

Date Printed: 04/21/2009

JTS Box Number: IFES_65
Tab Number: 60
Document Title: Political Party Guide
Document Date: 2000
Document Country: Kosovo
Document Language: English
IFES ID: CE00904



* B C F 2 7 D 8 E - 0 E 1 8 - 4 C D 5 - 9 E 3 B - 9 2 F 4 5 0 2 3 4 7 8 8 *

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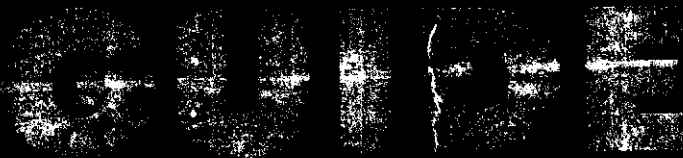
MISSION IN KOSOVO

UNMIK



United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo

POLITICAL PARTY



MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS,
KOSOVO, 2000

Department of
Democratization

**POLITICAL
PARTY GUIDE**

MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS,
KOSOVO, 2000

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Foreword

Kosovo is now only a matter of weeks away from its first truly democratic elections – municipal elections that will be contested by no less than 19 political parties, 1 alliance (of six parties) and 1 coalition (of 2 parties). This short guidebook is intended to serve as an introduction to these parties - their histories, their leaders, their main aims at the regional and Kosovo-wide level and their programmes at the municipal level.

There are some parties, particularly from Kosovo's Serbian community, that are not contesting these municipal elections. Like the Turkish and Albanian parties that are not contesting the elections, they have not been included in this book. Our hope is that in future elections, they too will have a place in a publication such as this. We have also not included the citizens' initiatives and independent candidates participating in the elections. This book is a guide to the parties that will appear on the ballot paper on October 28th 2000.

The information in this book was compiled both from written submissions from the parties to the United Nations Interim Administration in Kosovo, and from a series of interviews conducted during the summer of this year. On the whole, the process has been an easy one, and we would like to express our gratitude to all the parties for their co-operation over the past few months.

In some cases, we were unable to achieve agreement between parties about their history. There are several parties that today compete with a similarly named rival with whom they were once united. In each case, both parties involved in the dispute claim to represent the continuation of the original party. In many cases, the 'legal' judgements involved are extremely fine. We have not sought to adjudicate in these matters, but have instead, conveyed as best we can, each party's own version of events. The parties involved in these disputes are the PLK and the PLSH, the USHDK and the PSHDK, the USD and the PSDK, the SDA and the BSDAK, and the LNDSH and the PNDSH. In each case, we have attributed both parties with the same founding date, with the one exception of the SDA and the BSDAK where the BSDAK held a founding convention in the year 2000, and is therefore judged to be clearly the newer, 'break-away' party. In the case of the PLK and the PLSH, and LNDSH and PNDSH, the parties involved have also provided different dates for the foundation of the original party.

Despite these complications, we hope that all those people participating in, or observing, these elections, will find this booklet useful and interesting. Any comments or suggestions that readers may have for future publications of this sort, will be gratefully received by the OSCE Democratisation Department, Pristina.

A. Albanian Parties

Name:

AAK – Aleanca për Ardhmërinë e Kosovës
(Alliance for the Future of Kosovo)

President:

Mr. Ramush Haradinaj

Founded:

2000

History:

N/A

Municipalities to be contested:

29 - Prishtine/Pristina, Podujeve/Podujevo, Glogoc/Glogovac, Fushe Kosove/
Kosovo Polje, Obiliqi/Obilic, Shtime/Stimlje, Lipjani/Lipjan, Peje/Pec, Decan/
Decani, Gjakove/Djakovica, Istog/Istok, Kline/Klina, Gjilani/Gnjilane, Ferizaj/
Urosevac, Viti/Vitina, Kamenice/Kamenica, Shterpce/Strpce, Kacanick/Kacanik,
Novo Brde/Novo Brdo, Prizren/Prizren, Rahoveci/Orahovac, Suhareke/Suka
Reke, Dragash/Dragas, Malisheve/Malisevo, Mitrovice/Mitrovica, Vushtrri/
Vucitrn, Skenderaj/Srbica, Leposaviq/Leposavic, Zvecan/Zvecan

Stated Aims:

The general aim is described as "normalising every citizen's life". But, more specifically, to do so in a way which involves people in their own future. The AAK sees politics as a grass-roots exercise. Because society is made up of smaller units, they argue, Kosovo will only advance as a whole, if people first become actively engaged in political and public affairs at the individual, family and community levels. This being a long process, the AAK is viewing these elections as a first step towards the fulfilment of their objectives. In the long run, they look to a time when an independent Kosovo takes its place as a full member of both the EU and NATO.

Municipal Programme (key points):

The Alliance identifies political and economic reforms as its two main priorities. Encouraging popular political participation and developing the new political institutions are its political aims, while attracting foreign investment and supporting small businesses and workers are its main economic aims. It describes crime as "a gangrene in society", and promises to "eliminate it". It also pledges to look after the interests of pensioners, the disabled and the poor through a system of social protection.



AAK

Name:

AQK - Aleanca Qytetare e Kosovës (Alliance of Citizens of Kosovo)

President:

Mr. Ramush Haradinaj

Founded:

2000

History:

N/A



AAK

Name:

PPK - Partia Parlamentare e Kosovës (Parliamentary Party of Kosovo)

President:

Mr. Bajram Kosumi

Founded:

1990

History:

The PPK was borne out of the student movement of 1990, and was led by Mr Veton Surroi (now chief editor of Koha Ditore daily newspaper) until 1994 when Mr Kosumi became President. In these early years, the Parliamentary Party supported the pursuit of a political solution to the Kosovo question by peaceful means. It contested the 1992 elections to the parallel parliament, and was one of the few parties to gain representation in the LDK dominated body. But, frustrated by the lack of progress this strategy of non-violence seemed to be delivering, the party threw its weight behind those engaged in the emerging armed struggle against the Serb authorities. Between 1997 and 1998 the PPK was led by Albanian dissident, Mr Adem Demaci, who stood down in June 1998 to become KLA spokesman. Until May 2000, PPK was part of the LBD coalition which participated in the Rambouillet conference of February 1999.



