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Brazil bus hijacker shot dead by police sniper, hostages released

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A man who hijacked a bus on a bridge in Brazil has been shot dead by police after holding the passengers hostage for hours.

The attacker seized the vehicle as it crossed the the Rio-Niteroi bridge with 37 on board at around 6.30am local time Tuesday, stopping it mid-way and prompting all lanes to be shut down by local authorities.

[Also on rt.com Bus passengers held hostage as vehicle hijacked on bridge in Brazil \(PHOTOS, VIDEOS\)...](#)

Police began negotiating with the hijacker and he had released several of the hostages before reportedly attempting to disembark from the vehicle while holding a gun to the head of a captive. Military police [said](#) that a sniper “neutralized” the suspect and “all the hostages were released unharmed.”

A spokesperson for the military police [told](#) local media that the man was carrying a toy gun. He had earlier threatened to set the bus alight and claimed to have been a former military police officer, but this was disputed by police.

The incident is being investigated by the Niteroi Homicide unit.