

Former First Deputy Mayor Eldaniz Lahijev and four other municipal officials were found guilty by a Baku court on 5 September of embezzling some \$510,000 in funds from the U.S. Embassy in Baku

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FORMER FIRST DEPUTY BAKU MAYOR CONVICTED OF EMBEZZLEMENT

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Former First Deputy Mayor Eldaniz Lahijev and four other municipal officials were found guilty by a Baku court on 5 September of embezzling some \$510,000 in funds from the U.S. Embassy in Baku, AP reported. The funds were to be used to expand the embassy compound and improve security. In 1999, the embassy transferred \$4.68 million to the Baku mayor's office for a 99-year lease on property adjoining the embassy, allocating \$2.6 million of that amount for compensation for residents of apartment buildings on the adjoining land. Lahijev was sentenced to 12 years' imprisonment, and the four others received prison sentences ranging from four to eight years.
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