Name:

LKÇK - Lëvizja Kombëtare për Çlirimin e Kosovës (National Movement for the Liberation of Kosovo)

President:

Mr. Sabit Gashi

Founded:

1993

History:

The LKCK began as an illegal movement, led by Raif Cela who was imprisoned for 10 years in 1993. From then until 1997, the LKÇK was led by Mr Avni Klinaku, who was then also arrested and sentenced to 10 years in prison. It is believed that both men are in Nis Prison in Serbia. In March 1998, the LKÇK signed an agreement with the KLA putting themselves under direct control of KLA central command. Although they supported the KLA during the conflict, differences between the LKÇK and the KLA leader, Mr Hashim Thaci, remained. For example, the LKÇK opposed the Rambouillet plan which Mr Thaci signed. Such differences convinced them to pursue their own course once more when hostilities ceased in June 1999. The current President, Mr Gashi, was minister of culture in the provisional government of Kosovo before taking over the party in August 1999. The LKCK has kept its distance from the international community, pulling out of the Kosovo Transitional Council in May 2000, in protest to what they believed was an inadequate response from the UN to the ongoing problem of Kosovar Albanian political prisoners in Serbia.



Name:

LPK - Lëvizja Popullore e Kosovës (Peoples Movement of Kosovo)

President:

Mr. Emrush Xhemajli

Founded:

1982

History:

The LPK was one of the first political groupings in Kosovo to advocate armed resistance to Belgrade. Many of its leaders have been killed in the struggle against the Serb authorities. It began as an illegal resistance movement which organised a large number of demonstrations and agitated for Kosovo to be granted full Republican status within FRY. At its first convention in 1987, Mr Fazliu was elected President of the party, a post he would hold for 11 years. Over time, however, the movement adopted an increasingly hard line, pushing for an independent Kosovo, rather than increased autonomy within Yugoslavia. Its methods were also hard line - in its general assembly meeting of 1993, the LPK decided to pursue its aims through armed struggle. It supplied both men, weapons and political/military directions to the KLA. At this time, some of the most prominent politicians in modern day Kosovo, such as Mr Thaci (PDK), Mr Haradinaj (AAK) and Mr Kelmendi (UNIKOMB), were LPK members. After the conflict, the LPK

fragmented with the majority of members now in one of two parties - some members followed Mr Mahmuti into the PBD then the PPDK (now PDK), while those who remained, continue to represent the LPK.

AAK

Name:

UNIKOMB - Partia e Unitetit Kombetar Shqiptar (Albanian Unification Party)

President:

Mr. Ukshin Hoti

Acting President:

Muhamet Kelmendi

Founded:

1991

History:

Born out of the Albanian resistance movement in Kosovo which they date back to the League of Prizren in 1878, UNIKOMB has always been a party of Albanian unification. It was established in its modern form, by Mr Halil Alidemaj in 1991 and was regularly harassed by the Serb security forces during its early years. By 1993, Mr Alidemaj felt it necessary to move to Albania to escape likely arrest. In 1994 the role of party president was entrusted to Bajrush Behrami, who led the party for a year. Mr Hoti, who succeeded him as president, was arrested on the day of his inauguration. With Mr Hoti still incarcerated, the party's convention entrusted the role of acting president first to Mr Afrim Morina (1996 - 2000) and then to Mr Kelmendi (2000 -). Prior to the NATO bombing of 1999, UNIKOMB was part of the LBD coalition led by Mr Qosja. Today, it is standing as part of the Alliance for the Future of Kosovo.

AAK

Name:

UShDK - Unioni Shqiptare DemoKristiane (Albanian Union of Christian Democrats)

President:

Mr. Lazer Krasniqi

Founded:

1990

History:

Mr Lazer Krasniqi founded Kosovo's Christian Democrats in 1990. In 1994 he left the province to live in Croatia, to escape the authorities who had, in 1989, imprisoned him for crimes against the State. He was replaced as President by Mr Mark Krasniqi. In 1999, after the bombing, Lazer Krasniqi returned to Kosovo, and, finding that Mark Krasniqi was intending to remain President of the party, established a new party called, simply, 'the Union of Albanian Christian Democrats' which is now part of the Alliance. Mr Lazer Krasniqi claims that his party represents the continuation of the original party, and therefore cites 1990 as the year it was founded.

Name:

BKDK – Balli Kombëtar Demokrat i Kosovës
(National-Democratic-Front-of-Kosovo)

President:

Mr. Durmish Rizvanolli

Founded:

1999

History:

Originally an Albanian party dating back to the 1930s, Balli Kombetar's presence in Kosovo can be traced back to 1942 when they formed an illegal group in Pristina. Its members fought in the Second World War against the Germans and Italians. As an Albanian unification party, BKDK based itself in Albania during the 1990s.

Municipalities to be contested:

4 - Peje/Pec, Gjakove/Djakovica, Dragash/Drigas, Skenderaj/Srbica

Stated Aims:

Balli Kobetar describes itself as a party of the 'right' in favour first and foremost of independence for Kosovo, and ultimately, of the unification of all Albanian "territories" (Kosovo, Albania and parts of Macedonia and Montenegro) in one state. It wants to establish railways and airlines to Albania.

Municipal Programme (key points):

The BKDK has identified unemployment, the environment, and health and education services as its highest priorities for municipal action. Beyond the specific competency of Municipal Assemblies, they identify security/law and order issues as being of great importance.

