

Media Information  
2017 Dakar Rally  
12 January 2017

## **2017 Dakar Rally - Stage 10: Chilecito – San Juan, 751 km**

- Al Rajhi returns to form with 4<sup>th</sup> place stage finish
- Terranova completes today's stage in 5<sup>th</sup>; now 6<sup>th</sup> overall
- Garafulic now in 7<sup>th</sup> place overall; Przygonski 8<sup>th</sup>

**Munich.** After another cancelled leg of the route (Stage 9) yesterday, racing resumed at the 2017 Dakar today as the competitors departed from Chilecito to complete 751 more gruelling kilometres to reach the Stage 10 end at San Juan. With just two more legs of the race to go after today's stage, all drivers are pushing hard to achieve a strong overall finish. It was Yazeed Al Rajhi (KSA) and co-driver Timo Gottschalk (DEU) in the #306 MINI John Cooper Works Rally car that came to the fore today, challenging the frontrunners and finishing 4<sup>th</sup> in the stage.

Al Rajhi's provisional overall place in the standings is now 28th but this is subject to appeal after the Saudi driver withdrew from the race in an earlier stage due to severe altitude sickness. Having recovered, he is now attacking each stage with the aim of climbing back up the eventual ranking.

Al Rajhi: "It was a good day for us. I tried to push hard and we got 4<sup>th</sup>, which is good because we didn't take any risks. The track was very bumpy, a lot of river beds, it was off-piste and a lot of difficult roads."

Just one place behind Al Rajhi in today's stage was the #308 MINI John Cooper Works Rally car of Orlando Terranova (ARG) and Andreas Schulz (GER). The pair continued to show consistency with another solid performance, securing 5<sup>th</sup> in Stage 10 to move up another place in the overall standings to 6<sup>th</sup>.

Terranova: "Today's stage was nice. It was very difficult navigation and it was difficult to find the way in the first river, but we tried to push and the car worked perfect."

Mikko Hirvonen (FIN) and Michel Perin (FRA), who have, to date, been the most dominant of the MINI family in this year's Dakar, faced a difficult day in the #303 MINI John Cooper Works Rally. A collision with a truck during today's stage saw the

pair lose significant time, but they battled on, refusing to give in. They are still completing the stage.

Boris Garafulic (ARG) and co-driver Filipe Palmeiro (POR) were in the first MINI ALL4 Racing car to finish the stage. The #314 car finished 11<sup>th</sup> today to move up to 7<sup>th</sup> place in the overall standings.

Garafulic: "Today was good but it was demanding, very hard with a lot of hills. It was a very long day, 42 degrees and 11 hours, so we suffered a lot but it was good. Filipe was great today; he was a very big part of the result in how hard he tried to not make any navigation mistakes. So happy! "

The next MINI to complete today's challenge was the #322 MINI ALL4 RACING driven by Mohamed Abu Issa (QAT) with support from co-driver Xavier Panseri (FRA).

Abu Issa: "The stage was very good; it was quite difficult. It was very rocky in the beginning but we were trying to keep pace, it was very dusty from the trucks too but overall it was not a bad day. The second part of the stage was very fast and I think we did okay."

Stephan Schott (GER) and Paulo Fiuza (POR) also completed Stage 10, finishing in 17<sup>th</sup> place to secure 16<sup>th</sup> overall.

It was a difficult stage for Jakub Przygonski (POL) and Tom Colsoul (BEL) in the #316 MINI ALL4 Racing car. Navigational difficulties saw the pair finish the stage in 24<sup>th</sup> place but they have maintained a top ten place with 8<sup>th</sup> position.

Przygonski: "Today was a tough stage for us because in one place the car was on its side. With Tom, for sure, we had a lot of power and we were able to get it back on four wheels, but we lost around an hour and a half. It was lucky though because there was nobody to help in the place we were in so we thought we would finish the race there, so it's good to be at the finish line."

Sylvio de Barros (BR) and Rafael Capoani (BR) completed the stage in 29<sup>th</sup>. They are now 19<sup>th</sup> overall.

2017 Dakar Rally: MINI Family standings overall after Stage 10.

Position	Driver	Co-driver	#	Team	Time
6	Orlando Terranova (ARG)	Andreas Schulz (GER)	308	X-raid Team	26:44:04 +01:45:21
7	Boris Garafulic (CHL)	Filipe Palmeiro (POR)	314	X-raid Team	28:25:17 +03:26:34
8	Jakub Przygonski (POL)	Tom Colsoul (BEL)	316	ORLEN Team	28:52:23 +03:53:40
12	Mohamed Abu Issa (QAT)	Xavier Panseri (FRA)	322	X-raid Team	29:30:57 +04:32:14
16	Stephan Schott (GER)	Paulo Fiuza (POR)	325	X-raid Team	31:26:06 +06:27:23
19	Sylvio de Barros (BR)	Rafael Capoani (BR)	339	X-raid Team	32:36:51 +07:38:08
28*	Yazeed Al Rajhi (KSA)	Timo Gottschalk (DEU)	306	X-raid Team	39:51:52 +14:53:09
tbc	Mikko Hirvonen (FIN)	Michel Périn (FRA)	303	X-raid Team	tbc

\*subject to appeal

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