

# Colombian bandits set bus afire, 10 die

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BOGOTA, Colombia --

Highway bandits set fire to a bus during a botched robbery near Colombia's capital, burning to death 10 people, authorities said Thursday.

Gen. Luis Alberto Moore, head of Colombia's highway police, told local media that three young assailants tried to commandeer the bus late Wednesday while it was traveling on a highway near Sogamoso, 93 miles northeast of Bogota.

When the passengers resisted the robbery attempt, the thieves doused the interior of the bus with gasoline before setting it on fire. The blaze killed 10 people, including two of the assailants and the bus driver. The bandits were among the 22 passengers on the bus.

The third assailant, identified only as a 23-year old student, was arrested, police said.

The highway on which the bus was traveling is one of Colombia's most heavily guarded. Moore said the vehicle passed through three army and police checkpoints before the assault took place.