Name:

KP – Koalicioni Per Pavaresi
(Coalition for Independence)

President:

Mr. Rexhep Qosja

Founded:

July 2000

History:

N/A

Municipalities to be contested:

19 - Prishtine/Pristina, Fushe Kosove/Kosovo Polje, Obiliqi/Obilic, Shtime/Stimlje, Lipjani/Lipjan, Peje/Pec, Decan/Decani, Gjakove/Djakavica, Kline/Klina, Gijlani/Gnjilane, Ferizaj/Urosevac, Viti/Vitina, Kamenice/Kamenica, Prizren/Prizren, Rahoveci/Orahovac, Suhareke/Suka Reke, Malisheve/Malisevo, Mitrovice/Mitrovica, Vushtrri/Vucitrn

Stated Aims:

The coalition has identified two main aims: independence for Kosovo and democracy for Kosovo. It supports the creation of all the democratic institutions that one would find in an open, free, democratic and tolerant society based on the rule of law, independently applied.

Municipal Programme (key points):

The KP cites the stimulation of the agricultural sector, particularly through the use of loans, as a key plank in its municipal programme. Such an initiative forms a concrete part of their more general plans to reform the economy, satisfy needs and create jobs and prosperity. In social policy terms, the KP is committed to protecting the vulnerable, particularly those disabled by the war and the elderly who are not receiving pensions. For the young, they point to the creation of a modern education system based on modern methods and technologies as the key priority.

KP

Name:

LBD - Lëvizja e Bashkuar Demokratike (United Democratic Movement)

President:

Mr. Rexhep Qosja

Founded:

1998

History:

The LBD started out as a coalition of seven parties which came together to bridge the gap between the LDK on the one hand and the KLA on the other. In this way, the LBD coalition viewed itself as a unifying influence in the increasingly polarised Kosovar Albanian political scene. In the view of the LBD, such unity would prove crucial in the context of any future international conference on the 'Kosovo question'. When such a conference was held in Rambouillet, France, the following year, the LBD was one of the three groups present from the Kosovar Albanian side, along with the KLA and the LDK. This same Rambouillet 'formula' was used by the UN Mission in Kosovo after the conflict to determine the composition of the Interim Administrative Council (IAC), which Mr Qosja has attended, along with Hashim Thaci of the PDK and Ibrahim Rugova of the LDK, since December 1999.

KP

Name:

PLSH - Partia Liberale Shqiptare (Albanian Liberal Party)

President:

Mr. Gjergj Rapi

Founded:

1992

History:

Formed in 1992, the PLSH claims the title of the oldest liberal party in Kosovo. Mr Dedaj, the leader of the Liberal Party of Kosovo, was also a member of the PLSH until, in 1993, he established the PLK. Today, there are no less than four Kosovar Albanian parties participating in the municipal elections with the word 'liberal' in their title. As its name suggests, the PLSH originally stood for the unification of all Albanian peoples, but later abandoned this aim, largely as a result of pressure from its branches in the Albania/Kosovo border areas where tensions/differences between the two groups were most apparent. The PLSH was never represented in the parallel parliament during the 1990s, but did belong to the 'Democratic Forum', a body established by Mr. Demaci and composed of seven parties. In July 2000, the party joined forces with Mr Qosja's LBD to form the KP coalition.

Name:

LDK - Lidhja Demokratike e Kosovës
(Democratic League of Kosovo)

President:

Dr. Ibrahim Rugova

Founded:

1989

History:

Such was the monopoly of support enjoyed by the LDK for its first ten years that it more closely resembled a political movement than a political party. Throughout this time, virtually all Kosovar Albanian resistance to Belgrade was channelled through the LDK and its leader, Ibrahim Rugova. Academic by background and intellectual by nature, "President" Rugova, as he became, preached non-violence, coupled with non co-operation with Belgrade. This policy of non co-operation with Belgrade was perhaps best illustrated by the parallel institutions that were set up during this period, in particular, a parallel education system, primary health care system, sports events and a parallel political system, based on a parallel parliament elected by a parallel electoral process. Rugova and his party received over 80% of the votes in the two such elections to be held in the 1990s – first in 1992 and then again in 1998. Added to this twin approach of non violence and non co-operation was a third strand to Rugova's strategy – a determined drive to 'internationalise' the Kosovo problem through political and diplomatic means. He hoped that these three tactics would, in combination, lead to a peaceful resolution of the latent conflict in Kosovo. But the exclusion of Kosovo from the Dayton agreement of 1996, and the subsequent emergence of the KLA and the escalation of violence that culminated in the NATO action of 1999, led gradually to a decline in the effectiveness of this strategy. Despite this, the LDK and its leader have today re-assumed their central position in Kosovo's re-shaped political landscape. Dr Rugova has, since December 1999, been one of three Kosovar Albanian political leaders on the UN's highest joint central body - the Interim Administrative Council (IAC). They continue to play an important role in Kosovo's political evolution.

Municipalities to be contested:

29 - Prishtine/Pristina, Podujeve/Podujevo, Glllogoc/Glogovac, Fushe Kosove/Kosovo Polje, Obiliqi/Obilic, Shtime/Stimlje, Lipjani/Lipjan, Peje/Pec, Decan/Decani, Gjakove/Djakovica, Istog/Istok, Kline/Klina, Gjilani/Gnjilane, Ferizaj/Urosevac, Viti/Vitina, Kamenice/Kamenica, Shterpce/Strpce, Kacanick/Kacanik, Novo Brde/Novo Brdo, Prizren/Prizren, Rahoveci/Orahovac, Suhareke/Suka Reke, Dragash/Dragas, Malisheve/Malisevo, Mitrovice/Mitrovica, Vushtrri/Vucitrn, Skenderaj/Srbica, Leposavia/Leposavic, Zubin Potok

Stated Aims:

The LDK cites democratic institution building, and the creation of an open and liberal society based on the rule of law and respect for minority rights as its priorities at the Kosovo-wide level. In particular, it supports measures to guarantee security for all groups in society, Albanian as well as non-Albanian; a programme of privatisation and economic reforms; and a range of social measures, particularly in the fields of health and education. Like all the Kosovar Albanian parties, it continues to press for full independence for Kosovo.

