

# ATHENA

## FOREIGN POLICY SPEECH

**MSc Course**

**"The EU and the Post-Soviet Space"**

Andrea

**LARA RUDILLA**

**AS**

**RAKHAT ALIYEV**

Ambassador of Kazakhstan  
to Austria, Croatia,  
Macedonia, Serbia, and  
Slovinia, 2002–2005



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- Jean Monnet Chair -



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## Context

Rakhat Aliyev was a government official of Kazakhstan. He married Dariga Nazarbayeva, President Nazarbayev's daughter. In 2007, he criticized Nazarbayev's presidency and planned to run for president. That year, he was charged with several crimes and he left for Austria. In 2014, he allegedly turned himself into the authorities, and, a year later, was found dead in his prison cell. They ruled the death a suicide, but there was speculation against that.

He resurrected after Kazakhstan's 2022 elections and recorded this impromptu, motivational speech for his people.

## Speech

Hello, my dear people of Kazakhstan. I am Rakhat Aliyev. I know you all believe I died in 2015, that I committed suicide in prison... But now that I am back, I am here to tell you: it was not. I came back to life yesterday, back in Austria where I passed. Well, where I was murdered...

Because let me make it clear, it *was* murder. Someone sent for it to happen. There were drugs in my system! Where could I have accessed drugs, locked in a cell, in Europe? The autopsy report shows that much. *Did nobody care to check the report?*

The first thing I did when I woke up, of course, was check on my dear homeland. After seeing what I saw, I asked for this message to be sent to you. My people.

I saw that, after my passing, Nazarbayev gave way for a new president in 2020. Tokayev. This was... interesting, because back when I mentioned I would run for president, Nazarbayev had it out for me!

Many years ago, he liked me – I even married his daughter! In 2001, I became second in command for the KGB- I mean, KNB. I was investing in all the industries. Banking, news media, telecommunications. Oil.

*Does anyone know what happened to my stocks?*

Anyway, I was basically ready for presidency!

In 2007, when they approved a “president -for-life” constitutional amendment, I had to respond against that! So... I announced my intentions to run for president for the next term.

Did Nazarbayev treat me like he has treated Tokayev? No. They prosecuted me for money laundering, for treason, for kidnapping...

*[Counting on fingers]*

For torture, for murder...

Of course, I still deny those charges. The prosecutions were politically motivated. My *murder* was politically motivated. I said it before, and I'll say it again: anyone that was after me, anyone who didn't believe me, is *in bed with Kazakhstan's corrupt government*. Even though my country did not treat me well, I am still loyal to it. That is why I am back to warn you. This government corruption cannot go on. They set me up, like they set up anybody that will not follow them blindly!

*[Stands up, angry]*

Oh, I'm out of frame? Okay. Okay.

*[Sits back down]*

They did this to my friend Ablyazov for running a political party against him! He's now a political refugee in France... I'm asking you, my people of Kazakhstan, to stand against this senseless government! In last month's elections, you couldn't vote them out. The system is rigged. Well, I urge you to rise. To stand with me, with Ablyazov, and his Democratic Choice party.

We deserve better, as the humble people of Kazakhstan. It is now, when you must stand with us, or, more importantly, against them!