

Gunfire rattles Serbia's boundary with Kosovo
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Fifteen gunmen opened fire Tuesday against an army patrol in a tense area separating the U.N.-run Kosovo province and Serbia proper, Serbia's state television reported. Nobody was injured in an ensuing exchange of fire, but one attacker, an ethnic Albanian from Kosovo, was arrested, Defense Minister Boris Tadic, was quoted as saying. The shootout, 250 kilometers (160 miles) southeast of Belgrade, came just hours after a shadowy guerrilla group, the Albanian National Army, claimed responsibility for a Sunday grenade attack against a nearby army base.

"This was a very aggressive attack, an escalation," Tadic said. "Although our armed forces are being targeted, we are trying to calm the situation." The arrested attacker was identified as Bajazit Podvorica, a local ethnic Albanian, but there were no immediate indications if he was a member of ANA, which says it is fighting for the unification of all ethnic Albanian-populated territories in the Balkans. The area in southern Serbia was the scene of an ethnic Albanian insurgency until NATO brokered a peace deal in 2001. It borders Kosovo, where a much-larger insurgency by ethnic Albanian separatists led to the NATO bombing of Serb troops in 1999 and the creation of the U.N. administration there.