



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
MISSION IN KOSOVO  
Democratisation

Municipal Profile:

# Orahovac/Rahovec

*1 April 2000*



Map of Kosovo, produced by the HCIC GIS Unit March 2000.  
Boundaries or place names do not imply official recognition by UNMIK or the OSCE.

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### **Appendix: Map of the Municipality**

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but should not be quoted without stating the source.*

## 1. Introduction

The municipality of Orahovac/Rahovec is located in the south-western part of the province, covers an area of approximately 280 km<sup>2</sup> and includes 34 villages.<sup>1</sup> Some of them, such as Zociste, have been completely destroyed, while others sustained only minimum damage. On average, about 65% of the houses in the municipality have been more or less destroyed.

Orahovac/Rahovec municipality has an estimated population of 66,000, of which about 38,000 live in rural areas and about 27,000 live in urban areas. According to a UNHCR estimate from the end of 1999, Kosovo Albanians make up about 90% of the population, Kosovo Serbs 8%, while the rest are mainly Roma and Egyptians.

In Orahovac/Rahovec town there is still a large Kosovo Serb Community. Before the war, the population of Orahovac/Rahovec town was 84% Kosovo Albanian, 13% Serb and 3% from other ethnicities (Montenegrins, Turks, Gorani, Roma, and Egyptians),<sup>2</sup> and although many Kosovo Serbs have left, their presence is still substantial. They are mainly located in the so-called “Serb quarter” (upper part of town) and in the nearby village of Velika Hoca. The Romas are living in the same, segregated area. The presence of a large Kosovo Serb community in close proximity to the Kosovo Albanians has led to tensions among the two ethnic communities and turned Orahovac/Rahovec into a symbolic place in the Prizren region. For this reason, the local OSCE Field Office has aimed to implement a reconciliation policy in the area, in co-operation with the other UNMIK pillars and KFOR.

**Table 2.1: Ethnic Composition, Including IDPs**

Population	K-Albanians		K-Serbs		Other		Total	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
1991 census	55,119	92	3,938	7	885	1	59,942	100
January 1999	52,500	92	4,000	7	800	1	57,300	100
December 1999	58,772	89	5,008	8	2116	3	65,896	100

Source: 1991 census, OSCE/KVM Report (January 1999), UNHCR/HCIC Kosovo Database (December 1999). All population figures are subject to a wide margin of error.

## 2. Civil Administration

UN Civil Administration (UNCA) was upon its arrival in the municipality in August 1999 confronted with a blockade established by Kosovo Albanians on the road leading to the town of Malisevo. This action was taken in order to prevent the planned deployment of Russian KFOR troops in the area. Kosovo Albanians claimed that Russian paramilitary soldiers had taken an active part to the Serbian offensives and committed crimes against the Albanian population. UNCA has since actively taken part in ‘reconciliation round tables’ together with OSCE and the other UNMIK

<sup>1</sup> This report is based on the post-1991 boundaries of Orahovac. Currently, UNMIK is in the process of redrawing the boundaries to re-establish the municipality of Malisevo, which previously covered part of Orahovac municipality. However, the exact locations of the revised boundaries for Orahovac municipality have not yet been determined. Some figures taken from secondary sources may be somewhat inaccurate, since they may be based on the pre-1991 boundaries, which many Kosovo Albanians have regarded as the legitimate boundaries of Orahovac also after 1991.

<sup>2</sup> UNHCR Kosovo Village List of March 1999. The estimates may have a wide margin of error.

pillars. Due to the initial weak position of the UN Civil Administration the relationship with the self-appointed authorities was often problematic.

However, the signing of the 15 December Agreement on Kosovo-UNMIK Joint Interim Administrative Structure (JIAS) marked an increase in the effectiveness of UNCA activities and policies. The UNCA was since then deeply involved in consultations with political parties in order to form the new structures locally. The Municipal Council and part of the Administrative Board were simultaneously established on 25 February 2000. The two main political forces in town, Ibrahim Rugova's Democratic League of Kosovo (LDK) and Hashim Thaci's Party of Democratic Progress in Kosovo (PPDK), were together allocated half of the available seats. Despite some objections concerning the representation of the Kosovo Serb community (both from Orahovac town and from the village of Velika Hoca), an agreement was found on the number of administrative departments (10) and their directors.

Nevertheless, during the opening session of the Municipal Council on 2 March 2000, the UNCA and some political parties clashed on a very sensitive issue, namely how to select and recruit local civil servants. Some political parties claimed their right to nominate the candidates directly, whereas the UNCA supported a public announcement system. Finally, the UN option was accepted and applications forms submitted. After long-lasting consultations with UN authorities and the active support of the OSCE, the political parties reached an agreement on the expansion of the Administrative Board. In addition to the President and the 3 Vice-Presidents initially nominated, the Heads of Directorates were appointed on 23 March 2000.

