

## Obiliq/Obilić

April 2008

### 1. Area and Population

- Obiliq/Obilić Municipality is located in northwest of Prishtinë/Priština on the main road to Mitrovicë/Mitrovica. The Municipality was created in 1989, prior to which it was part of Prishtinë/Priština municipality. It consists of 19 villages and the Obiliq/Obilić town.

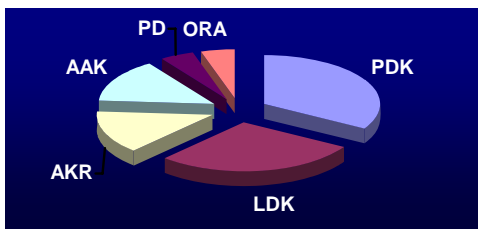
- The estimated total population is 30,000. The majority of the population are Kosovo Albanians (approximately 25,000) with some 3,400 Kosovo Serbs, 550 Roma, 300 Ashkali, 70 Bosniaks and others. Most non Kosovo Albanian communities live in the villages of Babin Most/Babimoc, Milloshevë/Miloševo, Plemetin/Plemetina, Caravodicë/Crkvena Vodica and Obiliq/Obilić town. Until December 2003, 635 internally displaced persons (IDPs) returned to the municipality, while the March 2004 riots increased the number of IDPs. According to the UNHCR, there are currently 8,615 persons displaced from the Obiliq/Obilić municipality residing in either Serbia proper or Montenegro and 170 in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. [Source: UNHCR]

- While there are still a lot of unpaved roads especially in rural areas, the overall roads condition has improved. As to the water supply, small or remote villages are not yet connected to the main network. Many villages including Plemetin/Plemetina also suffer from a lack of adequate sewage system.

### 2. Governing Structures

#### • Legislative

The Municipal Assembly comprises 21 members elected in the November 2007 Municipal Elections. There are no Kosovo Serb representatives. The Democratic Party of Kosovo has the majority of members, but in any case alliances are needed for the decision taking.



PDK - Democratic Party of Kosovo (7 seats)
LDK - Democratic League of Kosovo (6 Seats)
AAK - Alliance for the Future of Kosovo (3 Seats)
AKR - Alliance for the New Kosovo (3 Seats)
ORA - Reformist Party ORA (1 Seat)
PD - Justice Party (1 Seat)

#### • Executive

The Mayor of the Municipality, elected in December 2007 Mayoral elections, is Mr. Rexhep Kelani, from the Democratic league of Kosovo party. Municipal administration is composed of five Directorates and the Municipal Communities Office (headed by Kosovo Serb). The Board of Directors is chaired by the Mayor, with participation of all Directors and the presence of Head of Municipal Communities Office.

#### • Judiciary

Obiliq/Obilić municipality is under the jurisdiction of the Prishtinë/Priština courts.

#### • Security Presence

There is an independent Police Station in Obiliq/Obilić. For the international military presence, the Slovak Army troops are in charge of the area.

### 3. Political Overview

Due to the Kosovo Serbs' boycott of the November 2007 Municipal Elections, Kosovo Serbs are not represented in the Municipal Assembly. The Democratic Party of Kosovo is just one member ahead of the Democratic League of Kosovo and far from forming a simple majority. Alliances and agreements are therefore needed to ensure decision-taking. It is still difficult to predict how political alliances in the Municipal Assembly will develop. However, given that it is chaired by an LDK Mayor who has, apparently, already made initial agreements with other parties, it seems that PDK will remain in the opposition, despite holding a majority of seats.

### 4. Economy

The Kosovo Energy Corporation (KEK), with two major power plants, is the primary employer in the Obiliq/Obilić municipality. Yet, since the 1999 conflict, it has not sustained the level of support it once provided to the municipal population, and the Municipality is suffering economic consequences. This

situation particularly affects members from minority communities, who have since been unemployed. The major natural resource is a large reserve of coal with an estimated 13 billion tones of lignite coal. Due to the enterprise's environmental impact and potential health damage to the local population, the power stations and coalmines have had difficulties to obtain investments and upgrade their facilities. Aside from heavy industry, agriculture is also well developed in the municipality with 52% of arable land cultivated. Kosovo Albanian farmers organize their wheat harvesting and milling on a co-operative basis, while Kosovo Serbs make individual arrangements.

## 5. Public Services

### • Health

The main primary family health centre situated in Obiliq/Obilić town caters for all the municipality's population, however, Kosovo Serbs usually make use of the health centres in Babin Most/Babimoc and Plemetin/Plemetina, as well as other "parallel" institutions.

[Source: Municipal department of health and social welfare]

### • Education

Schools in the municipality are ethnically separated, with the exception of the elementary school in Caravodice/Crkvena Vodica, where Kosovo Albanian and Kosovo Serb pupils use the same school facility in different shifts. There are nine primary schools and one secondary school in the municipality, with a total number of 5,512 students, including two integrated secondary school classes of Economy and Medicine in Plemetin/Plemetina for Kosovo Serb students. Some 485 pupils are from the Kosovo Serb community, 45 are Roma and 98 are Ashkali. [Source: Department of Education, Sport and Culture]

## 6. Map of the Region

### Obiliq / Obilic

