

Gjilan/Gnjilane

April 2008

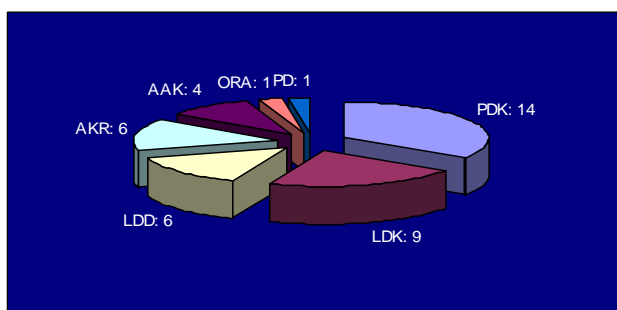
1. Area and Population

- Gjilan/Gnjilane Municipality is located 47 km southeast of Prishtinë/Priština and covers an area of 515 square km. Gjilan/Gnjilane borders both the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) and Serbia proper. There are 63 villages in the municipality. 95 per cent of households in Gjilan/Gnjilane town, as well as three villages, are connected to the municipal water system. [Source: Department of Public Services]
- Over 130,000 residents live in Gjilan/Gnjilane. The majority are Kosovo Albanians (116,000), followed by a sizeable number of Kosovo Serbs (11,800). There are also 370 Kosovo Roma and several hundred Kosovo Turks. In 2007 the Turkish language was declared a “language in official use” by the Municipal Assembly. Seven villages are inhabited exclusively by Kosovo Serbs. Kosovo Turks live in Gjilan/Gnjilane town and three villages. There are a number of mixed areas including Gjilan/Gnjilane town and five villages. Since 1999, several villages have experienced a demographic shift due to property transactions between different communities. Minorities move freely in town and most areas throughout the municipality. [Source: UNHCR]
- By the end of January 2008, eight Kosovo Serb families (27 family members) had returned to the municipality. In total, there are approximately 40 Kosovo Serb families (approximately 110 family members) in Gjilan/Gnjilane town. In 2007, Phase II of the Abdullah Presheva Returns Project supported the return of 19 Kosovo Roma families (87 family members) to downtown Gjilan/Gnjilane. [Source: Municipal Return Officer]
- Municipal website: <http://www.gjilani-komuna.org/>

2. Governing Structures

● Legislative

The Municipal Assembly is composed of 41 members. The Mayor, Mr. Qemajl Mustafa (PDK), is the Chairperson. The Vice-Chairperson is Mr. Islam Zuzaku (AKR). The second Vice-Chairperson, appointed as a non-voting member by the Municipal Assembly in February 2008, is Srdjan Jovanović (Serbian Liberal Party – SLS)



PDK - Democratic Party of Kosovo
LDK - Democratic League of Kosovo
LDD - Democratic League of Dardania
AKR - Alliance New Kosova
AAK - Alliance for the Future of Kosovo
ORA - ORA Party
PD - Justice Party

● Executive

The Mayor has so far appointed Directors to four of the Municipal Departments: Education and Culture (PDK); Health and Social Welfare (AAK); Finance, Economy and Development (PDK); and Urban Planning, Cadastre and Environmental Protection (AKR).

● Judiciary

There are seven judges (including one Kosovo Serb) at the District Court. There are eight judges (including one Kosovo Serb) at the Municipal Court, and six judges (all Kosovo Albanian) at the Minor Offences Court. The District Prosecution Office has four prosecutors (all Kosovo Albanian) and the Municipal Prosecution Office has six prosecutors (including one Kosovo Serb).

● Security Presence

The Kosovo Police Service station in Gjilan/Gnjilane municipality is made up of 211 officers (including 36 Kosovo Serbs, 6 Kosovo Turks, and 1 Kosovo Macedonian). There are 57 female officers. There are also 7 UNMIK police officers. Substations are located in the villages of Partes/Partesh and Zhegër/Žegra. There is a Contact Information Office in Cërrnicë/Crnica. Gjilan/Gnjilane was one of the first municipalities in Kosovo to introduce ethnically-mixed Kosovo Police Service patrols.

3. Political Overview

In the Municipal Assembly elections of November 2007, PDK won 34.26 per cent, LDK won 20.32 per cent, LDD 15.03 per cent, AKR 14.25 per cent, AAK 9.21 per cent, ORA 2.70 per cent and PD 1.89 per cent. In the Mayoral elections, Mr Qemal Mustafa (PDK) was elected ahead of Ms. Lirije Kajtazi (LDK) by 67.4 per cent to 32.6 per cent. In Gjilan/Gnjilane municipality, Kosovo Serbs adhered to the call for an election boycott, and voted only in small numbers. The new municipal government established a formal coalition between PDK, AKR, and AAK. [Source: Central Election Commission]

4. Economy

There are 3,960 registered private businesses in the municipality employing 8,500 people. A radiator factory [undergoing privatisation] and tobacco factory [privatised] operate. A new business incubator, supported by the European Agency for Reconstruction, was inaugurated in Summer 2007. [Source: Municipal Department of Economy]

5. Public Services

• Health

The Regional Hospital is based in Gjilan/Gnjilane and maintains 538 staff members. There is a municipal Health Centre with 326 Kosovo Albanian, Serb, Turk, and Roma staff providing primary and secondary services through a network of 13 *ambulantas* and 18 smaller clinics. For secondary treatment, many Kosovo Serbs prefer to travel to Serbia proper or Gračanica/Graçanicë and Mitrovica/Mitrovicë. The municipality also has two psychiatric institutions. [Source: Municipal Department of Health and Municipal Community Office]

• Education

The educational system is clearly divided into Albanian schools (overseen by the Ministry for Science, Education, and Technology) and Serbian schools (overseen by the Serbian Ministry for Education). There are 21 Albanian primary schools with 20,372 students (including 25 Turks) and 16 Serbian primary schools with approximately 1,700 students (including 90 Kosovo Roma). There are six Albanian secondary schools with 6,587 students (including 35 Kosovo Turks) and eight Serbian secondary schools with approximately 900 students (including seven Kosovo Roma). Prishtinë/Priština University has a branch faculty for teachers in Gjilan/Gnjilane. Two private colleges were inaugurated during the 2006/7 school year. [Source: Municipal Department of Education and Municipal Community Office]

6. Map of the Region

Gjilan / Gnjilane

