

Azerbaijani Pro-Government Politician Arrested

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The  **Moscow Times**

BAKU, Azerbaijan — Police in Azerbaijan arrested a politician expelled from the ruling party after being implicated in a corruption scandal over attempts to solicit a bribe.

The General Prosecutor's Office said late Wednesday that Gulyar Ahmadova will be charged with abusing public office to commit embezzlement.

Although corruption is reputed to be rampant in the oil-rich Caspian Sea nation, the high-profile exposure of public figures is rare, and the media are strictly monitored by the authoritarian government.

Footage appeared online in September showing Ahmadova discussing the size of the bribe required to secure her interlocutor a seat in parliament. The incident dated back to 2005.

Ahmadova faces up to 12 years in prison if found guilty.

(AP)

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