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**KAZAKHSTAN: ABLYAZOV ASSOCIATE GETS RAP ON KNUCKLES AFTER TURNING WITNESS**

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Eurasia Net (9 July 2020)

Almaz Kumenov

A one-time associate of a Europe-based *bête noire* of Kazakhstans government was this week given a six-year suspended prison sentence on corruption charges, a moderate punishment apparently earned by his decision to hand himself in to the authorities.

The court in the business capital, Almaty, found Marat Aueskanov guilty of illegally obtaining a \$160 million loan from BTA Bank, a lender formerly run by France-based opposition figure Mukhtar Ablyazov.

Aueskanov returned to Kazakhstan in 2017, following eight years on the run, and agreed to provide assistance to law enforcement bodies.

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