



MUNICIPAL PROFILE

Dragash/Dragaš

June 2006

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1. Introduction: Area, Population and Historical Background

Dragash/Dragaš municipality is located in the southernmost part of Kosovo, approximately 22-km southwest of Prizren. It borders the municipality of Prizren to the north as well as Albania in the west and the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). Dragash/Dragaš town is situated at an altitude of 1050 meters. From the municipal capital there is a main road north to Prizren (36 km) and two main roads to the towns of Restelica/Restelicë (24 km) and Brod (12 km). In winter times, some of the villages mostly located in Gora area are very difficult to reach or even not accessible.

Dragash/Dragaš municipality includes 35 villages in an area of 434 km². Its population is estimated to 41,000, but many families are working abroad and visit their home only in summer. About two-thirds¹ of the inhabitants are Kosovo Albanian and one third is Kosovo Gorani/Bosniak². The municipality consists of two regions, Gora and Opoja, which are both almost entirely 'ethnically pure'. Gora covers the majority of the territory of the municipality and is inhabited mainly by Kosovo Gorani/Bosniaks, Slav Muslim people. There are only few Albanian families living in Gora. Opoja is in the northeast of the municipality and is inhabited mainly by Kosovo Albanians. Dragash/Dragaš town itself is ethnically mixed, has a population of approx. 4,000 and serves as the cultural and administrative centre for both Gora and Opoja. Dragash/Dragaš municipality is probably unique within Kosovo for its tolerant environment between its two communities. Incidents of ethnic violence occurred just after the conflict but the situation has been relatively calm since mid-2001.

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-Herzegovina. From 1445-1912, their territory was part of the Ottoman Empire and they converted to Islam. They therefore share the same faith with the majority of Kosovo Albanians, a factor that has long been a cause for strong inter-community integration. Indeed, they have lived as relatively good neighbours for centuries and most Dragash/Dragaš citizens are justifiably proud of their historical good relations. Nevertheless, there are deep ethnic and linguistic differences between them, and they have always kept, and still do keep, some distance from each other. In addition, the fear of abuse through not speaking Albanian is prevalent and yet attempts to learn Albanian language are rare. In general the Gorani community defines its spoken dialect as 'Našinski' ('Our Language'). It is a mixture of Macedonian, Turkish, Bosnian, and Serbian.

If previously the Gorani felt ignored and little known or understood outside Dragash/Dragaš, nowadays they are a recognized minority, represented in Kosovo institutions.

Dragash/Dragaš has always been economically backward meaning that the population is in constant flux: the men leave to find work elsewhere while their families stay behind.

Table 1.1: Ethnic Composition

Date	Kosovo Albanians		Gorani		TOTAL	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
1991 (Census)	22,802	59%	16,112	41%	38,914	100%
January 1999	27,633	61%	17,470	39%	45,103	100%
March 2000 (Estimate)	24,856	72%	9,706	28%	34,562	100%
Jan. 2006 (Estimate)- OSCE village profiles	22,800	57,22	17,975	43,30	40,775	100%

Source: For 1991: Federal Office of Statistics in Serbia; For 1999: UNHCR Kosovo Village List; For March 2000: OSCE Field Office Dragash/Dragaš, for Gora; CRS statistics for Opoja. It is noted that the 1991 census was highly politicized and is thus unreliable.

The table shows a huge outflow of Gorani from the area, especially since the end of the war. This was mainly because of security concerns. Gorani were accused by Kosovo Albanians of siding with the Serbs that in turn lead to a lack of freedom of movement and only served to exacerbate the already serious economic situation for many. The economy today remains almost stagnant, despite a much improved security environment.

¹ According to the UN official statistics, based on the pre-war civil registration, the population structure is 58.7% Kosovo Albanian and 41.3% Kosovo Bosniak/Gorani

² Dragash/Dragaš Muslim Slav inhabitants are identified as Gorani due to their settlement in Gora area, whilst some prefer Bosniak/Gorani due to recent political developments and for keeping close ties with BiH political entities

2. Civil Administration

The first Municipal Assembly (MA) of Dragash/Dragaš was established on 21 November 2000. The MA replaced the PDK self-appointed structure that had been set up immediately after the conflict. Today's Assembly (established 2002) has 21 elected members, 8 from the Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK), 6 from the Democratic Party of Kosovo (PDK), 5 from the former VATAN coalition³ (2 from the Gora Citizens' Initiative (GIG), and 3 from the new Democratic Party VATAN (DSV)), 1 from Alliance for Future of Kosovo (AAK) and 1 from Peoples Movement of Kosovo (LPK). Both the Kosovo Albanian and Gorani communities are represented.

The Municipal Assembly President and the first Deputy President are LDK members while the additional Deputy President represents VATAN (DSV). A coalition between LDK and VATAN (DSV) has been agreed. The Municipal Assembly meets regularly (at least once a month) and the sessions are open to media and citizens.