Municipal Programme (key points):

Whilst stressing that different circumstances require different programmes, the LDK nonetheless identifies agricultural support, job creation, infrastructure improvement, and education and health service reforms as its key priorities at the local level.

Name:

**LNDSH - Levizja Nationale Demokratike Shqiptare
(Albanian National Democratic Movement)**

President:

Mr. Kajtaz Fazliu

Founded:

1991

History:

The LNDSH had a shared history with the PNDSH until 1994 when the parties split over an internal statutory issue. Like the PNDSH, the LNDSH claims to represent the continuation of the Albanian national movement that dates back to the 1940s.

Municipalities to be contested:

4 - Prishtine/Pristina, Glllogoc/Glogovac, Mitrovice/Mitrovica, Skenderaj/
Srbica

Stated Aims:

Like the PNDSH, the Albanian National Democratic Movement perceives itself to be a nationalist party of the right. It is in favour of Albanian unification. It views the resolution of the future status of Kosovo, law and order and economic reforms as the three main priorities at the provincial level. Economic reforms are also identified as important.

Municipal Programme (key points):

The Party intends to campaign in the municipal elections of October 2000 on the 'quality of life' issues of law and order and urban planning as well as on education and health care reforms, social welfare provision, agricultural development and the cultivation of cultural values.

Name:

PDK - Partia Demokratike e Kosovës
(Democratic Party of Kosovo)

President:

Mr. Hashim Thaçi

Founded:

1999

History:

When the KLA was disbanded after the NATO action of 1999, the majority of its members joined one of three new institutions – the Kosovo Police Service (KPS), the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC), or the PDK, the new political party formed by then PBD leader, Bardhyl Mahmuti and the former KLA political head and “Prime Minister” of the self-declared provisional government of Kosovo, Hashim Thaci. In May 2000, the party held its first convention at which Mr Thaci was elected party president and the name of the party was changed to PDK. Until the appearance of other ex-KLA leaders on the political scene this year, the PDK was assumed to be the sole inheritor of the KLA legacy and the sole beneficiary of ex-KLA support. It was this position which gave the PDK a pre-eminent position in post-conflict Kosovar politics, and a central role in the Joint Interim Administrative Structure (JIAS) established by the UN in December 1999. Despite the proliferation of political parties in Kosovo over the past year, however, the PDK remains a potent political force as we approach the municipal elections.

Municipalities to be contested:

27 - Prishtine/Pristina, Podujeve/Podujevo, Glllogoc/Glogovac, Fushe Kosove/Kosovo Polje, Obiliqi/Obilic, Shtime/Stimlje, Lipjani/Lipjan, Peje/Pec, Decan/Decani, Gjakove/Djakovica, Istog/Istok, Kline/Klina, Gijlani/Gnjilane, Ferizaj/Urosevac, Viti/Vitina, Kamenice/Kamenica, Shterpce/Strpce, Kacanick/Kacanik, Novo Brde/Novo Brdo, Prizren/Prizren, Rahoveci/Orahovac, Suhareke/Suka Reke, Dragash/Dragas, Malisheve/Malisevo, Mitrovice/Mitrovica, Vushtrri/Vucitrn, Skenderaj/Srbica

Stated Aims:

The PDK is committed to "freedom, independence and democracy" and to creating "ethnic tolerance and integration in Europe". It promises to "solve the problems for the people of Kosova".

Municipal Programme (key points):

Among the priorities identified by the PDK for action at the municipal level are: infrastructure improvements, healthcare, education, care of the elderly, job creation, urban planning regulation and women's emancipation. On the economy, they promise to "improve" small and medium sized enterprises and to "stimulate" farmers' productivity. The PDK argues that its size and the experience of its members and candidates make it an attractive party to the voters and one capable of delivering once in government.

Name:

PGJK - Partia e të Gjelbërtëve të Kosovës
(Green-Party of Kosovo)

President:

Mr. Daut Maloku

Founded:

1991

History:

The PGJK contested the elections of 1992 to the parallel parliament. In addition, it spent most of the 1990s looking beyond Yugoslavia's borders, trying to forge international links and heighten international awareness of the growing conflict in Kosovo. In December 1998, the PGJK joined the LBD coalition to enable Kosovar Albanians to "speak with one voice" in any future international conferences or negotiations on the Kosovo crisis. It left the LBD after Rambouillet.

Municipalities to be contested:

6 - Prishtine/Pristina, Shtime/Stimlje, Peje/Pec, Gjakove/Djakovica, Gjilani/Gnjilane, Mitrovice/Mitrovica

Stated Aims:

As its name suggests, the Green Party is primarily concerned with the environmental agenda. Whilst it has stated its commitment to democratic institution building, the creation of a market economy, the provision of social welfare services and the attainment of independence for Kosovo within the European Union, it distinguishes itself from the other parties by insisting that such developments must take place within a strict ecological framework. It is committed to preventing the expansion of coal mining and other forms of non-renewable energy production, as part of a broader drive to reduce emissions and pollution generally. It has recently set up an environmental commission on emissions, focusing in particular on the lead smelting plant in Zvecan.

Municipal Programme (key points):

The PGJK has identified clean air and clean water as its top two priorities, although it will tailor its local programmes to local circumstances. It also emphasises the importance of public health, pointing to AIDS, drug abuse, cancer, alcoholism and smoking as the major threats in this respect.

