

In the UAE

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'Caravan of Hope' on its way

By a staff reporter

13 August 2003

DUBAI - An enterprising Dutch woman has embarked on a 3,000-kilometre journey on foot from Teheran to Oman accompanied by a train of four camels in a bid to show her solidarity with the Palestinian people.

Aptly called the 'Caravan of Hope', the endeavour is being sponsored by Shell and will help build a Mother & Child Clinic in Jordan near the Palestinian territories.

Lilianne Donders will walk the length of Iran from Teheran to Bandar Abbas on Iran's Gulf coast from where she will take a boat with the camels to Ras Al Khaimah in the UAE. She will then walk south through the UAE and travel to Oman. She will tread the route taken by caravans of yesteryear, which carried goods to and from countries of the Arabian peninsula to Teheran.

According to the Lilianne, "In these troubled times when the Middle East is being portrayed in the international media as a centre of war and insecurity, I hope that through my walk, I will be able to demonstrate that the region is still a haven of tranquillity. By extending a hand of friendship to the Palestinian people who are so much in need of our support, I hope to rekindle some positivity in the future, particularly in peace and mutual respect." Lilianne and her 'Caravan of Hope' will reach the UAE by early November and the final destination Muscat by the end of the year.