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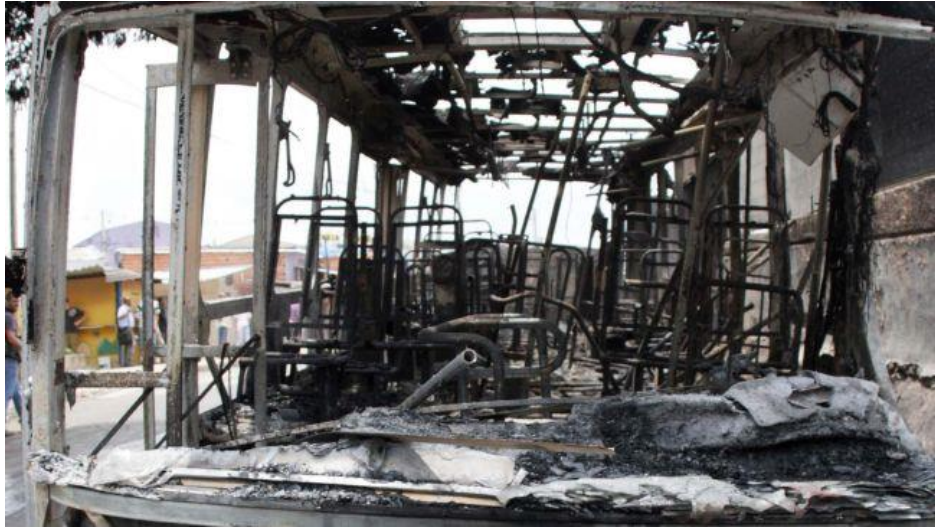
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Violence kills 12 people in southeast Brazil

1/14/2014



Twelve people have been killed in Brazil's Campinas after violence erupted in the southeastern city.

Security sources said the violence, in which ten public buses were destroyed, began on Monday when an off-duty policeman was killed.

A spokesman said police were investigating a number of possible motives, "including revenge, conflicts between rival gangs or even police executions."

Reports say that a 20-member group of attackers, armed with sticks and stones, went through a bus terminal in Campinas where five of the overnight deaths happened.

Police said they torched three buses and looted seven others. In addition, armed criminals riding in vehicles murdered the other victims.

"We have not established whether these deaths are related. All we know for now is that they occurred in the same area of Campinas," the spokesman stated.

According to reports, police have detained nobody so far in the city located 90 kilometers (55 miles) from the state capital, Sao Paulo.

In late 2012, a wave of violence rocked Sao Paulo, claiming the lives of a large number of people.

It was reportedly an undeclared war between police and a prison-based criminal gang named the First Command of the Capital (PCC).