**Table 3.1: UN-Appointed Municipal Council**

Name	Function
Mr. Kharras Kane (Mauritania)	UN Municipal Administrator
Bedredin Shehu	LDK
Xhemajli Zeqiri	LDK
Hysni Thaqi	LDK
Fehmi Cena	LDK
Qazim Qesku	PPDK
Xhemajli Haxhimustafa	PPDK
Gani Mullabazi	PPDK
Jusuf Gashi	PPDK
Smajl Latifi	LKCK
Ramadan Krasniqi	LKCK
Idriz Vuciterna	PNSH
Xhemajli Hajrullaga	PSDK
Jovan Đuricic	Serbian minority
Idriz Berisha	Roma minority
Agim Thaqi	Independent (close to LKCK)
Ismet Tara	Independent (Former UCK Commander)

**Table 3.2: UN-Appointed Municipal Administrative Board**

Name	Function	Party-affiliation
Mr. Kharras Kane (Mauritania)	UN Municipal Administrator	-
Agim Thaqi	President	Close to LKCK
Bedredin Shehu	Vice-president	LDK
Qazim Qesku	Vice-president	PPDK
Slaviša Kolašinac	Vice-president	Kosovo Serb
Ismet Kercagu	General Administration and Juridical Affairs	PNDSH/PSDK
Ibrahim Kryeziu	Finances	LDK
Shani Mullabazi	Economy	PPDK
Selim Metkamberi	Urbanism, Utilities, Housing and Mobility	PPDK
Bajram Popaj	Environment and Civil Protection	LKCK
Qefserë Haxhimustafa	Health Care and Social Policy	PPDK
Esad Jaha	Education, Culture and Sports	LDK
Salih Hoti	Agriculture and Forestry	LKCK
Qemajl Kadiri	Geodesy and Cadastre	LDK
Islam Gashi	Reconstruction, Planning and Development	LKCK

### 3. Political Parties

Like in most of the municipalities throughout Kosovo, the opposition between the two main Kosovo Albanian political parties, the LDK and the PPDK, has marked the local political arena. Shortly after the end of the war, all political parties in the municipality were involved in the ‘Blockade Council’, an institution that represented the protest of the Kosovo Albanians to the deployment of Russian troops in the area. Following the lifting of the blockade in November, which was achieved thanks to a joint initiative of the UNCA, the OSCE and KFOR, the local political parties focused their attention on the implementation of the JIAS agreement. Since December 1999 they actively took part in the consultations to form the new administrative structures. Despite different positions and often-diverging objectives, and in contrast to certain other municipalities in Kosovo, no acts of politically motivated intimidation have been registered among the political parties and their representatives.

As far as the Kosovo Serb entities are concerned, the local political arena is not structured and there is no political party activity, although Kosovo Serbs meet in a local council to discuss issues of concern to the Kosovo Serb community. The council is headed by Slavisa Kolasinac, who is also one of the vice-presidents of the Orahovac/Rahovec Administrative Board.

**Table 4.1: Political Parties**

Party	Local Party Leader	Kosovo-wide Leader
LDK (Democratic League of Kosovo)	Bedredin Shehu	Ibrahim Rugova
PPDK (Party of Democratic Progress in Kosovo)	Sebahajdin Cena	Hashim Thaqi
LKCK (Nat. Movement for the Liberation of K.)	Smajl Latifi	Sabit Gashi
PNDSH (Albanian National Democratic Party)	Idris Vuqiterna	Rexhep Abdullahu
PSDK (Social Democrat Party of Kosovo)	Xhemajl Hairullaga	Kaqusha Jashari
LPK (People’s Movement of Kosovo)	Durmish Gashi	Emrush Xhemajli

#### 4. Local and International NGOs

The local NGOs in the municipality are mainly focused on the distribution of food and non-food items. Their funds and resources are limited and this obstacle often reduces their effectiveness. For this reason, they rely upon financial and other support from international organisations and NGOs.

**Table 5.1: Local NGOs**

Name	Main focus	Local Leader	Kosovo-wide Leader
Mother Teresa	Distribution	Xheladin Rama	Don Lush Gjergji
HandiKos	Medical assistance to handicapped persons	Agim Metbala	Halit Ferizi

Until recently, the Orahovac/Rahovec area has been relatively neglected by international NGOs. Few of them are actually based in Orahovac town, since most of the NGOs working in town are based in Djakovica/Gjakova. The co-ordination between the different NGOs and other agencies, both local and international, is facilitated through a weekly meeting, usually chaired by UNHCR, in the municipality building. Most of the activities focus on the distribution of food and non-food items and on reconstruction. Most of the projects concern heavily damaged villages. The projects contribute to increasing the population's confidence in the work of the entire international community in the municipality.