When the Assembly was first formed, the two largest political parties in the municipality, LDK and PDK, frequently needed the support of the two other parties (GIG and SDA (current DSV)) in order to pass their proposals. In 2001, prior to the Kosovo Assembly elections, GIG and SDA joined the 'VATAN' coalition, alongside a Prizren-based party, the DRSM.

Table 2.1: Composition of the Municipal Assembly

Party	Position	Name	Employment Position
LDK	President	Mr. Halim SHEMSIDINI	Secondary School Teacher (Geography)
LDK	Deputy President	Mr. Asllan ZEJNULLAHU	Economist
DSV	Additional Deputy President	Mr. Sabidin CUFTA	Primary School Teacher (Restelica/Restelicë)
LDK	Assembly Member	Mr. Ymer ADEMI	Primary School Teacher (Brodosanë/Brodosavce)
LDK	Assembly Member	Mr. Salih SHALA	Director of Hydro-hygiene public enterprise
LDK	Assembly Member	Ms. Dashurije KOLLONI	Medical nurse – not employed
LDK	Assembly Member	Ms. Ardiana KRYEZIU	-
LDK	Assembly Member	Mr. Fadil BAHTIJARI	Primary School Director (Bellobrad/Belobrod)
LDK	Assembly Member	Mr. Kaplan FETAHU	Primary School Teacher
AAK	Assembly Member	Mr. Naser MELEQI	Secondary School Teacher
LPK	Assembly Member	Mr. Demir RESHITI	Journalist
PDK	Assembly Member	Ms. Indire GASHI	Civil servant (Vehicle registration Centre Prizren)
PDK	Assembly Member	Mr. Ibrahim GASHI	Lawyer/ Director of Centre for Social Welfare
PDK	Assembly Member	Mr. Mitat FEJZA	Secondary School Teacher (French)
PDK	Assembly Member	Mr. Rrahim YMERI	Surgeon
PDK	Assembly Member	Mr. Shaban SHABANI	Civil servant / Municipal Youth Officer
PDK	Assembly Member	Ms. Hasime BAHTJARI	-
GIG	Assembly Member	Mr. Haki CUCULJ	Primary School Teacher (Brod/Brod)
GIG	Assembly Member	Mr. Deir JELMAZI	Primary School Teacher (Radesa/Radeshë)
DSV	Assembly Member	Mr. Adem OSMANI	Municipality/Directorate of Health
DSV	Assembly Member	Ms. Bisera DEMIRI	Radio Sharri speaker

Source: Political Parties

The three compulsory committees (Policy & Finance, Mediation and Communities) were formed immediately after the constitution of the Municipal Assembly, with fair political party representation. The Municipal Assembly also appointed other non-mandatory committees as the Municipal Statute Committee, the Committee for Elementary Natural Adversities, the Gender Equality Committee. The Community Committee and the Mediation Committee passed the initial difficulties and reached a satisfactory performance, while the Gender Equality Committee made only slight progress. Besides, the MA set up various working Commissions upon necessity or new instructions, as for example the Municipal Commission for Standards' Implementation.

Since April 2003 Municipal Working Group on Returns and Reintegration has been set up. Led by the Municipal Assembly President and the Chief Executive Officer, with the advise of UN Municipal Representative, the group meets as often as necessary to tackle the problems related to returns. Return process faces primarily economical and employment obstacles as the whole municipality. At the end of 2004 a Municipal Office for Returns was created, currently staffed by two Municipal Returns Officers (one Kosovo Gorani and one Kosovo Albanian).

³ VATAN run in the 2002 local elections as a coalition between SDA (Stranka Demokratske Akcije) and DSB (Demokratska Stranka Bošnjaka), while GIG (Gradjanska Inicijativa Gore) run as political party. Nevertheless, in the Kosovo Assembly Elections 2001 the above-mentioned coalition VATAN consisted of the two political parties – SDA and DSB and the citizens' initiative GIG.

Table 2.2: Municipal Assembly Committees

Committee	Chairperson	Party	Vice Chairperson
Policy & Finance	Mr. Halim SHEMSIDINI	LDK	Adem OSMANI (LDK)
Mediation	Mr. Ibrahim Gashi	PDK	Nuhia TAJROVCI (VATAN)
Communities	Mr. Sabidin CUFTA	DSV	Kapllan FETAHU (LDK)
Municipal Statute	Mr. Hilmi DAUTI	LDK	No
Elementary Natural Adversities	Mr. Kamber KAMBERI	DSV	No

Source: OSCE Satellite Office Dragash/Dragaš

The Municipal Assembly follows UNMIK regulations and agreements are made to ensure municipal activities are divided fairly between both Gora and Opoja. The Municipal Assembly is largely effective with active contribution and participation from all (majority and minority) party members.