Name:

PLDK - Partia Liberal Demokratike e Kosovës
(Liberal-Democratic Party of Kosovo)

President:

Mr. Agim Rugova

Founded:

2000

History:

N/A

Municipalities to be contested:

2 - Peje/Pec, Gjakove/Djakovica

Stated Aims:

To build a democratic political system and civil society through the 'politics of example'. The party claims to have a democratic, and non-prescriptive policy formulation process, a de-centralised structure and an inclusive, participatory culture. It believes that only by working in a non-corrupt, non-intimidatory manner, can a party build a peaceful and democratic Kosovo. In policy terms, it talks the language of free market economics, European integration, social welfare and institution building. It also cites "freedom of artistic creativity" as an important aspect of Kosovo's development.

Municipal Programme (key points):

It sees the education system as the key to the development of a "new, modern generation" which can find its place within the established "national consciousness". It believes that the development of municipal self-government will be the basis for future progress in Kosovo.

Names:

PLK - Partia Liberale e Kosovës
(Liberal-Party of Kosovo)

President:

Mr. Gjergj Dedaj

Founded:

1991

History:

Although only operating under the name PLK since 1993, the PLK claims to represent the continuation of the PLSH (of which Mr Dedaj and others were previously members) and as such dates itself from the year 1991. During the 90's the PLK was an active participant in the parallel institutions run by the LDK. The PLK contested the 1998 elections, winning 6 seats in the Parliament. Mr Dedaj, the Leader of the Party since its inception, was the deputy-speaker in the Parliament. In 1999, the PLK became an associate member of ELDR (European Liberal, Democratic and Reformist parties). It has also been an observer member of Liberal International since 1997.

Municipalities to be contested:

19 - Prishtine/Pristina, Podujeve/Podujevo, Fushe Kosove/Kosovo Polje, Obiliqi/Obilic, Shtime/Stimlje, Lipjani/Lipjan, Peje/Pec, Gjakove/Djakovica, Istog/Istok, Kline/Klina, Gjilani/Gnjilane, Ferizaj/Urosevac, Viti/Vitina, Kamenice/Kamenica, Prizren/Prizren, Rahoveci/Orahovac, Malisheve/Malisevo, Mitrovice/Mitrovica, Vushtrri/Vucitrn

Stated Aims:

The PLK places great emphasis on European integration. It looks to a future in which an independent Kosovo enjoys full membership of the European Union. It is committed to a referendum on the future status of Kosovo. The PLK talks the language of reform, particularly in economic matters. It believes that privatisation, low taxation and a more 'laissez-faire' approach to market regulation will lead to a greater economic output and increased levels of inward investment. The PLK is also an enthusiastic advocate for building a strong Kosovar defence capacity.

Municipal Programme (key points):

The PLK names education and health services as its highest priorities, citing the large number of party members employed in these sectors as a factor. The social and political emancipation of women in society is also highlighted.

Name:

**PNDSH - Partia Nationale Demokratike Shqiptare
(Albanian National Democratic Party)**

President:

Mr. Rexhep Abdullahu

Founded:

1992

History:

The PNDSH is the successor to one of the oldest Albanian political movements – the NDSH Albanian National Democratic Movement, although it shares this mantle with the LNDSH, the party it split from in 1994. An underground organisation for Kosovar independence, the NDSH dates back to 1943. As a nationalist party of the right, the PNDSH continues to define itself in terms of its staunch opposition to all things communist and totalitarian, whether in the form of Tito in Yugoslavia, or Enver in Albania. In its own words, the PNDSH “does not co-operate with fascist, racist, terrorist and communist parties”.

Municipalities to be contested:

10 - Prishtine/Pristina, Podujeve/Podujevo, Glllogoc/Glogovac, Peje/Pec, Gjakove/Djakovica, Gjilani/Gnjilane, Prizren/Prizren, Rahoveci/Orahovac, Suhareke/Suka Reke, Skenderaj/Srbica

Stated Aims:

As its name suggests, the Albanian National Democratic Party has historically been a party of Albanian unification, an objective it maintains today. It talks of a future in which Albanians can be integrated into a free Europe “like all the other nations in Europe”. It’s stated “permanent objectives” are the creation of a pluralist system, a free market and a democracy. It sees tradition and the family as the basis on which society should be built.

Municipal Programme (key points):

The PNDSH will not be drawn on specifics beyond the need to base its programme on tradition and the family. It points out that its programme will be adjusted to the “present political and economic circumstances”.

Name:

PQLK - Partia Qendra Liberale e Kosovës
(Liberal-Center Party of Kosovo)

President:

Mr. Naim Maloku

Founded:

March 2000

History:

PQLK is a new party. Most of the members of the party's presidency lived in the diaspora during the 90's. Mr Maloku himself was arrested in 1985 and was incarcerated for three years. During the 1990s, he was involved in training military units in Croatia, before returning to Kosovo in 1998 to assume a senior position in the KLA command structure.

Municipalities to be contested:

20 - Prishtine/Pristina, Podujeve/Podujevo, Obiliqi/Obilic, Shtime/Stimlje, Lipjani/Lipjan, Peje/Pec, Decan/Decani, Gjakove/Djakovica, Kline/Klina, Gjilani/Gnjilane, Ferizaj/Urosevac, Viti/Vitina, Kacanick/Kacanik, Prizren/Prizren, Rahoveci/Orahovac, Suhareke/Suka Reke, Dragash/Dragas, Malisheve/Malisevo, Mitrovice/Mitrovica, Vushtrri/Vucitrn.

Stated Aims:

The PQLK sees itself as a centrist party, bridging the gap between the LDK at one end of the political spectrum and PDK at the other. It acknowledges the contribution of the LDK during the 1990s and of the KLA during the war, but believes that the people of Kosovo want a political party that takes a centrist position, avoiding what it views as the political extremes of one-party dominance or militarism. It believes itself to be a liberal and pluralist alternative to both, capable of attracting support from each. It also claims to differ from other 'centre' parties because of its comparatively "youthful, post-communist culture". It is committed to the attainment of independence for Kosovo and membership of the European Union, and to co-operation with the international

community in the mean-time. It cites freedom of expression and ideas, tolerance, diversity and the free circulation of people, products and businesses as characteristics of the liberal society it wants to create.

