

Ferizaj/Uroševac

April 2008

1. Area and Population

- Ferizaj/Uroševac municipality is located in southern Kosovo, on the main road between Prishtinë/Priština and Skopje, the capital of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM). The municipality covers an area of 345 km² and consists of one town and 44 villages. It is largely an agricultural plain.

- The population of Ferizaj/Uroševac amounts to an estimated total of 160-170,000 residents. The majority, approximately 160,000 residents, are Kosovo Albanian. Other communities residing in the municipality include Kosovo Ashkali (3,758), Roma (260), Gorani (230), Bosniak (68), Serbs (approximately 70), Turks (40) as well as a few Kosovo Egyptian families. Most Kosovo Serbs are returnees and live in the villages of Bablak/Babljak, Srpski Babuš/Babushi Serb and Talinoc i Muhaxherëve/Muhadžer Talinovac, while Kosovo Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians typically live in the village of Dubravë/Dubrava and the settlements of Halit Ibishi/Halit Ibiši, Sallahane/Salahane and Koçi Xoxe/Koče Zoze.

[Source: Department of Administration and Personnel and Municipal Communities Office]

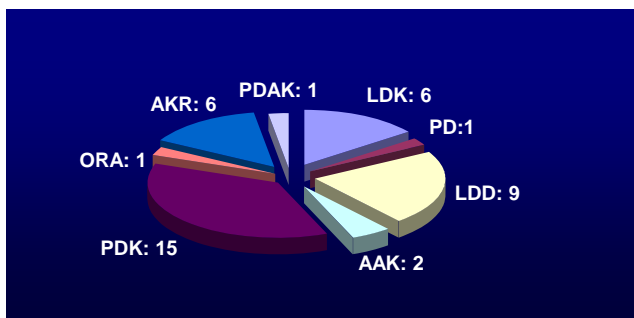
- As of December 2007, an estimated 211 Kosovo Serbs and 178 members of the Kosovo Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities have returned to the municipality, while approximately 150 Kosovo Serbs have re-departed after a short stay. In addition, 125 members of the Kosovo Roma, Ashkali and Egyptian communities have been forcibly returned to the municipality since 2001 [Source: UNHCR and Municipal Community Office]

- Municipal website: www.ferizaj-komuna.org

2. Governing Structures

● Legislative

The Municipal Assembly is comprised of 41 members who were elected in the November 2007 municipal elections. The mayor is Mr. Bajrush Xhemajli of PDK. The second Vice-Chairperson is a representative of the Ashkali community and a member of PDAK.



PDK – Democratic Party of Kosovo
LDD – Democratic League of Dardania
AKR – Alliance New Kosovo
LDK – Democratic League of Kosovo
AAK – Alliance for the Future of Kosovo
PDAK – Ashkali Democratic Party of Kosovo
PD – Justice Party
ORA – Reformist Party ORA

● Executive

Ferizaj/Uroševac municipality has 11 municipal departments covering all spheres of municipal business. The executive branch is led by the mayor, Mr. Bajrush Xhemajli, and an eleven-member Board of Directors, including the Head of the Department of Administration and Personnel and the Head of the Municipal Communities Office as *ex-officio* members. The municipal administration currently employs 259 civil servants (including 14 Kosovo Ashkali, 2 Kosovo Roma, 2 Kosovo Serbs, 2 Kosovo Bosniaks and 1 Kosovo Turk).

● Judiciary

There is a Municipal Court (seven Kosovo Albanian judges), a Minor Offences Court (five Kosovo Albanian judges) and the Office of the Prosecutor (six Kosovo Albanian prosecutors) located in Ferizaj/Uroševac town which fall under the District Court in Prishtinë/Priština. The Municipal Court of Ferizaj/Uroševac covers the municipalities of Kačanik/Kaçanik, Štrpce/Shtërpçë and Shtime/Štimlje, with a sub-branch court in Štrpce/Shtërpçë. The sub-branch court has one judge (Kosovo Albanian) at the Municipal Court and two judges (both Kosovo Albanian) at the Minor Offences Court. According to the president of the Municipal Court in Štrpce/Shtërpçë, Kosovo Serbs and Kosovo Roma have access to the court system and all cases are processed according to law.

● Security Presence

The Regional Kosovo Police Service Station covering Ferizaj/Uroševac, Kačanik/Kaçanik, Štrpce/Shtërpçë and Shtime/Štimlje municipalities is based in Ferizaj/Uroševac. It employs 524 Kosovo Police officers, including 45 Kosovo Serbs and nine Kosovo Ashkali officers (in addition to UNMIK Police). The Ferizaj/Uroševac police station is staffed by 177 police officers, out of which 172 are Kosovo Albanian (including 26 female officers) and five Kosovo Ashkali. In addition, the municipality hosts the United States KFOR base, Camp Bondsteel, and the Greek KFOR base.

3. Political Overview

The political power balance in Ferizaj/Uroševac changed substantially after the November 2007 municipal elections. PDK now holds the majority of seats in the Municipal Assembly that was formerly LDK-run. PDK is followed by LDD, AKR, LDK, and a number of smaller political parties. The municipality is governed by PDK in coalition with AKR, assuring a majority of votes within the Municipal Assembly (21 out of 41 seats) and with departmental directors' positions shared between the two coalition partners.

4. Economy

The United States company Brown & Root is a major employer in the municipality, with more than 1,000 people employed. Most of the 22 socially-owned enterprises have been privatised. According to statistical information from the Ministry of Trade and Industry, there are more than 4,500 private small and medium-sized businesses registered in the municipality, while the municipal registry counts 3,463 active local businesses. The municipal figures of locally active companies indicate that 11 per cent are production oriented, 43 per cent provide services, and 46 per cent fall under the category of commercial enterprises. [Source: Municipal Department of Economy, Finance and Budget]

5. Public Services

• Health

Primary health care facilities in Ferizaj/Uroševac municipality consist of a Main Centre for Family Care and three Family Care Centres. The villages receive medical services through nine Health Stations, including mobile teams, covering different municipal areas. The Municipal Department of Health and Social Welfare employs a total of 315 civil servants. The Centre for Mental Health, the Institute for Public Health and a hospital are additional medical facilities providing secondary medical care and are supervised by the respective Ministry. [Source: Municipal Department of Health and Social Welfare]

• Education

There are 31 primary schools in the municipality with 23,367 students and six secondary schools with 6,806 students in total. The school attendance of Kosovo Ashkali, Roma and Gorani children is lower than for Kosovo Albanians, but improvements have been noticed during the new school year (out of 30,431 pupils at all education levels, 904 are from minority communities). There is also one kindergarten with 258 children registered. The Municipal Department of Education and Science is comprised of 1,770 professional and support staff, including nine members of minority communities. [Source: Municipal Department of Education and Science and Municipal Community Office]

6. Map of the Region

Ferizaj / Uroševac

