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Brazil bus hijacker shot dead by police

● Around 31 people had remained on the bus throughout the terrifying ordeal

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

A gunman holding a busload of passengers hostage in Rio de Janeiro yesterday was shot dead by police, officials said, ending the hours-long hijacking.

Dozens of people were trapped on the bus after it was commandeered by the gunman on a heavily transited bridge connecting Rio with the neighbouring city of Niteroi.

At least six people -- four women and two men -- were freed.

Around 31 people had remained on the bus throughout the terrifying ordeal.

Heavily armed police including military and snipers had surrounded the bus as they negotiated with the gunman, who G1 news reported had been armed with a gun, a tazer and gasoline.

"This is the police that we want to see," a military police spokesman told local media.

"It was necessary for the sniper to neutralise (the hijacker) and save people on the bus.

"He (hijacker) died at the scene."

None of the hostages were injured, police said.

A live broadcast of the situation showed several ambulances parked near the bus, receiving hostages as they were released.

The gunman reportedly boarded the Rio-bound bus at



Aerial footage on the Rio-Niteroi Bridge, where armed police surrounded a hijacked passenger bus in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. (Still Image from RECORD TV video)



Drivers wait for the traffic to be reopened near the area where a gunman holding a bus



Police officers stand guard near the area

5:30 am (0830 GMT) and began threatening passengers.

Around four hours later a sniper shot dead the hijacker.

Several lanes of traffic on the busy Rio-Niteroi bridge spanning Guanabara Bay were paralyzed during the hostage situation.

Commuters stopped on the bridge could be seen standing outside their cars and taking photos with their smartphones.

Rio state Governor Wilson Witzel tweeted that he was following the situation and was in direct contact with the military police commander.

"The absolute priority is the protection of hostages," Witzel said.

The gunman -- a young man wearing a white T-shirt and dark-colored trousers -- poked his head out of the bus at one point, showing his face, G1 reported.

The identity of the hijacker has not been released.

It is not clear if he made any demands or what his motivation was for taking the hostages.

Police special forces had negotiated with the hijacker.

"We ask the population to stay calm. Our police are at the scene," military police tweeted.

This is not the first time a gunman has hijacked a public transit bus in Rio.

In 2000, a gunman stormed a passenger bus in a fashionable neighborhood of the city. The hours long hijacking of bus 174 was later turned into an award-winning documentary.

The hijacker and one hostage were killed.

Toll from attack on Burkina military base rises to 24

Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

The death toll from an attack Monday on a military base in northern Burkina Faso rose to 24, the military said, in an unprecedented blow to the army in its campaign against jihadist insurgents.

Seven people were wounded and five others missing, armed forces headquarters said in a statement Tuesday.

The previous toll from the attack, at Koutougou in Soum province near the border with Mali, had been given late Monday as "more than a dozen".

An "extraordinary meeting of the defence council" was underway at the presidential palace in the capital Ouagadougou, a security source told AFP.

The country's main opposition party, the Union for Progress and Change (UPC), said the government appointed by President Roch Marc Christian Kabore had "completely failed".

Donald Trump becomes grandfather for 10th time

New York, United States

US President Donald Trump has become a grandfather for the 10th time after his son Eric's wife Lara gave birth to a girl.

"@LaraLeaTrump and I are excited to welcome Carolina Dorothy Trump into the world. We love you already!" the president's son tweeted minutes before Monday midnight.

It is the couple's second child -- their first, Eric Luke Trump, turns two years old in September. The 73-year-old president has five children from three different women.

His two oldest children, Donald Jr. and Ivanka, have respectively five and three children.

Eric Trump, 35, is the president's third child. He is a senior executive at The Trump Organization along with his brother Donald Jr.

Lara Trump, 36, a former journalist, is involved in animal welfare and along with her husband manages the Eric Trump Foundation, which finances hospitals for children.

She is also a senior official on the Trump 2020 re-election campaign, and is often on TV defending the president's policies.



US President Donald Trump, First Lady Melania Trump, their son Barron, and the parents of First Lady Melania Trump Amalija Knavs (back L) and Viktor Knavs (back R) return to the White House after two weeks spent at Trump's golf club in New Jersey in Washington, DC.