

**NORIT NV**

**For immediate release**

**After a successful attempt to reach the K2 summit last Friday, the expedition team has been facing severe difficulties due to a massive avalanche. While being on top, the avalanche tore down the security ropes at a particularly stiff and difficult passage, forcing the team members to descend through that passage without any security. After more than 40 difficult hours, Wilco van Rooijen, Cas van de Gevel and Pemba Gyalje Sherpa reached our K2 Base Camp safely and immediately received medical treatment. The following morning Wilco and Cas were airlifted by helicopter to a nearby hospital for further treatment of their frostbite at hands and feet. The rest of our team in the K2 base camp has not been injured and is supporting the ongoing rescue efforts from K2 base camp.**

Unfortunately, we lost contact with one of our team members, the Irish Gerard McDonnell, on his way down from the top and we fear for his life. In addition, other expeditions are reporting a sad number of casualties caused by the avalanche.

What was looking like a historical day last Friday, unexpectedly turned into a nightmare. The purpose of the Norit K2 Expedition 2008 was to seriously ask attention for the challenges the world is facing in order to meet the growing demands for sanitation and clean water. We regret that the unforeseen circumstances near the top of the K2 have drawn so much attention away from the magnificent success achieved by our expedition team.

As a sponsor of the Norit K2 Expedition 2008 we sincerely regret missing one of our fellow team members and the other casualties on the slopes of K2 over the weekend. We will do our utmost to bring our team members home as soon as possible.

Michel Schuurman will answer all questions from the press about the expedition. Michel is member of the Norit K2 Expedition home team, responsible for all communications and can be reached by phone (+31 30 6343476) or email ([info@incipit.nl](mailto:info@incipit.nl)).

The website [www.noritk2.nl](http://www.noritk2.nl) is used to communicate about the developments around the expedition and is updated frequently.

For further information, please contact:

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