

## Gas leak at Cuban school: 22 students hospitalized



*The poisoned students are receiving medical treatment (source: [Pedro Rizo Martínez/FB](#))*

On Friday morning, a previously unidentified gas poisoned several students at the José Luis Dubrocq secondary school in the Cuban city of Matanzas, 80 kilometers east of Havana. The students complained of dizziness, shortness of breath, and reddening of the skin, as journalist Pedro Rizo Martínez [reported](#).

The incident occurred on the second floor of the school building. When the smell of gas was noticed and the first students showed symptoms, the school was immediately evacuated. A total of 22 affected students aged 15 to 18 were taken to the city's children's hospital and received medical care.

Twelve of them are in the pneumology ward, four in the monitoring ward and six are under observation. According to the hospital, all of the students are in stable condition and are not in danger of losing their lives.

The reasons for the incident are still completely unclear. The Ministry of the Interior, the Communist Party, and the provincial education authority have set up a commission to investigate the causes. According to students, the smell of the gas is reminiscent of acrylic. There are also indications that it was also detected in the area around the school.

Mario Sabines Lorenzo, the first secretary of the Cuban Communist Party in Matanzas, and Governor Marieta Poey visited the injured in the hospital on Friday and spoke with the doctors treating them and their relatives.

As a precaution, the school administration suspended classes until Saturday. Director Edilberto Casanova Armenteros explained that the remaining students were fine and had been sent home. According to Cuban media reports, the school will remain closed until the cause of the incident and the leaking gas have been identified.

**Update (30.01):** [As reported](#) by the provincial education department, as cited by the newspaper "Girón", the incident was caused by a student who sprayed pepper spray on a teacher's motorcycle. ([Cubaheute](#))