

'Caravan of Hope' to reach UAE by November



SHELL is proud to be able to offer its support for the 'Caravan of Hope', a journey dedicated to the plight of the Palestinian people.

Lilianne Donders, an enterprising Dutch woman, has started a 3000 km journey on foot from Tehran to Oman accompanied by a train of four camels. The sponsorship that she receives for this trip will be used to help build a Mother and Child clinic in Jordan near the Palestinian territories.

She will walk the length of Iran from Tehran 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. Lilianne will then continue her walk south through the United Arab Emirates to Oman. Her route will take her along the caravan routes of yesteryear, retracing the footsteps of the camel caravans which carried goods to and from the rich countries of the Arabian Peninsula to the court of Tehran.

Lilianne says, "In these troubled times, when the Middle East is being portrayed in the international media as a centre of war and insecurity, I hope, through my walk, to demonstrate that the region is still a haven of tranquillity and perfectly safe to travel through as soon as you are outside localised hotspots.

"By reaching out a hand of friendship to the Palestinian people, who are so much in need of our support, I aim to rekindle some hope for a better future that will see the Middle East living in peace and mutual respect.

"Shell's contribution in helping me to achieve this goal is very much appreciated. With Shell's support the humanitarian message which I hope to deliver through my walk will find a greater strength and have a more prominent impact."

Lilianne and her 'Caravan of Hope' expect to reach the United Arab Emirates by early November and the final destination of Muscat in Oman by the end of the year.

For more information please contact Lilianne Donders: - lilianne_donders@hotmail.com

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