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Vucic: Barricades erected in north Kosovo will be removed when latter forms association of municipalities with majority Serb residents



Serbian President Aleksandar Vucic on Thursday said barricades set up by ethnic Serbs in the Kosovo & Metohija province's north will be removed when the latter forms an association of municipalities with majority Serb residents.

The Serbian leader, who is on a visit to Azerbaijan, was quoted as saying that "...first form the Association of Serbian municipalities, then we will remove the barricades."

The Association of Serbian Municipalities was agreed to the 2013 Brussels Agreement, aimed to normalize relations, but has never officially come into existence.

Groups of ethnic Serbs erected the barricades earlier this month, preventing traffic toward two border crossings with Serbia proper. The barricades were erected after Kosovo Albanian police arrested a former Serbian policeman.

Serbia last week asked a NATO peacekeeping force in the province to allow the return of Serbian police and military forces to the province, where Kosovo Albanians declared independence in 2008, thus perpetuating a cycle of instability and tensions in the central Balkans.

A spokesperson for the NATO force said the latter has received the request and was evaluating it.

