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# RELEASE NEWS

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THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS SECTION / EMBASSY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

## **Statement on Recent Developments**

**August 10, 2005**

The United States supports the rule of law and the conduct of free and fair elections in Azerbaijan.

In accord with the rule of law, we expect that the government of Azerbaijan will conduct a fair and impartial investigation into the recent allegations raised by the General Prosecutor against the head of the Yeni Fikir organization. Serious allegations should be addressed in the courts, and not in the media.

We also expect that the government of Azerbaijan will pursue fair, transparent elections in November, according to the principles laid out in the Azerbaijani election laws and in the Presidential Decree of May 11 -- this includes condemning unwarranted attacks on individual parties or political figures and allowing all political parties to pursue their election campaigns without harassment or unsubstantiated allegations.