Municipal Programme (key points):

The PQLK has identified security and social services as its top two priorities during the municipal election campaign.

Name:

PRK - Partia Republikane e Kosovës
(Republican Party of Kosovo)

President:

Mr. Feti Grapci

Founded:

1990

History:

From 1990 to 1995, the PRK was led by Reshat Nurboja. Mr Grapci has led the party since then. The party's second full congress, which met in 1993, was overshadowed by the arrest, and subsequent incarceration, of several senior members of the party by the Yugoslav authorities. The party contested the elections of 1992 and 1998 to the parallel Parliament, but failed to win any seats. It supported the KLA during its struggle against the Serb military.

Municipalities to be contested:

13 - Prishtine/Pristina, Fushe Kosove/Kosovo Polje, Shtime/Stimlje, Lipjani/Lipjan, Peje/Pec, Decan/Decani, Gjakove/Djakovica, Viti/Vitina, Kacanick/Kacanik, Prizren/Prizren, Malisheve/Malisevo, Mitrovice/Mitrovica, Vushtrri/Vucitrn

Stated Aims:

The PRK sees the attainment of independence for Kosovo as the first priority, but maintains its longer term commitment to Albanian national unification. It believes that the rule of law and protection of civil rights should form the cornerstone of a democratic Kosovo. The party is also committed to securing compensation from the Serbian government for all damage they believe was inflicted, and the assets and money they believe were "stolen" by the authorities between 1981 and 1999. Economic reforms (free market, new technologies, reconstruction etc.) are the PRK's top 'domestic' policy priorities for the future. The PRK also wants to forge links with the Republican Party in the US and other similar parties in Europe.

Municipal Programme (key points):

The PRK has identified infrastructure investment – in electricity, water, roads and telecommunications – as its first priority for the municipal elections. This is followed by economic regeneration, with the focus on small business development, industrial support and job creation, and the provision of health and education services on a comprehensive, universal basis.

Name:

PRSH - Partia Republikane Shqiptare
(Albanian-Republican-Party)

President:

Mr. Skender Hoti

Founded:

1990

History:

Launched by 33 members in a Mitrovica mosque, the PRSH also had branches in other Albanian populated areas in the region such as Macedonia, Montenegro and Presovo and Bujanovac. Mr Hoti has been the party's President since it's creation. Despite failing to win any seats in the parallel elections of 1992 and 1998, the PRSH was very actively engaged in the community, providing free kitchens and running local health centres (known as "popular ambulances" and "popular kitchens") in the Mitrovica area. When the political situation worsened, the party estimates that 60% of it's members joined the KLA, with more than 10% losing their lives in during the armed struggle. Since the arrival of the international community in Kosovo, the PRSH has been the only ethnic Albanian party to have an office in Serb populated northern Mitrovica – a situation which lasted until the end of the 1999/2000 winter when it was burnt down.

Municipalities to be contested:

3 - Glllogoc/Glogovac, Mitrovice/Mitrovica, Vushtrri/Vucitrn.

Stated Aims:

Like all other Kosovar Albanian parties, the first priority mentioned by the PRSH is Kosovo's "freedom". Beyond this reference to the issue of Kosovo's constitutional status, the PRSH sees economic development and the privatisation of Kosovo's industrial assets as a high priority for Kosovo-wide legislative action. On the social side, it believes pensions, and investment in schools and hospitals to be the most urgent requirements.

Municipal Programme (key points):

As a Mitrovica based party, the PRSH has developed some very specific policies for the area. First among these, is the reunification and reconstruction of the town of Mitrovica. They are also committed to the re-opening of the Trepca led smelter which UN Interim Administration closed down due to concerns about its emissions levels, and a rebuilding of the ferro-nickel factory in Glogoc which was bombed by Nato during its air campaign. In terms of process, the PRSH is committed to accepting the results of Kosovo's municipal elections this autumn.

Name:

PSDK - Partia Social Demokrate e Kosovës
(Social-Democrat Party of Kosovo)

President:

Ms. Kaqusha Jashari

Founded:

1990

History:

Established by 12 intellectuals, the Social Democrat Party of Kosovo was led, for its first two years, by Mr Muhamedin Kullashi and Shkelzen Maliqi. He was succeeded by Mrs Luljeta Pula in 1992, but, having failed to secure her re-election a year later, Mrs Pula split from the party and established her own social democrat party (USD). Mrs Pula was replaced in the Social Democrat party she had left, by Mr Besim Bokshi who served as President for four years before being succeeded in 1998 by the current leader, Mrs Kaqusha Jashari. Mrs Jashari was re-elected on 27 May 2000.

Municipalities to be contested:

15 - Prishtine/Pristina, Podujeve/Podujevo, Fushe Kosove/Kosovo Polje, Lipjani/Lipjan, Peje/Pec, Gjakove/Djakovica, Gjilani/Gnjilane, Ferizaj/Urosevac, Viti/Vitina, Kamenice/Kamenica, Prizren/Prizren, Rahoveci/Orahovac, Suhareke/Suka Reke, Mitrovice/Mitrovica, Vushtrri/Vucitrn

Stated Aims:

The party claims to represent a traditional 'social democratic' agenda. It has identified four priorities for political action: First, repairing the damage done to Kosovar society by the war. Second, protection of the vulnerable, particularly the elderly and disabled, through a range of social welfare measures. Third, economic reforms, including a programme of privatisation and support for defunct industries and businesses. And fourth, reform of the educational and cultural fabric of Kosovar society. The party is seeking to forge links with other social democrat parties in Europe, and has applied for membership of the international group of social democrats. It also cites an increase in female party membership and political participation as priorities.

