



## PRESS RELEASE

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### SIX MONTH SETBACK FOR HISTORIC SAILING EXPEDITION

The organisers of the Phoenicia Expedition, have announced they will put a 6 month break in the voyage in order to meet the crucial “weather windows” for rounding The Cape of Good Hope as well as getting out of the Gulf of Aden.

The expedition is recreating the first circumnavigation of Africa which is believed to have taken place some 2,500 years ago. In a replica of a 600 BC wooden ship which was built in Syria, the crew have sailed to Yemen which is where the boat will stay for the next few months.

Expedition leader Philip Beale said:

“We are bitterly disappointed that we will have to break from this expedition but given the delays during the first stage of the voyage we cannot now sail out of the Gulf of Aden. So, just like the Phoenicians, we will have to secure the ship and wait for the prevailing winds which will turn in August 2009.”

However, Beale and his multi national crew are still on course to beat the original Phoenicians - Greek Historian Herodotus recorded that the original voyage took nearly 3 years to complete with mariners planting crops enroute and waiting for the harvests.

Beale is philosophical about the delay, “The whole point of the exercise is to discover how Phoenician mariners could have achieved this circumnavigation and it is only through a process of experiencing the problems and challenges of such a vessel that we can begin to realise this. However one thing is becoming clear and that is that the Phoenician’s voyage some 2500 years ago must rank as one of mankind’s greatest voyages of exploration, such are the complexities and difficulties involved.”

Further information on this expedition can be viewed online [www.phoenicia.org.uk](http://www.phoenicia.org.uk).

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Please note that Philip Beale is available for interviews. Please contact Alice Chutter to arrange an interview by meeting or telephone call.

### Photographs:

High resolution photographs of the ship and Phase 1 of the expedition are available to download from an exclusive press page on the Phoenicia website. Please visit <http://www.phoenicia.org.uk/pressphotos.htm> or contact Alice Chutter on the above details.

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