



AAC Publications

Ghidims Valley, Dosti Sar (6,063m), Umeed Sar (5,826m)

Pakistan, Karakoram, Ghujerab Mountains

After withdrawing from the Diamir Face of Nanga Parbat, following the terrorist attack, my next expedition was to the Ghidims Valley with Polish friend Anita Parys.

After crossing Boesam Pass, Anita and I, along with locals Ilyas and Bulbul, reached the 4,475m base camp on September 7. After a couple of days rest we attempted a snow dome, visible from Mandi Kushlak. We placed a high camp (4,960m) on the 10th, and the following morning climbed snow slopes and a rocky ridge to 5,300m. At this point we saw a cliff ahead, and without the equipment to climb this section safely, we retreated.

At midday on September 17, Anita, Bulbul, and I established a camp at 5,160m on a different peak that had been visible from base camp. It lies on the ridge between the north and south Ghidims passes, northeast of the South Ghidims Glacier. When we woke at 3 a.m. the following day, the sky was clear and starry, and the temperature below -20°C . We left at 5 a.m. and reached the snowline at 7 a.m. The snow ridge above was not difficult, but there were a few crevasses before we reached the summit at 2:20 p.m. The final slope was 45° , and we could see all the great peaks of the Karakoram, from K2 to Rakaposhi.

We named the peak Dosti Sar (Dosti being Wakhi for friendship). I had known Bulbul since 1999, and Anita had shown great optimism and friendship after the Nanga Parbat terrorist attacks. When most climbing and trekking expeditions canceled, Anita wrote to say, "I have booked a flight. Whatever happens I should come and climb this peak, and meet everyone." Our GPS registered an altitude of 6,061m (map height 6,063m). We regained camp at 5 p.m. and descended to base camp the following day.

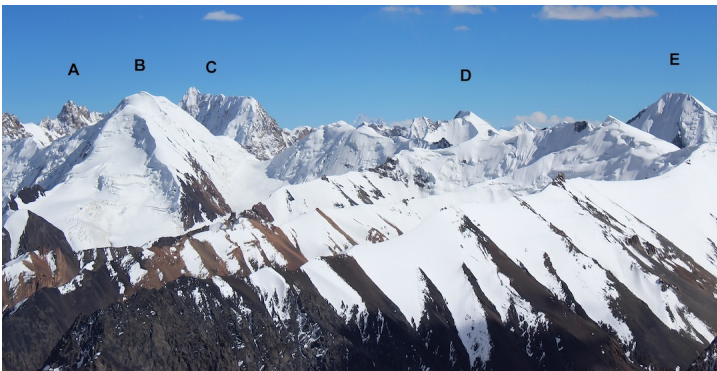
We'd asked porters to be at base camp on the 21st for our outward journey. After breakfast on the 20th I set off alone. I told the others I was going exploring, but I'd already made up my mind to make a fast solo of one more peak. My goal was north of the Ghidims Dur, southwest of Yawash Sar I, and in front of Peak 5,901m. I reached the snowline at 11 a.m. and climbed 40-45° gullies to a final 50° slope. It was icy and I used three Abalakov threads to self-belay with my 20m of 5mm rope. The final two-meter-high cornice was 80°. I reached the 5,826m summit (map height) at 3 p.m. It was one of the greatest days of my climbing career.

At base the team had followed my progress on the final slope through binoculars. By the time I reached the foot of the peak I was really exhausted, having ascended 1,400m and descended the same way. Bulbul met me on the way back to camp, which we reached at 8.30 p.m. I have named this peak Umeed Sar (Hope Peak), dedicating it to the climbers who lost their lives in the terrorist attack.

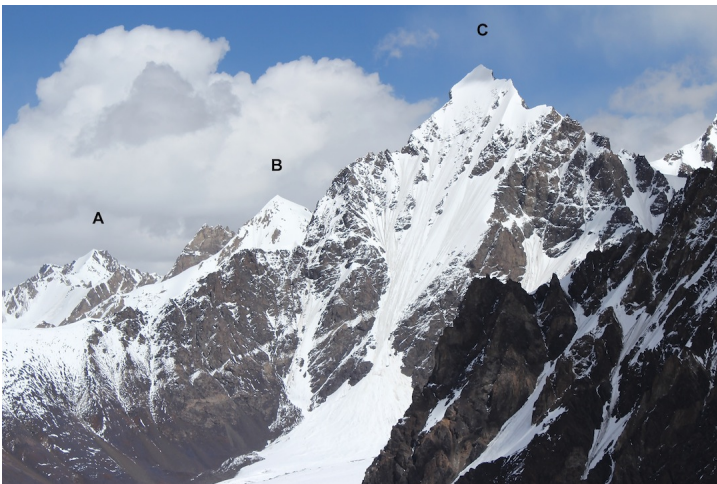
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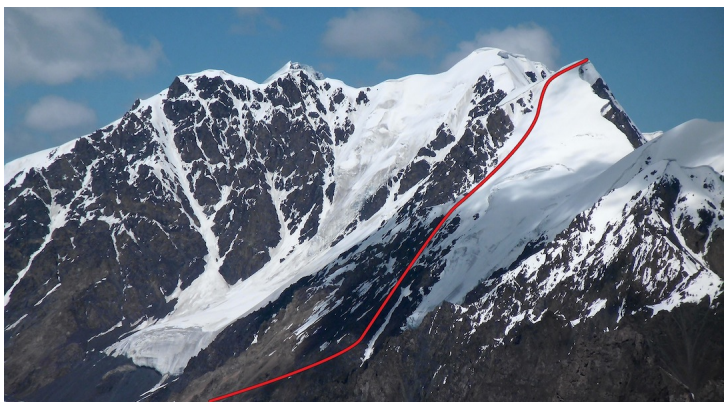
Dosti Sar seen from Panorama Peak to the southwest. Route of ascent and bivouac marked. Flat-topped peak on right is unclimbed 5,937m, with the East Ghidims Glacier to its left.



Unclimbed peaks at the head of the South Ghidims Glacier and beyond, seen from the northwest. (A) Peak 6,093m. (B) Peak 6,047m. (C) Peak 6,200m. (D) Peak 5,913m. (E) Peak 6,000m.



Seen from the southwest over the Left Ice Flow of the North Ghidims Glacier: (A) Peak 5,820m, (B) Peak 5,920m, and (C) Yawash Sar II (6,176m, unclimbed).



Seen from the south-southeast, Umeed Sar rises above the First Ghidims Glacier. Karim Hayat's solo ascent marked. The tip of Koksil I (6,176m) is just visible, rising above the left skyline.

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