However, it is the Board of Directors that effectively constitutes the core of municipal life. There are ten members and a Chief Executive Officer. The Gorani are fairly represented, with four director posts. The Directors themselves carry out the day-to-day municipal administrative work with their departmental staff. Once again, municipality staffing fairly represents the minority community, with 38% Gorani employees. There is an operational Municipal Community Office, headed by a Gorani representative. The Board of Directors formed different sub-commission such as Board for Health, Board for Scholarships, Board for Personnel and Board for Language Policy Implementation.

In practice, all important decisions concerning the municipality are first discussed by the Board of Directors, and then forwarded to the Municipal Assembly, relevant committee, or directorate, as necessary.

Table 2.3: Chief Executive Officer, Board of Directors and Municipal Departments

Name	Municipal Department (incl. Community office, if any)	Professional Background	Affiliation, if any
Mr. Bexhet XHELADINI	Chief Executive Officer	Doctor	LDK
Mr. Hilmi DAUTI	General Administration	Jurist	LDK
Mr. Mehmet HAMZA	Community Office	Biology Teacher	DSV
Mr. Husmen BALDZI	Economy & Inspection	Economist	DSV
Mr. Mynafir BESHIRI	Health & Social Welfare	Doctor	LDK
Ms. Muharrem QAFLESHI	Science, Culture, Youth & Sport	History Teacher	LDK
Mr. Xhemajl ILJAZI	Education, Democratisation & Media	Sport Teacher	LDK
Mr. Zeni KRASNIQI	Civil Safety & Emergency Relief	Economist	LDK
Mr. Irfan IBRAHIMI	Agriculture & Rural Development	Teacher	DSV
Mr. Shefik FEJZA	Urbanism & Communal Operations	Lawyer	DSV
Mr. Islam SALLAHU	Budget & Finance	Economist	LDK
Mr. Meleq YMERI	Geodesy & Cadastre	Lawyer	LDK

Source: OSCE Regional Centre Prizren

3. Political Parties

A multiparty political system is developing well in Dragash/Dragaš as the post-conflict political culture, when each party would stick firmly to policies based on ethnical lines. This has been shown, for example, with the Municipal Assembly common declarations of February 2001 and April 2002. The first declaration was written in reaction to FYROM/Serbia Kosovo border change agreements, the latter in response to rumored offers of Macedonian citizenship in a few Gorani villages. Progress in an understanding that Municipal Assembly members represent the whole of Dragash/Dragaš, and not just their own individual villages, is still needed. Furthermore, as elsewhere in Kosovo, there is a certain level of power-play in Dragash/Dragaš, but this is very much inter-party.

The LDK has been present in Dragash/Dragaš since the 1990s as part of the national movement, and holds majority support from the Kosovo Albanian population. The party's roots are still strong in every Opoja village, as many members are actively involved in civil society. The party was well respected in Dragash/Dragaš, however a recent attack towards president's (also Municipal Assembly President.) house left behind a question mark on the situation at the edge of the upcoming municipal elections. The LDK get a seat in Kosovo Assembly for its local candidate.

The PDK established good support when it dominated the former KLA resistance and then later formed the self-appointed municipal government just after the conflict. It still holds much of this popularity. Their top candidate in the municipal elections was late in joining the party but holds a position within the PDK presidency in Prishtinë/Prishtina. Former teachers and many young people, often the unemployed are amongst their members. Activists can also be found

in many civil, socially engaged groups. PDK opened branches in some villages in Gora area, where they gained in the last election about 300 votes.

The Gorani are represented in the Municipal Assembly by two political entities, the ruling DSV (New Democratic Party VATAN) and the opposition GIG (Gradanska Iniciativa Gora).

The DSV has been registered in 2004 after a split within SDA, which was the first minority political party after the war. The SDA had good links with the Muslim community of BiH and the Bosnian political parties, thus largely focused on promoting the Bosnian language in the region. This is nowadays the position of DSV, whose President Sadik Idrizi has been elected as Kosovo Assembly member and afterwards appointed as Minister of Health in the current Government. The most of former SDA members from Dragash/ Dragaš declared themselves as supporters of DSV.

The GIG started as a 'Citizens' Initiative' and afterwards was registered as a political party. The GIG favour the Serbian language and is supported by Gora citizens who are largely seen to have, or to want to keep, old contacts with Belgrade. Nevertheless, they have always firmly supported the Municipal Assembly declarations to reject ties between Belgrade and Skopje that take no account of the Gorani view. Indeed by joining in the reaction against external interference in February 2001, GIG realised that unity with other political entities strengthened their position. GIG and SDA formed a temporary coalition, Vatan, ahead of the 17 November 2001 Kosovo Assembly elections to pool their support. In addition, there are still several Gorani who do not actively support any party but instead seems to be looking for another alternative.

The AAK has not been able to gain much ground here, probably due to the fact that the resistance against the Milosevic regime in Dragash/Dragaš was led either by LDK members or PDK members close to the KLA. However, they gained one seat in the Municipal Assembly in 2002 municipal elections. The decision of central AAK leader to join the ruling coalition after the October 2004 elections conducted to the emergence of 2 factions within AAK, one following him and the other arguing for staying in opposition. In the local AAK branch there were frequent changes in the Presidency.

