

# ***Sikh hijackers free hostages***

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) —** A 37-hour hijack ordeal ended yesterday when seven militant Sikhs released 79 hostages from an Indian Airlines jet in return for a week's asylum in Dubai and a pledge to help them get to United States.

A U.S. official in Dubai said the United States was unlikely to accept them.

The freed hostages looked tired, but they said they had been treated well by their armed captors. Officials said the hijackers — who were taken into protective custody — had threatened to kill one passenger every half-hour and blow up the twin-engine Boeing 737.

The plane had 93 people aboard when it was seized Friday after leaving Chandigarh in India, a stop on its flight from New Delhi, to Srinagar. It stopped in Lahore and Karachi, Pakistan, before landing in Dubai. [SikhMuseum.com](http://SikhMuseum.com)