakh Party Raided

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**The**  **Moscow Times**

ALMATY, Kazakhstan — An unregistered political party in Kazakhstan says its offices and the homes of top party officials were raided Monday by police.

The searches at the Alga headquarters came only days after Prime Minister Karim Masimov vowed the nation would move gradually toward greater political liberalization.

Alga representatives said plainclothes officers entered the party's headquarters in the early morning and barred employees from accessing the building. Police at Alga headquarters said they were not authorized to comment on the raid.

The ruling Nur Otan party's five-year monopoly over parliament was ended by elections this month, but foreign observers have criticized the vote for lacking genuine competition.

Alga was unable to participate in the race.

*(AP)*

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