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RFE/RL: MORE CORRUPTION ALLEGATIONS LEVELED AGAINST AZERBAIJANI DEFENSE MINISTRY

The NGO Civic Union for Civilian and Democratic Control over the Armed Forces convened a press conference in Baku on 29 April at which speakers again focused on corruption and inefficiency within the armed forces, zerkalo.az reported on 30 April (see "RFE/RL Newslines," 13 and 14 January 2005). Union head Major Alekper Mamedov noted that over the past decade the Defense Ministry has never been required to give an account of its activities. He also noted that Finance Minister Fikret Yusifov was fired after accusing Defense Minister Colonel General Safar Abiev of engaging in illicit commercial activities. LF