Deadly incident in Havana: Foreigner runs over nine



Female police officers in Havana (symbolic image): Few official details about the incident are known at this time (source: Romtomtom /Flickr/CC-BY 2.0)

In the early hours of Monday morning, a serious traffic accident occurred in Havana, claiming several victims. According to Cuban media <u>reports</u>, a foreign national residing in Cuba struck a total of nine people at various locations at around 2:30 a.m. local time while driving between the districts of Centro Habana and Habana Vieja.

A 35-year-old woman succumbed to her injuries shortly after being admitted to the hospital. She died of "multiple fractures," as Dr. Iliovanys Betancourt Plaza, general director of the Calixto García accident hospital, explained to Cuban television.

Eight other people were injured and received medical attention. Three of them remain in hospital but are in stable condition and showing positive progress. Their lives are not in danger, according to the doctor. The patients are being monitored as a precaution, as "hidden injuries" could occur as a result of the accident.

The Cuban Ministry of the Interior (Minint) reported that the driver was arrested by security forces immediately after the incident. He is "under investigation" while the circumstances of the incident are being clarified. The ministry did not provide any information about the driver's identity or nationality.

Various unofficial versions of the incident are circulating on social media. According to these, the driver is said to be an Italian or Cuban-American who was driving a red Audi. The fatal crash is said to have occurred at Parque El Curita and at several locations on Galiano Street, where the driver was reportedly traveling in the wrong direction.

There is also speculation that the driver may have been under the influence of drugs. The authorities have not yet commented on these assumptions.

If the rumors about the course of events are confirmed, the driver is probably going to face a long prison sentence. The Cuban judiciary is known for handing down harsh sentences in such cases. The Ministry of the Interior announced that it would release further details at a later date. (Cubaheute)