PBK, the oldest Albanian party has now largely lost its popular support. The LKCK and ORA also have established local branches, without significant support. The local branch of LPK has also yet to find much popular support in the municipality. During last Municipal Elections they ensured one seat in Municipal Assembly. With the exception of the LDK, all municipal branches of these political parties, as throughout Kosovo, have serious financial problems.

Table 3.1: Political Parties

Party	Municipal branch leader	Kosovo-wide leader	Vote in Municipal Elections, 2002	Seats in MA	Seats in AoK
LDK (Lidhja Demokratike e Kosovës)	Halim SHEMSIDINI	vacant	36.59%, 4.884	8	47
PDK (Partia Demokratike e Kosovës)	Salim JONUZI	Hashim THAQI	28.96%, 3.866	6	30
GIG (Gradanska Iniciativa Gora)	Rustem IBIŠI	Rustem IBIŠI	9.55 %, 1.275	2	1
DSV- VATAN (Demokratska Stranka VATAN)	Sadik IDRIZI	Sadik IDRIZI	12.95%, 1.729	3	2
AAK (Aleance për Ardhmërinë Kosovës)	Mahmut MAHMUTI	Ramush HARADINAJ	2.53%, 338	1	9
PBK-D (Partia Balli Kombëtar-Demokratik i Kosovës)	Xhevshet TAHIRI	Kajtaz FAZLIA	1.18%, 157	0	0
LPK (Levizja Popullore e Kosovës)	Demir RESHITI	Emrush XHEMAJLI	2.88%, 384	1	1
PLK (Partia Liberale e Kosovës)	Mergim BAJRAMI	Xherxh DEDAJ	2.13%, 284	0	1
PD (Partia e Drejtësisë)	Nuridin AHMETI	Sulejman QUERKEZI	1.88%, 251	0	1
Independent Candidate Abduljhadi CUFTA	Abduljhadi CUFTA	-	1.35%, 180	0	0
ORA	Abas QENGAJ	Veton SURROI	-	0	7
LKCK	Gezim MUSTAFA	-	-	0	0

Source: Political Parties

A significant political actors in the municipality is the representative of CCK (Coordination Centre for Kosovo), who is responsible with ensuring the communication between the Gorani minority population and Belgrade. However, the relation between him and the other two minority political parties DSV and GIG is not easy.

4. Local and International NGOs

Between September 1999 and the first quarter of 2001 a number of local NGOs were established in Dragash/Dragaš. At first, NGOs focused on humanitarian aid and on women's issues, but latterly more diversity was seen, with NGOs being formed to focus on reconstruction, social and economic development issues. NGOs tended at first to concentrate their activities in their area only, but at the start of 2002, a need for more integration across Gora and Opoja was recognised and multiethnic projects have started to become more common.

When the international community first arrived in Kosovo there was a total lack of understanding of the role of NGOs, with many being formed simply as it seemed like a good idea. As a result, very little overall local NGO activity has been seen in Dragash/Dragaš, especially in the Gora area. NGOs still lack confidence in their own ability, and remain heavily dependent on donors to fund their activities. There is a low appreciation of the necessity to find own funds through sustainable project work.

Immediately after the 1999 conflict, several International NGOs arrived in the area to supply humanitarian aid. Later, they too focused on reconstruction and development programmes, establishing links with local NGOs to act as implementing partners in their programmes. In 2005 the Italian NGO ICS completed a return project in the municipality. Also international NGOs as ICMC, IOM, Swiss Caritas, GTZ and ARC have some programs in the area. OSCE opened a Community Centre (CC) in a Gora village (Globočicë/Globočiça) in 2001. It acted as an open space where the members of the community could meet and participate in different activities in an area with little civic organisation and poor interethnic relations due to the recent conflict.

In spring 2002, the Community Centre was moved to the cultural house in Dragash/Dragaš town where activates also a Youth Centre. Together they work to encourage confidence building and initiatives within the community. The cultural house provides resources and services to both communities, such as specialised training and counselling. In short, the cultural house aims to serve the collective and its needs. Currently the CC is managed by the local NGOs Centre for Civil Society.

