

Rahovec/Orahovac

April 2008

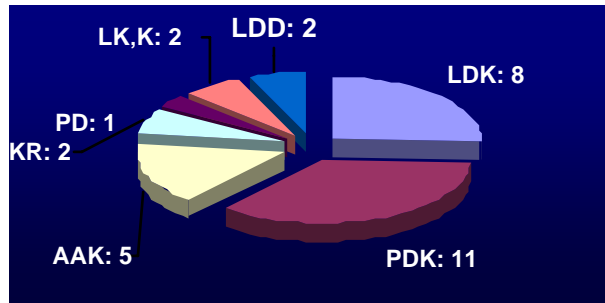
1. Area and Population

- The Municipality of Rahovec/Orahovac is located in the south-western part of Kosovo and consists of the town of Rahovec/Orahovac and 35 villages. It covers an area of approximately 276 km². The estimated population is 73,700 people with the majority living in rural areas and approx. 23,200 in the town.
- A Kosovo Serb community consisting of roughly 1,300 people is located at the *Upper part of town* (approx. 550-600) and in the village of Velika Hoca/Hoçë e Madhe (around. 700). 500-550 members of the Roma, Egyptian and Ashkali communities reside in the upper part of Rahovec/Orahovac. Until 1999 conflict there had been 9 settlements in the Rahovec/Orahovac Municipality with mixed Kosovo Serb and Kosovo Albanian population.

2. Governing Structures

• Legislative

The Municipal Assembly comprises 31 members elected in the Municipal Elections on 17 November 2007. The Mayor of Rahovec/Orahovac is Mr. Qazim Qeska of the Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK). The breakdown of party affiliation and seats is as follows:



PDK - Democratic Party of Kosovo
LDK - Democratic League of Kosovo
AAK - Alliance for the Future of Kosovo
AKR - New Alliance for Kosovo
LKÇK - Peoples Movement for the Liberation of Kosovo
PD - Justice Party
LDD – Democratic League of Dardania

• Executive

The Board of Directors is composed of 12 Directorates with 12 respective Directors including the Head of Municipal Community Office. The composition of the Board closely reflects the distribution of seats in the Assembly. There are 1,138 civil servants in municipality including education (841) and health staff (130). Municipal administration is composed of 164 civil servants out of which 152 are Kosovo Albanians (16 females), 11 Kosovo Serbs (six females), and only one Roma. In percentages there are 12.5% females and 7.31% minorities employed in the municipal administration.

• Judiciary

On 29 December 1999, the judges for the Municipal Court and the Minor Offences Court were sworn in. There are a total of 10 judges in Rahovec/Orahovac, all of which are Kosovo Albanians, assisted by two lay judges. In late 2004, the Court Liaison Office in the Serb enclave of Velika Hoça/Hoçë e Madhe has been established and it is still functional. The public prosecutors covering the municipality are located in the Prizren Municipal Public Prosecutor's Office from where they run their activities.

• Security Presence

Control of the local police station has been transferred from the UNMIK Police to the Kosovo Police Service in 2004 and the international presence has been drastically reduced subsequently. The Kosovo Police Service forces in the area consist of 82 officers: 80 Kosovo Albanians and two Kosovo Serbs from uptown Rahovec/Orahovac. In addition to the Kosovo Police Service station in downtown Rahovec/Orahovac, there is a Kosovo Police Service sub-office in Velika Hoca/Hoçë e Madhe operating in two shifts consisting of one Kosovo Albanian and one Kosovo Serb per each shift. Generally speaking, the Kosovo Police Service and the multinational police forces operating in the area are well accepted by all communities.

3. Political overview

The Municipal Elections on 17 November 2007 altered the distribution of power within the Municipal Assembly. Previously run by the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK) the Municipal Assembly is now dominated by the Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK). Although three Kosovo Serb parties: the Serbian People's Party (SNS), the New Democracy (ND), and the Force of Serbia Movement (PSS), and two Roma parties: the Roma Democratic Initiative of Kosovo (IRDK) and the United Roma Party of Kosovo (PREBK), participated in the elections, none of them won enough vote to gain a seat in the Municipal Assembly.

4. Economy

The economy rests largely on agriculture; in particular on grape cultivation. There is low production of wheat and corn and limited cattle breeding. The sand and gravel business in the area is probably the second most important economic activity in the Municipality. There are a total of eight major private companies dealing with agricultural production, production of plastics, heaters, freezers, and recycling.

5. Public Services

• Health

One health house in Rahovec/Orahovac town, two clinics, and seven health centres, also known as *ambulanta*, provide basic medical treatment. The nearest well-equipped hospitals are located in Gjakovë/Đakovica and Prizren. There are two *ambulantas* providing basic medical services to the minority population in the Kosovo Serb inhabited part of the municipality. Both *ambulantas* are being financed by the Kosovo and Serbian authorities at the same time. In addition, the Kosovo Serb community is increasingly using the available health facilities in the town.

• Education

The education sector reflects the ethnic divisions in the area as almost all schools are ethnically segregated. Kosovo Albanian children are served by 19 primary schools and one secondary school with two branches in two villages, where five of the primary schools are in Rahovec/Orahovac town. Kosovo Serbs have access to two primary schools and one gymnasium, located in the Kosovo Serb inhabited areas. The Serb community refuses to send their children to the multi-ethnic school as there were fears from the community, that the acceptance of the Kosovo authority over education of Kosovo Serb pupils would exempt them from further education in Serbia proper. Issues related to curricula and use of language still pertain. As a result, only Kosovo Albanian, Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian children attend the school with education being carried out in the Albanian language.

6. Map of the Region

