## Border Tensions Between Serbia And Kosovo, Serbian Troops On Combat Alert

Serbia has placed its security forces on the frontline with Kosovo in "the full state of combat readiness" and has been ignoring NATO's appeal for calming down tensions between the two wartime Balkan countries, reported Associated Press.

"Ordered the full combat readiness of police and other security units and that they are placed under the command of the army chief of staff according to their operational plan," said Bratislav Gasic, Serbia's Interior Minister.

Further, Gasic said that the actions were taken as per the orders that have been delivered by Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic who said, "All measures be taken to protect the Serbian people in Kosovo."

Kosovo, a self-declared independent country in the Balkans region of Europe, has remained in crisis years after the 1998-99 war which was ended by the NATO interventions. Kosovo's 2008 declaration of independence has not been recognised by Serbia and the western interventions have failed in the efforts to mediate between the two.

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