

Man Holds Hostages With Toy Gun in Astrakhan

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The  **Moscow Times**

Police freed three hostages held at a school in the southern city of Astrakhan on Thursday after they stormed the classroom where their captor had been threatening to detonate what turned out to be a fake bomb.

None of the hostages — two students and a security officer — were hurt despite being held for several hours, police in the city on the Caspian Sea said.

"The man was arrested. There were no real weapons found on him, just a toy gun and a fake bomb," said local investigator Andrei Segay.

The man faces up to 15 years in jail, police said. He had asked police negotiators to bring him food and drinks but made no other demands.

(Reuters)

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