

From: EurasiaDigest (*digest@eurasianet.org*)
Date: Wed Mar 02 2005 - 10:09:33 EST

<http://www.eurasianet.org/resource/azerbaijan/hypermail/200503/0001.shtml>

RFE/RL: AZERBAIJANI PARLIAMENTARIANS ACCUSE OIL COMPANY OF FUNDING OPPOSITION

On the first day of the spring parliament session, deputy Zahid Orudj, who represents the ruling Yeni Azerbaijan Party (YAP), accused British Petroleum (BP) on 1 March of providing funding to opposition parties and their media outlets, Turan reported. He said the British government is guilty of double standards in its relations with Baku. Siyavush Novruzov, who likewise represents YAP, proposed that all political parties be required to submit an annual report on their sources of financing, zerkalo.az reported on 2 March. The online daily echo-az.com on 2 March quoted BP spokesperson Tamam Bayatly as saying that BP is a purely commercial structure and has never meddled in the internal politics of any of the foreign countries in which it operates. She added that the Azerbaijani parliament ratified the agreement BP signed with the Azerbaijani government. LF