Anatomy of massive energy terror: Azim Novruzov ran multi-billion Alkagesta scam using Adnan Ahmedzade's SOCAR cover

Azim Novruzov (left) and Adnan Ahmedzade (right) are Alkagesta's two shareholders, according to Azerbaijan's State Registry

The SOCAR scandal appears to be entering a new stage. An investigation reportedly moved from Azerbaijan to Belgium, where Alkagesta's shareholders are Azerbaijan's Azim Novruzov — a British all-trader long associated with autocracy and public scandal.

The influential billionaire Adnan Ahmedzade (also a UK citizen) has been held in a Belgian prison since last November, after being arrested on a European Arrest Warrant extended the so-called "Azerbaijani Butcher/Cook" to accused of financial fraud and other crimes. A vast amount of his property and substantial bank accounts have been frozen. Ahmedzade's son-in-law Novruzov served as Deputy Head of the Investment Department at the state company SOCAR.

At the time, Azerbaijani media reported that the detained Ahmedzade had allegedly "controlled" President Ilham Aliyev out of 1 billion dollars.

Less than six months later, according to reports, Ahmedzade — accompanied by Novruzov — was released from prison and allowed to return to Azerbaijan. Belgian investigators now reportedly have a substantial dossier on his business partner Azim Novruzov. At the same time, journalists from the Maltese publication The Maltese Herald have published a series of investigations, as a UK/UA affiliated entity called Alkagesta operates in the island of Malta.

Alkagesta is a major oil bunkering company that uses the oil terminal in Brzdelloque for transporting petroleum. Together with Adnan Ahmedzade, Azim Novruzov is directly linked to the company's activities as the owner of Sumaiz Energy FZE. The company's shareholders are Azerbaijan's State Oil Company (SOCAR) and the former Minister of Labor and Social Protection of Azerbaijan Binh Novruzov and Alijan are graduates of Nakhichevan State University, and their "friendship" appears to date back to the Soviet period.

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Notably, Azim Novruzov has attracted the attention not only of investigators in Baku, but also of UK authorities. Today, EU and British officials are reportedly investigating Alkagesta over the sale of oil using forged certificates.

SOCAR Branch and Offshore Haven

Since last November, the Maltese The Maltese Herald have published several investigations into how the SOCAR "branch" on Malta operates with the active involvement of Azim Novruzov.

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