Municipal Programme (key points):

The PSDK has not set province-wide priorities for the municipal elections, stressing that different circumstances require different solutions. In Pristina, it identifies law and order as the top priority, followed by investment in the city's infrastructure, particularly electricity, water and roads. In other places, the emphasis may be different. For instance, in areas badly damaged during the conflict, house building or employment may be the most important issues. Regardless of circumstances, however, the PSDK promises to "respect the local governance that is elected in the free elections".

Name:

PShDK – Partia Shqiptare Demokristiane e Kosovës
(Albanian Christian Democratic Party of Kosovo)

President:

Mr. Mark Krasniqi

Founded:

1990

History:

Founded by Mr Lazer Krasniqi, the Christian Democratic Party of Kosovo led by Mr Mark Krasniqi now competes with its similarly named rival which has joined the AAK. The PShDK claims to represent the continuation of the original Christian Democrat party. With 7 deputies elected in the parallel elections of 1992 and 12 elected in 1998, the Christian Democrats were Kosovo's second biggest political party during this period. Indeed, the vice-President of the parallel parliament was a member of the PShDK. Historically, Christian Democrats were a party of academics and urban intellectuals.

Municipalities to be contested:

14 - Prishtine/Pristina, Podujeve/Podujevo, Obiliqi/Obilic, Peje/Pec, Decan/Decani, Gjakove/Djakovica, Istog/Istok, Kline/Klina, Gjilani/Gnjilane, Ferizaj/Urosevac, Viti/Vitina, Kamenice/Kamenica, Prizren/Prizren, Suhareke/Suka Reke

Stated Aims:

The PShDK sees itself as a moderate party of the centre/right. It cites democracy, self-government and membership of the European Union as the main components of its vision of a future Kosovo. The party is a full member of the International Christian Democrats organisation. Pointing to its even mix of Muslim and Catholic members, it also cites tolerance and peaceful co-existence as important principles for the party. In policy terms, the PShDK identifies the issues of law and order, economic reform (particularly privatisation), and the creation of a proper tax system to finance future services as the main priorities.

Municipal Programme (key points):

The main priorities for the Christian Democrats at the municipal level are improvements in the performance of utilities (particularly water and electricity) and investment in infrastructure (particularly roads).

Name:

USD – Unioni Socialdemokrat
(Union of Social Democrats)

President:

Mrs. Luljeta Pula

Founded:

1990

History:

The Party was borne out of the rift between Mrs Luljeta Pula and the Social Democrat Party of Kosovo now led by Mrs Kaqusha Jashari and as such, shares its early history with the PSDK. Mrs Pula claims that her party, the USD, represents the continuation of the original social democrat party in Kosovo.

Municipalities to be contested:

8 - Prishtine/Pristina, Podujeve/Podujevo, Peje/Pec, Gjakove/Djakovica, Kamenice/Kamenica, Prizren/Prizren, Suhareke/Suka Reke, Mitrovice/Mitrovica

Stated Aims:

The USD's first stated aim is independence for Kosovo. But in addition, it has stated its opposition to any form of partition, to the division of the town of Mitrovica and to the emergence of ethnic enclaves. It also wants to see "war criminals" delivered to the Hague and "war hostages" released from Serbia. The USD is committed to democratic institution building and the provision of "moral and material support" to the Kosovo Protection Corps and a future Kosovo army.

Municipal Programme (key points):

In terms of municipal issues, the USD is committed to a wide-ranging programme of social provision, in particular to finding institutional care for war invalids and social support for the poor, unemployed, retired, disabled and for orphans.

B. Ashkali Party

Name:

PDASHK – Partia Demokratike Ashkali Shqiptare Kosovës
(Democratic Party of Albanian-Ashkali in Kosovo)

President:

Mr. Sabit Hamiti

Founded:

1999

History:

The party was founded in December 1999 in its inaugural party congress held in Urosevac/Ferizaj, and has spent the last few months building up its network of seven branches in the municipalities it will contest this October.

Municipalities to be contested:

7 - Prishtine/Pristina, Podujeve/Podujevo, Fushe Kosova/Kosovo Polje, Shtime/Stimlje, Lipjani/Lipjan Ferizaj/Urosevac, Mitrovice/Mitrovica

Stated Aims:

Peace and security are by far and away the highest priorities for the PDASHK and the community they represent. While the Ashkali are an Albanian speaking community, they are often associated with the Roma community that stands accused by some in the Albanian community of conspiring with the Serbs over recent years. Consequently, they too have seen their freedoms impinged and their security threatened since the end of the NATO action last summer.

Municipal Programme (key points):

The PDASHK's programme focuses almost exclusively on the protection of minority rights within Kosovo's new political system.

Bosniac Parties

Name:

BSDAK – Bosnjacka Stranka Demokratske Akcije Kosova
(Bosniac Party of Democratic Action of Kosovo)

President:

Mr. Hilmo Kandic

Founded:

2000

History:

The BSDAK was established under its current name earlier this year, but its members were formerly part of the SDA. Mr Kandic, the party's President, had previously been vice-President of the SDA until he decided to split from the party and set up on his own. The reason given for the split relates to Mr Balic's retention of the SDA's Presidency despite his absence from Kosovo for seven years.

Municipalities to be contested:

5 - Prishtine/Pristina, Peje/Pec, Djakove/Djakovica, Prizren/Prizren, Mitrovice/Mitrovica

Stated Aims:

The main preoccupation of the BSDAK, like the Bosniac community it seeks to represent, is security. As with some other minority groups in Kosovo, the Bosniac community has seen its security situation deteriorate over the past year or so. Consequently, a return to "normal life", and the freedoms that go with it (freedom to travel, to speak one's own language etc.), are of much more immediate concern to them than is the debate over the future status of Kosovo (on which they too support independence as the preferred outcome). They are opposed

to the partition of Kosovo along ethnic lines, and emphasise the importance of securing the return of those Bosniacs who are currently living outside the province. The BSDAK want to see the Bosniac community represented proportionally in the public services and in government.

