

Media Information
Dakar Rally 2018
17 January 2018

Dakar Rally 2018 – Stage 10: Salta – Belén

- **Three MINI crews inside top ten to finish Stage 10.**
- **MINI crew Przygonski / Colsoul maintain sixth place overall..**
- **Al Rajhi officially out of Dakar 2018.**

Munich. The cancellation of Monday's Stage 9 meant an enforced rest day for the competitors of Dakar 2018. Severe storms meant that terrain conditions were particular bad, not just for the competitors, who can race in challenging weather, but also for the support and service teams.

The area around the previous bivouac had flooded to the point where assistance teams could not move their much needed support trucks and, in the interests of safety, the Dakar organisers cancelled Stage 9 to allow time for the large support group to make it to Stage 10's starting point in Salta.

Tuesday's Stage 10 started with some good news for the MINI Family. Following the Dakar organisers' decision to remove Yazeed Al Rajhi (KSA) and co-driver Timo Gottschalk (DEU) from Stage 7's results, the crew was reinstated and could compete, starting from the back of the auto pack, while the organisers further reviewed the events of Stage 7. Unfortunately, the good news did not last...

Although Yazeed Al Rajhi (KSA) and co-driver Timo Gottschalk (DEU) started Stage 10 and completed, their finish position within this stage did not count. This was because the review of Stage 7 by the Dakar organisers led them to announce the crew had officially been disqualified from Dakar 2018 due to missing too many waypoints during Stage 7.

Stage 10 proved to be a long day for the remaining competitors. Total race distance was given as 797km, of which 373km was off-road for the Special Stage. Although heavy rains and wet conditions were not present in this stage, the replacement was extreme heat – around 40° C in the shade. Add to this sand and dunes, many Rios (dry or wet river beds) and the harsh effects of stones, bumps and camel grass, it turned out to be an exhausting day for all Dakar competitors.

The tiring racing conditions of Stage 10 were not made any easier from the combination of racing at altitude and difficult navigation, which meant co-drivers

had to use every piece of their experience to keep on track. At the end of the stage, only four crews of the MINI family were recorded as completing the day's course – three of which were inside the top ten finishing positions.

First home was the crew of Jakub 'Kuba' Przygonski (POL) and his co-driver Tom Colsoul (BEL) in their MINI John Cooper Works Rally (#312). Yet another strong performance saw the pair cross the finish point in sixth place – the same position they now hold in the overall race standings.

Not far behind in eighth place was the MINI John Cooper Works Rally (#307) of Orlando Terranova (ARG) and Bernardo Graue (ARG). Directly behind them with less than a minute in time difference was the pairing of Mikko Hirvonen (FIN) / Andreas Schulz (DEU) in their MINI John Cooper Works Buggy (#305). Completing just outside of the top ten in 12th place was fellow MINI crew Boris Garafulic (CHI) and co-driver Filipe Palmeiro (POR).

MINI Family reports: Stage 10

Jakub Przygonski

"It was really hard navigation but Tom made a good job because we didn't have any issues and no problems. This was good because some guys were lost for a long time. It was a bumpy stage but the car was ok although it was very hot inside. With the bumps it was not so nice and now we are feeling very tired after this stage."

Orlando Terranova

"The idea was to push but the very first part of the stage was very difficult navigation for us. We lost the track several times. In the second part I pushed and the car was very good with this. But when you get lost the guys in front are faster and it is very difficult to get inside the top five."

Mikko Hirvonen

"The car was working really well today even though we couldn't automatically deflate the tyres. Then we missed a waypoint and lost maybe 10-15 minutes. Without this it would have been a really good time. We are after those good stage times now, so we try again tomorrow."

Stage 11, Belen-Chilecito, is the next stage and consists of 747km total distance. For more information about Dakar 2018, please visit the host's event home page [here](#).

Dakar Rally 2018: MINI standings after Stage 10

Pos	Driver	Co-driver	#	MINI	Team	Time
6	Jakub Przygonski (POL)	Tom Colsoul (BEL)	312	MINI John Cooper Works Rally	Orlen X-raid Team	034:40:04 +02:29:11
14	Mikko Hirvonen (FIN)	Andreas Schulz (DEU)	305	MINI John Cooper Works Buggy	MINI JCW Buggy Team	041:38:19 +09:27:26
20	Boris Garafulic (CHI)	Filipe Palmeiro (POR)	317	MINI John Cooper Works Rally	MINI JCW Rally Team	043:37:10 +11:26:17
24	Orlando Terranova (ARG)	Bernardo Graue (ARG)	307	MINI John Cooper Works Rally	MINI JCW Rally Team	050:05:28 +17:54:35

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