**Table 5.2: International NGOs working in the municipality**

Name	Main focus	Kosovo-wide Leader/Contact
ADS (Acteurs de Solidarite)	Distribution	Bernard Pavon
Pueblos Fraternos	Distribution	Alejandro Perez
AMIKA	Distribution, women's support	Annett Gerber
ACT International	Reconstruction	Thorklind Hoyer
Malteser	Reconstruction	Conrad Graf von Hoyos
ICMC (International Catholic Migration Commission)	Shelter, reconstruction	Dale Buscher
Diakonie	Emergency aid	Manfred Kuhle
Tareas Solidarias	Children's support	N/A
CARITAS Belgium	Distribution, support to local economy	Jacques Dony

#### 5. Other Civilian International Presence

The international civilian presence in the town of Orahovac/Rahovec includes 10 international staff (five from the UN and 5 from the OSCE). The UN civil administration arrived in August 1999 whereas the local OSCE Field Office was fully operational from October 1999. As to the other UNMIK pillars, the UNHCR covers the area from its field office based in Gjakova/Djakovica. The EU pillar for Reconstruction and Development is not active in the municipality, although the European Community Monitoring Mission (ECMM) patrols travel to the location on an irregular basis from Prizren.

**Table 5.1: The Four Pillars**

Name	Number of staff	Contact Person	Title	Contact Number
UN Civil Adm.	5 int. staff	Kharras Kane	Municipal Administrator	---
OSCE	5 int. staff	Walter Fleischer	Head of Field Office	Sat. Tel.+871-762-138-664
UNHCR	Based in Gjakova/Djakovica	Paolo Foradori	Field-Protection Officer	Sat. Tel. +871-761-846-870
EU	Not present	---	---	---

**Table 5.2: Other International Organisations and Agencies**

Name	Main focus	Kosovo-wide Leader/Contact
THW (Technisches Hilfswerk – German Governmental Agency)	Reconstruction	Klaus Buschmuller

## 6. Religion and Places of Worship

The Islamic community, a highly respected institution, organises religious life in Orahovac/Rahovec town. As to the Kosovo Serb quarter and the Kosovo Serb enclave Velika Hoca, the Orthodox Priest represents a moral authority capable of partly filling the vacuum left by the previous political regime.

**Table 6.1: Main Religious Leaders**

Name and Place	Religious Organisation
Imam Shani Sylka (Sunnit)	Islamic Community
Sheh Baki Shehu (Shehit)	Islamic Community
Priest Stefan (Serb Quarter)	Orthodox Church of Serbia
Priest Milenko (Velika Hoca)	Orthodox Church of Serbia

Source: OSCE FO Orahovac/Rahovec

Most religious sites are in a rather good condition. Some of them are lightly damaged, but more by negligence of the past regime than by the recent war. The few Orthodox churches in Orahovac/Rahovec town and the neighbouring village of Velika Hoca are protected by KFOR troops. Religious symbols have not been targeted by bomb or grenade attacks so far.

**Table 6.2: Major Mosques, Churches, etc.**

Place/Name	Type of Building
Town Square	Mosque
Kadiri	Mosque
Sokoli	Mosque
Cmega	Mosque
Serbian Quarter	Orthodox Church
Brnjaja	Orthodox Church
Sheh Baki	Teke (Muslim 'monastery' of the Dervish order)
Sheh Medini	Teke

Source: OSCE FO Orahovac/Rahovec

## 7. Media

Unfortunately, there are no TV or radio stations in the municipality. Projects by a local group to create a radio station are being reviewed.

**Table 7.1: List of Major Newspaper, TV/Radio Stations, etc.**

Name of media	Type of Media	Editor/Correspondent	Ethnic Affiliation
Koha Ditore	Newspaper	Correspondent Bejtullah Sokoli	Albanian
Boom 2000	Student newspaper		Albanian

## 8. Judicial System

On 29 December 1999, the judges for both the Municipal Court and the Minor Offenses Court in Orahovac/Rahovec were sworn in. There are a total of nine judges in Orahovac, all of which are Kosovo Albanian. In addition, three Kosovo Serbs (Velimir Vitosevic, Cvetko Vucic, and Vladimir Grkovic) serve as lay judges (acting in a legal capacity but without having had legal training) together with a number of Kosovo Albanian lay judges.