Table 4.1: Local and International NGOs based in the Municipality

Name	Focus	Base	Contact Details (Tel/Fax/Email)	Date Founded
ATLANTIC CLUB	Supporting Gorani community	Vranište/Vranishtë	Ahmet JAMINI or Fejzo KAMBERI T: 81 312/313	Jan-02
BSPK	Worker representation	Dragash/Dragaš	Agim MISINI M: 044 203 206	1975
DORA E SHPRESA (Hand of Hope)	Women	Dragash/Dragaš	Sinavere SPAHIU / Merita SKENDERI / Siba BRENOLI T: 81 876	Apr-02
AVE SELO	Agriculture/ Economy	Globočiça/ Globoçicë	Vezaip Kajkus	2003
FLAKA	Gender Issues	Dragash/Dragaš	Sebahate KURTESHI T: 81 661/ M: 044 190 726	23.03.00
HANDIKOS	Integration of handicapped into society	Dragash/Dragaš	Ismail RAMADANI T: 81 349 / M: 044 349 589	1995
HUMANA EKOLOGIJA DRAGAS/H (HED)	Environmental Protection	Globočiça/ Globoçicë	Alija ABDI	07.11.01
KLA VETERANS ASSOCIATION	War Veteran Support	Dragash/Dragaš	Shpetim KAMBERI M: 044 201 093	
MERAK/ MEMLJECET	Cultural Activities	Dragash/Dragaš	Nuhija TAIROVCI	Sep-01
MESHTEKNA	Micro-Credit / Small Business	Bresanë/ Bresana	Islam SALLAHU M: 044 201 043 / 044 203 738 meshtekna@yahoo.it	12.06.00
MOTHER THERESA	Distribution of Humanitarian Aid	Dragash/Dragaš (with warehouse in Bresanë/Bresana)	Fadil RESHITI M: 044 203 709	Bresanë/Bresana 1992, moved to Dragash/ Dragaš in July 1999
RED CROSS (Municipal Arm Branch)	Humanitarian Aid	Dragash/Dragaš	Jeton RAMADANI T: 81 425 / M: 044 200 920	Mar-00
SKORDOS MONS (multi- colored mountain top)	Humanitarian Aid / Economic Reconstruction	Brod/Brod	Djunajder BOJDA T: 81 824	2002
SARA	Gender Issues	Bresane/Bresana	Dashurije SAHITI dashurijesahiti@hotmail.com (infrequently)	22.05.00
VATAN	Humanitarian Aid	Krusevo/Krushevë	Arif KUSI	Aug-01

Shara	Agriculture	Brod/Brod	Abdula BACKA	2003
Ambienti	Ecology	Dragash/Dragaš	Shaban SHABANI M: 044 349528	2003
Centre of Civil Society	Civil Society Development	Dragash/Dragaš	Elvir ILIJAZI M: 044 203296	2003
FINCA (Intl)	Micro-Credit	Prizren	Hezer SHATRI T/F: 029 25 062 or M: 044 218 626	Jan-00
Youth Centre	Youth activities	Dragash/Dragaš	Driton QENGAJ	2000
Teachers and Parents Association	Education	Dragash/Dragaš	Masar SHABANI	2004

Source: Individual NGOs

5. Other Civilian International Presence

The UN Civil Administration (UNMIK) arrived in Dragash/Dragaš in August 1999. Currently two international and four local staff members support the work of the Municipal Administration. The OSCE Field Office Dragash/ Dragaš became operational in October 1999 and was transformed into a Satellite Office covered from OSCE Regional Centre. UNHCR opened a temporary office here in April 2001 in response to the influx of refugees from FYROM at the time. They are now also based in Prizren.

Other agencies and organizations do visit, often funding projects in conjunction with the municipality, principally focused on infrastructural reconstruction, economic development and returns.

Table 5.1: International Presence in the Municipality

Name	Number of Staff	Contact Person	Title	Phone / Fax / Email
UNMIK	2 International; 4 National	Massamba Seck Ahmed Taylor-Kamara	Municipal Representative	(029) 81 060
OSCE Regional Centre Prizren Municipal Team Dragash/Dragaš	1 International 3 Nationals	Loreta Obreja Zilha Nurkollari Gazmend Elshani Bilal Sejrani	DD assistants	(029) 81 409 / (029) 81 351

6. Religion, Places of Worship, and Cultural Institutions

Both the Kosovo Gorani and the Kosovo Albanians in the municipality are of the Islamic faith. In Dragash/Dragaš town the attendance at the mosque includes both ethnicities. Currently the Islamic Community finance the construction of a new mosque in the town. It seems that the Islamic Community has managed to keep the two ethnic groups together despite the division at the political level. The imams are generally not actively engaged in current political issues. There are no overt signs of political influence within the religious community. There are 39 mosques in Dragash/Dragaš municipality, none of which were destroyed during the war. The number of mosques is about equal in the Gora and Opoja areas respectively. Several of them date back many years (the mosque in Dragash/Dragaš was built in the 1880s) and are considered important pieces of local cultural heritage.

Table 6.1: Main Religious Leaders

Name	Title	Religious Organization
Vacant	Imam - President	Islamic Community of Dragash/Dragaš
Mr. Nail HALIMI	Imam	Islamic Community of Dragash/Dragaš
Mr. Xhafer FEJZIU	Imam	Islamic Community of Dragash/Dragaš

Source: Islamic Community of Dragash/Dragaš

Table 6.2: Major Mosques, Churches, etc.

