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NEWS RELEASE

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Woman Charged With Fatal Hit-and-Run of Friend

A woman has been charged with running over a friend and then fleeing the scene last month in Hollywood, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office announced today.

Samantha Cunha (dob 9/4/92) of Pearl Beach, Fla., faces one felony count of hit-and-run driving resulting in death.

Arrest is scheduled today in Department 30 of the Foltz Criminal Justice Center. Case BA485173 was filed yesterday.

On January 20, Cunha was a passenger in a vehicle driven by her friend Sofia Fari Ardalan, 27, when they reportedly got into an argument with a motorcyclist, prosecutors said. Ardalan pulled into her apartment driveway and both women exited the vehicle to argue with the man.

When Cunha allegedly returned to the passenger side of the car, the vehicle began rolling, knocking Ardalan down. The defendant then allegedly moved the gear shift, causing the car to run over Ardalan, killing her. Cunha is charged with then running away from the scene, prosecutors added.

If convicted as charged, Cunha faces a possible maximum sentence of four years in state prison.

The case remains under investigation by the Los Angeles Police Department, West Traffic Division.

[About the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office](#)

Los Angeles County District Attorney Jackie Lacey leads the largest local prosecutorial office in the nation. Her staff of nearly 1,000 attorneys, 300 investigators and 800 support staff members is dedicated to protecting our community through the fair and ethical pursuit of justice and the safeguarding of crime victims' rights.