

# Azerbaijan Police Arrest Businessman Linked To Tony Blair

By [Global Research News](#)

Region: [Europe](#)

Global Research, May 17, 2015

[Eurasia Review](#)

*Police in Baku arrested Nizami Piriyeu, a high-profile Azerbaijani businessman closely associated with President Ilham Aliyev.*

Mr Piriyeu, media reported, was charged with various financial crimes. He is in prison ahead of a trial in what appears to be a spectacular public fall.

One of Azerbaijan's richest men, Mr Piriyeu was the official owner of the Azerbaijan Methanol Company, a large and high-profile operation on the outskirts of Baku.

He paid for former British PM Tony Blair to fly to Baku in 2009 to open the plant. Mr Blair, criticised for taking cash from governments with dubious human rights records since he left office in 2007, was photographed at a press conference in Baku sitting between Mr Piriyeu and his son, Nasib.

Mr Piriyeu's holding company PNN Group also owned franchise rights to a number of Western brands in Azerbaijan and across the former Soviet Union. Its website said that this included the British high street news agent WHSmith and US fast food chain KFC. A spokesman for WHSmith, though, said that Mr Piriyeu did not hold its franchise in Azerbaijan.

Mr Piriyeu used to work in Russia for Gazprom and had businesses stretching across Central Asia.

It's unclear what triggered his arrest and whether he has been associated with Azerbaijan's increasingly marginalised opposition or if he had fallen out with President Aliyev. The United States and Europe have been increasingly critical of Mr Aliyev for cracking down on opposition.

*This story was first published in issue 231 of the weekly newspaper The Conway Bulletin on May 13, 2015.*

Copyright the Conway Bulletin, 2015

The original source of this article is [Eurasia Review](#)

Copyright © [Global Research News](#), [Eurasia Review](#), 2015

---

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

## **Become a Member of Global Research**

Articles by: **Global Research**  
**News**

**Disclaimer:** The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)

[www.globalresearch.ca](http://www.globalresearch.ca) contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: [publications@globalresearch.ca](mailto:publications@globalresearch.ca)