**Table 8.1: Judges of the Municipal Court**

Name	Title	Ethnicity
Mr. Myhedin Bekeri	Judge (President)	Kosovo Albanian
Mr. Hysen Gashi	Judge	Kosovo Albanian
Mr. Rasim Zllonga	Judge	Kosovo Albanian
Mr. Agim Metbala	Judge	Kosovo Albanian
Mr. Jonuz Bugari	Judge	Kosovo Albanian

Source: OSCE FO Orahovac/Rahovec

**Table 8.2: Judges of the Minor Offences Court**

Name	Title	Ethnicity
Mr. Flamur Hasku	Judge (President)	Kosovo Albanian
Mr. Gani Kastrati	Judge	Kosovo Albanian
Mr. Mizahir Shabani	Judge	Kosovo Albanian
Mr. Muharrem Bytyqi	Judge	Kosovo Albanian

Source: OSCE FO Orahovac/Rahovec

## 9. Police, Civil Protection, and Military Presence

The work of the police in Orahovac/Rahovec seems to be effective and the co-operation with German and Dutch KFOR is well established. Although not all segments of the population are very co-operative with the police with regard to police investigations (including both Serbs and Albanians), generally speaking the multinational police force operating in the area is well accepted. Major concerns emanate from a number of recent bomb attacks and from a high level of crime in general.

The Kosovo Police Service (KPS) presence is limited to 2 officers who are included in the UN police force. The Kosovo Protection Corps (TMK) includes 52 officers. Its



former leader, Ismet Tara, was appointed member of the Municipal Council as an independent candidate in February 2000 and subsequently resigned from his post.

**Table 9.1: Police and Military Presence**

Name	Local Commander	Number of Police Officers, Soldiers, etc.	Ethnic Composition, Nationality
KPS	---	2	Kosovo Albanian
KPC/TMK	Skender Hasangjekaj	52	Kosovo Albanian
UN Civil Police	Albert League (US)	42	American, French, Italian, Egyptian, Ghanean, Canadian, German
KFOR	Lieutenant Colonel Manen (NL)	N/A	German and Dutch

Source: OSCE FO Orahovac/Rahovec

## 10. Economics

The economy rests largely on agriculture and in particular on vineyards and vegetables. There is some production of wheat, corn and some cattle breeding. There are a total of five enterprises dealing with agricultural production, while others deal with the production of plastics, heaters, and freezers and with recycling. These nominally state-owned companies have partly resumed their activities but are in need of financial assistance and infrastructure aid.

### 10.1 Major Employers in the Region

Employer	Service/Products	Production on going?	Number of Workforce
Tehnoremont Factory	Plastic recycling	No	
18 <sup>th</sup> November Factory	Plastic	Yes	Approx. 150
Termovent	Heaters and freezers	Yes	Approx. 100
Rahoveci (former Orvin)	Wine and spirits	Yes	Approx. 200
Korenica	Windows and Doors	Yes	Approx. 20
Silos	Flour	Yes	--

Source: OSCE FO Orahovac/Rahovec

## 11. Infrastructure

Until very recently the electricity and water situation in Orahovac/Rahovec town and in the neighbouring villages has been quite disastrous. Until March 2000 some villages were not connected at all. In comparison with the rest of the province, Orahovac/Rahovec has greatly suffered from the power shortages caused by the problems of Kosovo's power stations. As for the telephone system, it has recently been fixed although it still only allows local calls.

As far as garbage collection is concerned, thanks to the German Governmental Agency Technisches Hilfswerk (THW) this service is properly carried out on a daily basis. Finally, regarding the level of destruction of houses, approximately 30 percent have been at least partially destroyed. According to the estimates of Action by

Churches Together (ACT), an international NGO, 285 houses have been destroyed totally.

Source: ACT

## **12. Social Services, Health, and Education**

Most social services are taken care of by the Centre for Social Work. Due to lack of funds, this institution functions as a sort of co-ordination centre in close connection with the Municipality. There is no pension system in place, although the UN Emergency Assistance Financial Programme for over 70 year olds and disabled persons has been implemented.

The local health sector includes one hospital and six health centres also known as “ambulanta”. With the help of German and Dutch KFOR, these structures provide basic medical treatment. For urgent and more complicated cases, the nearest well-equipped hospitals are located in Djakovica/Gjakova (Argentinean Military Hospital) and Prizren (German Military Hospital).

The Education sector reflects the ethnic division of the area and all schools are completely ethnically segregated. The Kosovo Albanian side includes 31 primary schools and four secondary schools. The Kosovo Serb side includes three primary schools and one secondary school. Transport facilities are needed for about eight schools, and especially for the pupils from the Serb enclave Velika Hoca who need to reach the nearby high schools located in the Serb Quarter of Orahovac town.