Type of Building	Towns/Places
Mosques	Dragash/Dragaš centre, 20 mosques in Gora, 19 in Opoja

Source: Islamic Community of Dragash/Dragaš

The process of reviving pre-war cultural institutions is still ongoing in Dragash/Dragaš. Very few villages have been able to resume activities in their cultural houses as before, due to lack of funds. However, some cultural associations have continued with their activities, such as the resting association that has continued its music and dancing training. A literary club, 'Luigi Gurakuqi', is present in the Opoja area, but is not very active, again due to financial constraints. Since 2003 there is an annual Youth Festival initiated by Dragash/ Dragaš Youth Centre, OSCE, GTZ and municipality. Also the town Library has been recently renovated with OSCE support.

7. Media

There are no local daily newspapers, although the literary club 'Luigi Gurakuqi' used to produce a periodical Kosovo Albanian newspaper 'Sharri' that ceased due to the lack of financing. There were about six editions a year although the original intention was to produce it on a monthly basis. In addition, the local Youth Democratic Forum periodically produces an Albanian language paper, 'Youth Pulse' (Pulsi Rinor), edited by Mr. Mirsad Kuteli, but no edition has been produced in some time. Monthly newspaper 'Alem' produced in Prizren in the Bosnian language is read in the Gora area.

The local radio station, Radio Sharri, is the new face of the former state-owned radio, Radio Gora. They continued to broadcast due to international financial support. The German government, through German KFOR, has supplied it with equipment and funding. It broadcasts in majority and minority languages. Radio Sharri beside the editorial in Albanian language has established the editorial in Gorani/Bosnian language as well. The radio station has faced social opposition in becoming an independent media entity. It has been registered as a private business. There is another low-powered radio station in the Gorani village Restelicë/Restelica, Radio Bambus, which mainly broadcasts periodically only music.

There are several correspondents based in the municipality. They write for different newspapers and have established a Journalists' Association, headed by Mr. Muharrem Qafleqi. There is no local TV station.

Table 7.1: List of Radio Stations and Newspapers in the Municipality

Name of Media	Type of Media (newspaper; radio etc)	Editor/Correspondent	Language of Programme-News
Radio Sharri	Radio	Director, Qamil KOLLONI	Albanian and Gorani
Radio Bambus	Radio	Director, Nezim HODZA	Gorani
Bota Sot	Newspaper	Muharrem Qafleshi - correspondent	Albanian
Koha Ditore	Newspaper	Mehmet Spahiu - correspondent	Albanian
Zëri	Newspaper	Sadik Kryeziu - correspondent	Albanian
Lajm	Newspaper	Beqir Beqaj - correspondent	Albanian
Epoka e Re	Newspaper	Demir Reshiti - editor	Albanian

8. Judicial System

The Municipal Court and the Minor Offences Court were put in place by UNMIK on 01st January 2000. Since so much time had passed, all Minor Offence Court cases from before the war were dismissed due to lack of evidence. Today, cases are passed from the police and private individuals. When suspects are arrested, they are taken to the regional jail in Prizren. Also the municipality has put forwards requests for investigation. Cases typically constitute investigation into the illegal cutting of firewood, or theft. Illegal border crossings were handled here until June 2001 but are now passed to Prizren. No prosecutor has been based in the municipality since before the war. There are 8 judges and 30 support staff at the courts. Two judges and six support staff are Gorani

Table 8.1: Main Judges

Name	Title	Ethnicity
Sejfidin Bajraktari	President of Municipal Court	Kosovo Albanian
Naim Kurteshi	Municipal Court Judge	Kosovo Albanian
Fahri Tërshnjaku	Municipal Court Judge	Kosovo Albanian
Fazli Muska	Municipal Court Judge	Gorani / Bosniak
Sehadin Beciri	Municipal Court Judge	Gorani / Bosniak
Sebahte Kurteshi	President of Minor Offences Court	Kosovo Albanian
Samet Behluli	Minor Offence Court Judge	Kosovo Albanian
Bekri VEHAPI	Minor Offence Court Judge	Kosovo Albanian

Source: OSCE RC Prizren LSMS

9. Police, Civil Protection, and Military Presence

A Turkish battalion is based in Dragash/Dragaš as part of the German Multi-national KFOR Brigade (south). Their headquarters is based in Prizren. Random vehicle checks are made by KFOR/ KPS, and checkpoints are also from time to time set up at the junction on the way to Brezne/Brezna village. Generally, KFOR provides good social and infrastructural assistance to the municipality.

German KFOR does not have a large visible presence in the municipality. In April 2002, they opened a CIMIC office in Dragash/Dragaš town to provide emergency relief and assistance to citizens in obtaining travel documents.

Dragash/Dragaš Police Station has been handed over to the local KPS in November 2004 and currently is headed by a K/Albanian Commander and a Gorani deputy. Dragash/Dragaš Police Station has 76 KPS Officers - 43 K/Albanian and 33 K/Gorani (includes 2 KPS officers in Kruševo/Krushevë police substation). UNMIK Police assist the local KPS with five international officers, as monitors and advisers. A sub-station opened in Kruševo/Krushë in April 2002 .

