Gjakovë/Đakovica

1. Area and Population

The municipality of Gjakovë/Đakovica is located in south-western Kosovo. It covers an area of approximately 586 km² and includes Gjakovë/Đakovica town and 91 villages. According to the Kosovo Population and Housing Census 2011 the total population is 94,556.

Ethnic composition

1. Kosovo Albanians: 87,672
2. Kosovo Egyptians: 5,117
3. Kosovo Roma: 738
4. Kosovo Ashkali: 613
5. Kosovo Bosniaks: 73
6. Kosovo Serbs: 17
7. Kosovo Turks: 16
8. Kosovo Gorani: 13
9. Others: 92
10. Not specified: 205

(Source: Kosovo Agency of Statistics)

Note: According to the municipal office for communities and returns, approximately 8,000 Kosovo Egyptians reside in the municipality.

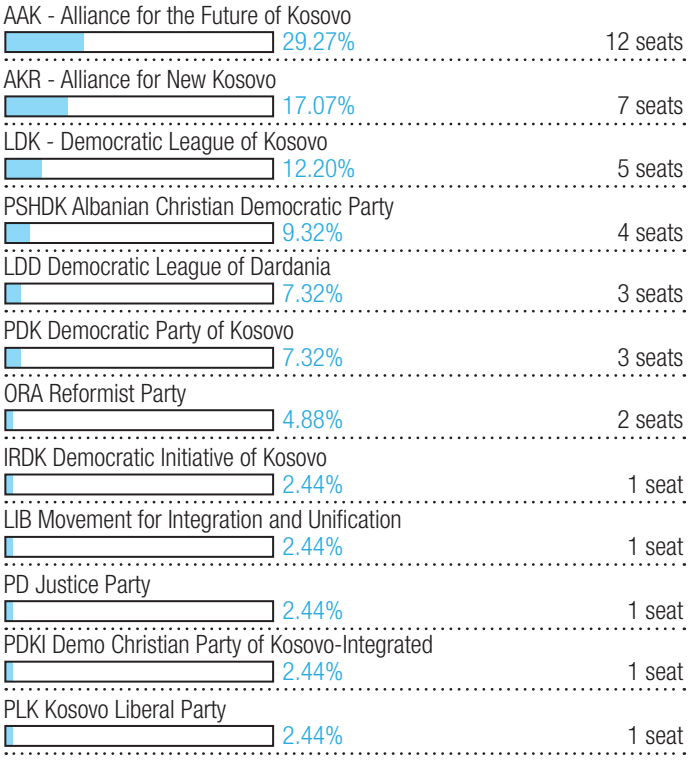
Prior to 1999 conflict Kosovo Serbs also lived in the municipality. They are mainly displaced in southern and south-western Serbia.

The OSCE regional centre Pejë/Peć covers six (6) municipalities including Gjakovë/Đakovica and has field teams working in all of them.

2. Governing Structures and Political Overview

The number of voters in Gjakovë/Đakovica municipality registered for the last municipal elections held in November 2009 was 91,866 including out-of-Kosovo voters. The voter turnout was 46 per cent/42,596 voters *(source: Central Elections Commission).*

The election results were as shown to the right:



Note: In the course of 2012, four (4) municipal assembly members from PLK, ORA, and LDD joined AAK. As a consequence the number of political parties represented in municipal assembly decreased to ten (10).

a. Legislative

The municipal assembly has 41 seats distributed amongst ten (10) political entities, 40 members are Kosovo Albanian, one (1) is Kosovo Egyptian, while 14 are female. The municipal assembly chairperson is Xhavit Alijaj (AAK).

According to the law on local self-government, a municipality with more than ten (10) per cent of residents belonging to communities not in majority in that municipality is required to appoint a deputy municipal assembly chairperson for communities. Municipal assembly deputy chairperson for communities in Gjakovë/Đakovica is Bislim Hoti, League of Kosovo Egyptians (LEK).

b. Executive
The municipality is headed by a mayor, Pal Lekaj (AAK) and a deputy mayor, Agim Koci (AAK). It has 12 departments and departmental directors: budget and finance department (AAK); geodesy and cadastre (AAK); health and social welfare (AAK); urban planning and environment protection (AAK); inspections (AAK); emergency and preparedness (AAK); agriculture (AAK); economic development (ORA); education (ORA); culture, youth and sport (PSHDK); public services (PSHDK); and general administration (PSHDK).

3. Judiciary
Gjakovë/Đakovica basic court has 11 judges, six (6) males and five (5) females; all Kosovo Albanians.
The Gjakovë/Đakovica basic court has branches in Malishevë/Mališevo and Rahovec/Orahovac.

Additional information:
Gjakovë/Đakovica basic prosecutor's office has nine (9) prosecutors, six (6) male and three (3) female. In addition to Gjakovë/Đakovica it also covers Malishevë/Mališevo and Rahovec/Orahovac municipalities.
(Source: Gjakovë/Đakovica basic court)

4. Security Presence
The Kosovo police station in Gjakovë/Đakovica has 103 police officers, 101 are Kosovo Albanian (87 male and 14 female) and two (2) are Kosovo Bosniaks (one (1) male and one (1) female). In addition, the Kosovo border police directorate west has 26 officers and five (5) civilian staff working at the Qafa e Prushit/Čaf Pruš and at Qafa e Morinës/Čaf Morina crossing points *(source: Pejë/Peć regional police station).*

As for the international military presence Italian and Turkish KFOR cover this area *(source: KFOR MNBGW).*

5. Economy
The economy of the municipality of Gjakovë/Đakovica is mainly based on small trade businesses. There are some 4,650 registered private businesses operating in the municipality, employing approximately 9,000 people *(source: municipal directorate for economic development).*

6. Public Services

a. Infrastructure
The overall status of infrastructure in the municipality of Gjakovë/Đakovica is assessed as good. In 1999 conflict the old part of the town, known as old bazaar, suffered most damages but was reconstructed with international donor assistance. The municipality invests in maintenance and construction of local roads, as well as in extension of the water and sewage systems to villages *(source: municipal directorate of public services).*

b. Health
The primary health care system includes one (1) mental health care centre, one (1) main family health care centre located in the town, 12 smaller health centres and 14 health houses located in the villages. In Gjakovë/Đakovica municipality there is also one (1) general hospital. The health sector has 353 employees, 249 females and 104 male, including doctors, nurses and support staff.
All communities have access to health care and all facilities *(source: municipal directorate of health and social welfares).*

c. Education
There are 39 primary schools with 16,171 pupils including 1,614 from non-Albanian communities and 962 teachers; seven (7) secondary schools with 5,636 students including 115 from non-Albanian communities and 279 teachers, and one (1) kindergarten with six (6) units and 569 children including 60 from non-Albanian communities and 48 educators *(source: municipal directorate of education and MOCR).*

7. Religious and Cultural sites
Gjakovë/Đakovica has 33 mosques. Most of them were renovated after the 1999 conflict. There is one (1) Catholic church in the town. A Serbian Orthodox church in the town was damaged during the 1999 conflict, then destroyed and replaced by a public park. A new Serbian Orthodox Church has been built in the town's centre and inaugurated in 2011 *(source: municipal development plan).*

toknow
In Gjakovë/Đakovica there are:

41	seats in the municipal assembly distributed amongst 10 political entities.
103	police officers.
11	judges.
1289	teachers in 39 primaries and 7 secondary schools.