

Customs patrol vehicle crushes seven persons to death, injures 19 others in Katsina

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A Nigerian Customs Service patrol vehicle on Monday crushed seven persons to death, including a 13-year-old girl, on the Jibia-Kauran highway in Katsina State.

It was gathered that no fewer than 19 others sustained serious injuries.

A resident of the area, Abubakar Jibia, said that the incident occurred at about

10:00 a.m. when Customs patrol vehicle was pursuing a *J5 Peugeot* vehicle which was suspected to be carrying smuggled contraband.

Jibia said the victims, who were believed to be farmers, were standing by the roadside when the patrol vehicle suddenly veered off the highway and hit them.

Another eyewitness, Usman Kabir, said: "The patrol vehicle and the smugglers'

vehicle were on top speed and they were just approaching Jibia town when the driver of the patrol vehicle veered off the highway and ran over the people.

"Six persons died on the spot, one died while being rushed to the General Amadi Orthopedic Hospital, Katsina, while the remaining 19 people who sustained injuries are presently on admission at the same hospital."

He explained that the smugglers escaped when a mob set ablaze the Customs patrol vehicle before the arrival of security personnel.

When contacted, spokesman for the Katsina Area Command of the Nigerian Customs Service, Danbaba Isah, confirmed the incident.

He added that investigation was already ongoing to unravel the circumstances behind the incident.