



8th of April 2009

Press Release

TUNIS, OUBARI, TOZEUR ! FROM THE MEDITERANEAN SEA TO THE DESERT...

Departure from Tunis... the first time in 27 years !

For its 27th edition, the Rally will start from a Tunisian city. Located a few kilometers from Tunis "the white", Gammarth will host the Rally's caravan. But before enjoying the Tunisian climate, the caravan will obviously cross the Mediterranean ...

For the 2009 edition of the Rally OilLibya of Tunisia, competitors will visit on the 20th of April in Marseille for boarding vehicles. Most administrative checks will take place on the "Carthage" ship while technic checks will take place at the Marsa-Gammarth. All participants of the Rally will move to the tourist complex "Club Dar Naouar" in Gammarth, located on a sandy beach, 10km from La Marsa and 20 minutes from Tunis airport. The Arab-Moorish style hotel is located directly on the beach and the bungalows are located in a large garden. At a few hundred meters, the vehicles will be placed in closed park on the seaside, to the pleasure of spectators. All conditions are met to obtain an awesome beginning Tunisian stay. It is on this Gammarth site that the departure of the Super Special Rally (100% on the beach) will be given. On this beach, on a cover of 5 km, surprises are not excluded ... Indeed, the little sand dunes that mark on the trail are very limp ... The navigation won't be the key, but shoveling can be ... required.

Rally of Tunisia and Libya Oil Tunisia, legitimate association.

For the first time in its history, The title sponsor of the Rally of Tunisia is African. For the 2009 edition, The international oil group, based in 22 countries in Africa, LIBYA OIL HOLDINGS LTD and particularly its subsidiary **Libya Oil Tunisia** joined NPO to improve the reputation of its network through the international image of the Rally OilLibya of Tunisia.

The Rally OilLibya of Tunisia is a Rally-Raid where the drivers are left themselves in the desert to lead a symbolic fight with the nature. A high level of requirements that Libya Oil Tunisia could identify itself, and a culture of performance which fulfilled this association with the organizers.

In Tunisia, with the purchase of Exxon and Mobil, OIL LIBYA represents over 25% of the distribution market with 200 OIL LIBYA stations. The group also invests of areas in exploration, production, oil area refining and gas.

Tunisia and Libya congratulate the Rally!

The 2009 Rallye OilLibya Tunisia , Cross-Country Rally meeting, will take place thank to the Tunisian Ministry of Youth, Sports and Physical Education. NPO thanks the Minister, Mr Samir Laabidi, Mr Bashir Louzir, State Secretary to the Minister and Mr Mohamed Zribi, Director of Sports Ministry, for their involvement in the évent preparation.

Other Tunisian Ministries also contribute to the success of this project by helping in many occasions or involving their employées, including the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Interior and Local Development, the Ministry of National Defense, the Finance Department and in particular the services of Customs, the Ministry of Public Health and Civil Protection.

The 2009 Rally OilLibya Tunisia is organized in collaboration with the Tunisian Federation of Motorcycles and and the National Automobile Club of Tunisia.

On both side, Tunisia and Libyal, we observe the same enthusiasm for this official event. Officials and Partners have worked hard to offer a successful race.





Tunisian competitors in the highlight !

This year, Tunisian competitors on two or four wheels, will be present to participate to "their" Rally. Some of them are regulars but others will discover for the first time the race.

Regarding the cars, the faithful Hend Chaouch will be the only woman representant this year in this category. This dynamic businesswoman (who speaks six languages including Japanese) has chosen to live at 200% her Rally-raid passion. Hend practices many sports like basketball (she was even part of the national team), horse riding, tennis, martial arts. She also practices motorsport since twenty years. It is with great pleasure that we will find her at the start of the Rally OilLibya of Tunisia 2009.

Still in the car category, another regular is Ludovic Leloup, who shows every year his perfect knowledge of the field. He will be one of the best competitors in the final rang.

In quad category, the world champion is a Tunisian and named **Karim Dilou**. Indeed, the 2008 World Champion Rally quad cross-country hopes to keep his title and will fight as never. Karim knows that the job will not be easy.

"The Rally of Tunisia I intend to take a serious option for the title. It will be harder this year, even if my opponent last year, the Danish Ivan Reedtz Thott, shall not participate in the two first rounds this season. Thanks to the support from the Tunisian Federation of Motorcycling and Related Activities, the Ministry of Youth, Sports and Physical Education as well as my partner LG, I think take part in the six rallies scheduled for this World Cup will give me more chances to keep my title ... The final inning scheduled at the end of the year in Morocco, will require more perseverance to keep on until the end of the season. Everything remains to be done ... "

Ridha M'Henni, the second Tunisian quad driver engaged, is not at its first participation. Unfortunately forced to quit in 2006 while a good race, Ridha will try to keep closed to his compatriot Karim Dilou ...

In the Cycle category, three pilots will be on Tunis the 22th of April. **Samir Hizem** participated in his first race at the 2008 Rally of Tunisia. Convinced and enjoyed, he will be again present on the 2009 edition: "I learned a lot last year and I am eager to be back on these tracks. My goal, make a good result by taking a lot of fun. "

Anis Nabel is a Tunisian high hopes for the final result. He was back on the 2008 Rally of Tunisia after several years of absence. He has got one idea : crossing the finish line in optimal position. Finally, **Ramzi Darrj** follows his compatriots example to do the best of him.

Key Data:

20th of April 2009 : Vehicles boarding on « Carthage » boat at Marseille, administrative checks on board

21th and 22th of April 2009 : Technic checks in Tunis

22th of April : The shortest spécial on the beach

From the 23th of April to the 2nd of May 2009 : 10 stages

2nd of May 2009 : Prize giving ceremony

For more information, please visit the website : www.npo.fr

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