Some of the major problems faced by KFOR and KPS/UNMIK Police are illegal woodcutting and illegal border crossings. Frequently, people come across the Albanian border, steal property, and return unpunished. Hereby, the close location to the border of an economically less developed area can be regarded as a motivation of the perpetrators. An alleged inter ethnic intent of the offenses that are repetitive throughout the centuries could not be substantiated as their type is economically motivated. Illegal border crossings, in particular, have become a cause for concern since the FYROM conflict in 2001.

The Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) is based in Opoja, in the village of Zym/Zjum.

Table 9.1: Police, Civil Protection, and Military Presence

Title	Name	Phone / Fax / Email	No. of Police Officers / Soldiers	Ethnic Composition
UNMIK CivPol Commander KPS Commander	TBA Lulzim SHALA	(029) 81 017 (029) 81 017	5 internationals 76 locals in Dragash/Dragaš and in Krushë/Krusevo	40 Kosovo Albanian; 34 Kosovo Gorani
KPC Commander	Agim LEKAJ		19	Kosovo Albanian
KFOR Commander		(029) 81 757	327	Turkish

10. Economics

Its poor agricultural resources and relative geographical isolation have meant that Dragash/Dragaš is one of the most underdeveloped regions of Kosovo. The economic situation in Dragash/Dragaš is very poor and is dominated by a high rate of unemployment. The main employers in the area are the Municipality, UNMIK police, and private companies as "KUK Commerc", "Meka" and former socially owned enterprises.

All major local companies were formerly state-run and, as elsewhere in Kosovo, are currently under the responsibility of KTA. The original UNMIK strategy towards these public enterprises consisted of carrying out a process of 'commercialisation'. This process was believed to be the best way to revive the enterprises, although no foreign investors decided to invest.

Nevertheless, in spring 2002, the European Agency for Reconstruction finally gave funding for investment in "Drateks", a large textile factory here, and previously the biggest employer in the area, with over 600 staff in the early 1990s. The factory has been privatized in early 2005 and bought by a local company- KUK Commerc investor. However it is closed since then. No other company is operating at full capacity either. "Sharr Prodhimi", a grocer's chain and sheep breeding company used to employ 230 people, but now only few of them are still employed. It did work as an implementing partner in an agriculture program run by World Food Program, but this has since ended and activity has been reduced almost to a standstill.

The economic situation plays a key role in stability in the area, with most people, regardless of ethnicity, agreeing that would be little antagonism between the two communities in a better economic situation. Income generation projects are strongly needed in Dragash/Dragaš and would serve the community well. For example, micro-credit schemes have been successful here. Stimulation of small-scale business through these schemes has greatly improved opportunities for several families in the area.

At the start of 2001, a 'Businessman's Association of Sharri' was constituted in Dragash/Dragaš, with several entrepreneurs and businessmen, of both ethnicities, as members.

Table 10.1 Major Commercial Employers

Employer	Service/Products	Production ongoing?	Size of workforce
Drateks	Wool processing	No	-
Sharr Prodhimi	Grocer / Sheep breeding	Yes, limited	-
Koritnik	Restaurant	No	Turkish KFOR base
Hydro-Higjena	Public Utilities	Yes	30
Economia Pyjore	Forestry	Yes	29

Source: Director of Economy, Finance, Business and Commerce, Dragash/Dragaš Municipality

The municipal staff comprise 746 (82 municipal core budget) people, out of which 487 are K/Albanian (65,%) and 242 Gorani (43 core municipal staff- 35%). Percentage of employed women is very low.

11. Infrastructure

The municipality is mountainous and therefore has related infrastructural problems, e.g. problematic access to some villages during winter season. Whilst this part of Kosovo did not suffer much damage during the war, its infrastructure was in a state of serious disrepair beforehand, due to a combination of harsh winters and state neglect. Roads, in particular, (Zur/Zhur–Dragash/Dragaš; Dragash/Dragaš-Brod; Dragash/Dragaš- Restelica/Restelicë) require urgent improvement for the social-economic development of the area. Bus connections between Dragash/Dragaš town and the Opoja area continue to improve and the services to Gora are organized by the two OSCE-SIMF buses donated to the municipality. There is a free school bus service provided by the municipality along Gora routes. Taxi services do exist but are largely unaffordable for the population. OSCE through SIMF/ ECSF funds supported also the rehabilitation of the Health House.

Most Dragash/Dragaš villages have no phone connection, although the system in Dragash/Dragaš town has improved since 2001. Mobile coverage is also improving. Water supply is ensured in all villages.

12. Social Services, Health, and Education

UNMIK started an Emergency Assistance Financial Program in November 1999 to assist individuals in three categories: pensioners over 65, single parent households, and persons with disabilities. About 2,500 individuals receive basic social assistance. The municipal Social Welfare Centre handles all cases. No problems have been reported and the system seems to run smoothly.

