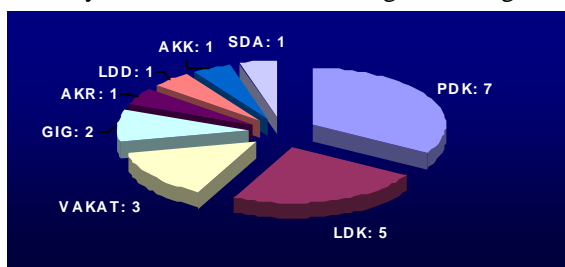# Dragash/Dragaš
April 2008

1.   Area and population

• Dragash/Dragaš Municipality is located in the southernmost part of Kosovo, approximately 22km southwest of Prizren at an altitude of 1050 meters. The municipality includes 35 villages and spreads throughout the regions of Gora and Opoja.

• The estimated population is 41,000. About two-thirds of the inhabitants are Kosovo Albanian and one third is Kosovo Gorani/Bosniak. Dragash/Dragaš Municipality is probably unique within Kosovo for its tolerant environment between its two communities. Incidents of ethnic violence occurred just after the 1999 conflict but the situation has been relatively calm since mid-2001.

• The Kosovo Gorani/Bosniak community resides in the Gora region. A widely held view is that the Gorani descend from Orthodox Christian Slavic peoples who arrived from Bulgaria in the 13th century, and passed through the present territory of Dragash/Dragaš in their migration north to what is now Bosnia and Herzegovina. In general, the Gorani community defines its spoken dialect as 'Nasinski' ('Our Language'). It is a mixture of Macedonian, Turkish, Bosnian, and Serbian.

2.   Governing structures

● **Legislative**

The Municipal Assembly has 21 elected members, seven from the Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK), five from the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK), three from the former VAKAT coalition, two from the Gora Citizens' Initiative (GIG), one from Alliance for Future of Kosovo (AAK), one from Alliance New Kosovo (AKR), one from Democratic League of Dardania (LDD), and one from Democratic Action Party (SDA). Both, the Kosovo Albanian and Gorani communities are represented.

The Mayor is Mr. Salim Jenuzi, engineer of agriculture by profession and a member of the PDK.

PDK - Democratic Party of Kosovo
LDK – Democratic League of Kosovo
VAKAT - Coalition
GIG – Gora Citizens Initiative
AAK - Alliance for the Future of Kosovo
AKR - People's Movement of Kosovo
LDD – Democratic League of Dardania
SDA – Democratic Action Party

● **Executive**

The Board of Directors is composed of the Mayor, 6 Directors, a Head of the Municipal Community Office and the Chief of Administration and Personnel. Two of the Directors are Gorani. There is an operational Municipal Community Office, headed by a Gorani representative. 110 civil servants work in the municipality out of which 31.5% belong to the minority community. [Source Municipal Community Office]

● **Judiciary**

Dragash/Dragaš has a Municipal Court and a Minor Offences Court which is staffed with 9 judges and 20 support staff at the courts. Two of the judges and five support staff are Gorani. Four females work in the Judiciary in Dragash/Dragaš. No prosecutor has been based in the municipality since the 1999 conflict.

● **Security presence**

The Dragash/Dragaš Police Station was handed over to the local Kosovo Police Service in November 2004 and is currently headed by a Kosovo Albanian Commander and a Gorani deputy. Dragash/Dragaš Police Station has 76 police officers, 47 Kosovo Albanian and 33 Kosovo Gorani (includes 2 police officers in Krushevë/Kruševo police substation). UNMIK Police assist the Kosovo Police Service with five international officers, as monitors and advisers. A Turkish battalion is based in Dragash/Dragaš as a part of the German Multi-national KFOR Brigade (south). Generally, KFOR provides good social and infrastructural assistance to the municipality.

3. Political overview

A multiparty local political system is showing signs of development in Dragash/Dragaš marking a distinct change from the political culture that emerged after the 1999 conflict under which each party firmly stack to policies based on ethnic lines. During the first local elections, only one Kosovo Albanian political entity (i.e. Democratic Party of Kosovo – PDK) had its sub branch in the area inhabited with minority Gorani/Bosniak community members, and that was the only case where a ethnic-majority (Kosovo Albanians) political entity conducted pre election campaign in a minority village. Currently, PDK, and the New Kosovo Alliance have party members from the minority community. Additionally, these parties had candidates from minority community for the Municipal Assembly 2007 elections, even though none of them were elected. No minority political entities have branches in the areas inhabited by the Kosovo Albanian community.

4. Economy

Due to poor agricultural resources and geographical isolation Dragash/Dragaš is among the most underdeveloped regions in Kosovo. The economic situation is dominated by a high rate of unemployment. The main employers in the area are the municipality, UNMIK police, private companies such as "KUK Commerc" -a medium size enterprise producing electric heaters and processing iron, "Meka"- a small size meat factory, and some of the previously socially owned. All major local companies previously state-run and, as elsewhere in Kosovo, are currently under the responsibility of Kosovo Trust Agency.

5. Public Services
● Health
There is one Health House in Dragash/Dragaš town. 13 other health centres are in Gora and Opoja: 3 health centres and 5 health points in Gora, and 3 health centres and 2 health points in Opoja. The Centre of Family Medicine clinic in Dragash/Dragaš is the main municipal health centre. Overall, 15 doctors and 5 dentists work in the health sector.
● Education
Dragash/Dragaš municipality has 35 primary schools, out which 23 are satellite schools in remote villages for educational grades 1-4, and the remaining 12 are for all primary education grades. Six are in Opoja region (Albanian), five are in Gora region (Gorani) and one is in Dragash/Dragaš town. This school has both Albanian and Gorani pupils. The only secondary school in the area is in Dragash/Dragaš town with a satellite school in Bresane/Bresana village and is also multi-ethnic. During the 2007-2008 school year 6113 children were registered as attending the schools, out of which 4751 (77,71%) were Kosovo Albanian, and 1362 (22,29%) Gorani. Some Kosovo Gorani teachers receive salaries from Belgrade in addition to their UNMIK salaries.

6. Map of the Region