Municipal Programme (key points):

Beyond the over-riding priority issue of security, the BSDAK identifies education (particularly the right to education in the Bosniac language), urban development (planning, traffic, re-construction), ecology (refuse collection, environmental improvements) and job creation as the highest priorities at the municipal level.

Name:

**DRSM – Demokratska Reformaska Stranka Muslimana
(Democratic-Reform-Party of Muslims)**

President:

Mr. Dzezair Murati

Founded:

1990

History:

Based in the Prizren area since its establishment, DRSM was legally registered with the Federal Yugoslav authorities in Belgrade, and twice succeeded in winning a seat in the Republic of Serbia's National Assembly. It also won several seats in Prizren in local elections during the 1990s. From 1997 onwards, however, the DRSM's relations with Belgrade deteriorated dramatically, particularly when they entered a coalition with the SDA party in the Sanjak region of Serbia, led by a Mr Rasim Ljadic. With the party excluded from participating in further elections, and its members increasingly facing "persecution" from the Serb authorities, many of the senior members of the party left Kosovo. Many of those who went into exile are yet to return.

Municipalities to be contested:

1 - Prizren/Prizren

Stated Aims:

Above all, the DRSM seeks to protect "the national and political rights of the members of its national community". More generally it looks to a future in which it, along with all other parties, will "defend the rights of all the citizens, regardless of nation, faith, race, gender and language".

Municipal Programme (key points):

The DRSM is committed to working with the international community in the process of democratisation that is underway in Kosovo.

Name:

SDA – Stranka Demokratska Akcije
(Party of Democratic Action)

President:

Mr. Numan Balic

Founded:

1990

History:

While it is certainly the case that the Bosniac community suffered less at the hands of the authorities than did their Kosovar Albanian neighbours, the SDA leader, Mr Balic, still spoke out against State repression, and the party participated in the 1992 and 1998 elections to the parallel Parliament. On both occasions, the SDA won 5 seats. Notwithstanding a deterioration in relations between Kosovo's Bosniac community and the Serb authorities during the war in Bosnia, their security was not really threatened until the weeks immediately following the NATO action of 1999, when several Bosniacs were killed, and a few thousand left the province altogether. They have reported that their situation has improved markedly in the past year, however. So far as Mr Balic is concerned, his leadership of the party has been uninterrupted for the past ten years, despite living outside Kosovo from 1993 to June 1999. In the party's convention of May 2000, Mr Balic was challenged for the presidency by his vice-President, Mr Kandic, but survived the vote by a comfortable margin (Mr Balic received more than 90% of the vote). Mr Kandic was later to break away and form his own party, the BSDAK.

Municipalities to be contested:

6 - Prishtine/Pristina, Peje/Pec, Istog/Istok, Prizren/Prizren, Dragash/Dragas, Mitrovice/Mitrovica

Stated Aims:

At the Kosovo-wide level, the SDA seeks a return to "normal life" for its citizens. By this they mean a secure life for members of their community, characterised by freedom of movement, freedom to speak the Bosniac language (which is

very similar to the Serbian language), and the freedom to live and work without fear for one's personal safety. A related issue, also identified as a priority, is the return of those members of the Bosniac community who left Kosovo in the last couple of years. So far as the future constitutional status of Kosovo is concerned, the SDA is not opposed to the notion of full independence, but stresses that any such settlement must only be reached once minority rights and freedoms are guaranteed. One concern they have in this respect is the possible severance of their links to Bosnia and to the Bosniacs living in the Sanjak region of Serbia.

Municipal Programme (key points):

At the local level, the SDA points to the provision of education services in the Bosniac language and to Bosniac participation in public life and government as the priorities for the immediate future. Beyond this, they believe reconstruction to be the most important issue.

D. Turkish Party

Name:

KTHP – Turk Halk Partisi e Kosoves
(Turkish People's Party of Kosovo)

President:

Mr. Sezair Saipi

Founded:

1991

History:

Like many of the Kosovar Albanian parties, the KTHP was never legally recognised by the Serb authorities, but operated to protect the interests of the Turkish community. In 1995, the party's president was arrested and sentenced to three and a half years in prison. After serving seven months of this sentence, he spent the following three years in exile in Turkey and Bosnia, returning to Kosovo after the Nato action of 1999.

Municipalities to be contested:

4 - Prishtine/Pristina, Prizren/Prizren, Mitrovice/Mitrovica, Vushtrri/Vucitrn

Stated Aims:

By its own admission, the KTHP differs from the Kosovar Albanian parties in only one respect – the defence of the Turkish language and Turkish interests in Kosovo. It is committed to greater legal recognition of Turkish as an official language, to the "re-vitalisation" of the Turkish media (particularly in relation to the now defunct independent Turkish daily newspaper *TANI*) and the right to Turkish language education. In all other aspects of public policy, it shares the aims of the Albanian parties for economic and political reforms and a system of social protection.

Municipal Programme (key points):

Beyond the language related issues mentioned above, the KTHP has identified transport as a key municipal issue in the forthcoming elections with road reconstruction being the main priority.

ERRATUM

- Page 9** Name of Party is "PBKD (Partia Balli Kombetar Democrat i Kosoves)" not "BKDK (Balli Kombetar Demokrat i Kosoves)"
- Page 19** President is "Mr Agim Gjakova" not "Mr Agim Rugova"
- Page 23** Municipalities to be contested are "16" not "20". Delete "Podujeve/Podujevo" "Decan/Decani" "Ferizaj/Urosevac" and "Vushtri/Vucitrn"
- Page 31** Municipalities to be contested are "13" not "14". Delete "Decan/Decani"
- Page 34** President is "Mr Sabit Rrahmani" not "Mr Sabit Hamiti"