Dragash/Dragaš municipality has 14 doctors (six K/Albanian and eight K/Gorani) and seven dentists (four K/Albanian and three K/Gorani). There is one Health House in Dragash/Dragaš itself with 13 other health centres: in Gora, there are 3 health centres and five health points whilst in Opoja there are three health centres and two health points. The Centre of Family Medicine clinic in Dragash/Dragaš is the main municipal health centre. It employs 98 people, 62 K/Albanians and 36 K/Gorani. This includes three of the K/Albanian and three of the K/Gorani doctors as well as two of the K/Albanian and two of the K/Gorani dentists.

Because of where the doctors live, six Gora villages have access to them (Brod, Restelica/Restelicë, Vranište/Vraniç, Rapça/Rapçë, Kruševo/Krushe and Globočica/Glloboçicë), whilst just one Opoja village does (Bresanë/Brodosavce). Principal problems include the lack of an efficient salary system, lack of medicine and lack of on-the-job training for its personnel. The lack of equipment has to some extent been helped by donations; the German organisation "Die Johanniter" refurbished the Bresanë/Brodosavce clinic completely and donated an ambulance. Assistance has also been received from German KFOR, UNHCR and "Medicins Sans Frontieres". An unsolved problem is the worrying lack of management skills and the lack of accountability for those in charge of public services. Improvement of municipal health facilities is a community priority and the municipal health department has been active in addressing this. Further construction requires external investment.

Dragash/Dragaš municipality has 33 primary schools, 22 being satellite schools in remote villages for educational grades 1-4 and the other 11 teaching all primary education grades (1-9). Of these 12, six are in Opoja (Albanian), five are in Gora (Gorani) and one is in Dragash/Dragaš town. This has both Albanian and Gorani pupils. The only secondary school is also multi-ethnic and based in Dragash/Dragaš town with a satellite in Bresane/Bresana village. In total there are 6,639 pupils, 4,995 Albanians, and 1,644 Gorani. Around 47% of school pupils are female. In the two multi-ethnic schools in Dragash/Dragaš, classes are segregated according to ethnicity/language, but there is ample opportunity for pupils to mix in sports lessons, English language lessons and free time.

There are four other principal problems facing the education system in Dragash/Dragaš. Firstly, the fact that the municipality is spread over a large area means that people have to travel long distances to get to school. Similarly, the altitude of the municipality means harsh winters, which makes travel additionally difficult for pupils and teachers. This is particularly acute at secondary school level, with security and transport worries meaning that girls in particular find it difficult to attend. Next, the basic school facilities (e.g. gym) and educational materials are worse than elsewhere in

Kosovo. And finally, teachers' salaries are so low (150 Euro/month) that many spend up to 35% of their income on transport. The cycle of unattractive pays packages and lack of qualified teachers is evident. Note that Kosovo Gorani teachers receive salaries from Belgrade in addition to their UNMIK salaries.

The total number of employees within the educational system of Dragash/Dragaš municipality is 412. Of these there are 269 Kosovo Albanian (65%) and 143 (35%) Gorani.

Table 12.1 Municipality Educational Staff

Position	Kosovo Albanian	Gorani
School Directors	8	5
Teachers	266	144
Support Staff	45	27
TOTAL (495)	319	176

Source: UNMIK Municipal Education Director and Senior Education Officer

13. Returns

Dragash/Dragaš and particularly the Gora area is peaceful since 2001. However, economical underdevelopment and lack of infrastructure should be named as the main hinder for a mass return of Gorani's from former Yugoslavia and West European countries. House reconstruction and assistance to return in the Gora area is going on, but on a rather low level. The Municipal Working Group on Returns and Reintegration approved in 2004 the project proposal of INGO "Consortium of Solidarity "(ICS) concerning the return of 20 families accommodated in Novi Pazar (Serbia proper). The project has been completed in October 2005. Interethnic dialogue activities have been also commenced before the return process started.

Moreover, OSCE supported in co-operation with municipality, IOM, ICMC, ICS and community's contribution, projects as reconstruction of the bridge in Radeshë/Radesa village, Dragash/ Dragaš Library and Dragash/ Dragaš Health Centre aiming to facilitate the sustainable return in the area.

The overall impact of mutual co-operation at Municipal level between Kosovo Albanians and Kosovo Gorani on return projects is leading to further integration between majority and minority and has positive outcomes in preventing further exodus.

The Municipal Working Group on Return and Reintegration is held on a monthly basis. UNMR and MA President are normally present together with LCO/MCO and community representatives. The meeting is attended by all agencies involved in the return process. Task Forces have been formed to deal with all the preparatory work prior to the MWG session. In December 2004 the MWG adopted the first Municipal Returns Strategy for 2005 and it has been revised for 2006. The Municipal Return Office is fully operational.