

COMMUNICATIONS WITH NUR HASSAN

2026.01.03 [3 January 2026]: Notes regarding WhatsApp communication from Nur Hassan on 2026.01.02 [2 January 2026].

The WhatsApp message consisted of the following text, and three images, as follows:

“My name is Noor Hassan, partner of El Ali Meteorite, if you need prove you can contact Minister of Mining of Somalia. I want you to remove all pictures and comment from your website about the Meteorite. If you don’t remove it in 48hours we shall go to the court”

Nur Hassan is one of the sellers. Sources have told me that he is not to be trusted. He has claimed to own 100% of the meteorite. However, other sellers say he owns only 10% and have contradicted him on the selling price. My conversations with him confirm what I have heard about him. The documents he sent to me along with the threat to take action in court leave me puzzled. What do they have to do specifically with the documentation of PROVENANCE (ownership, acquisition and export) of the meteorite?

Document 1: 2020.02.08 [8 February 2020]: The Commercial License for Kureym Mining and Rock Com. (KMR) was issued 08/02/2020 [8 February 2020] and expired on 07/02/2021 [7 February 2021], one year later. Has it been renewed? If not, does KMR still have a commercial license? The manager/director is given as Abdi Karim Mohamed Ahmed. Is this the same person also known as Abdi Mohamed Abdi, and also known as Shikshigow? The type of business is specified as “mining and quarrying.”

Document 2: 2020.02.08 [8 February 2020]: An agreement between Abdi Karim Mohamed Ahmed and Noor Hassan Sheikh Abdi, notarized by Katib Law Office in Mogadishu, made the same day as document 3. It reads, in part:

Qodobka 28-aad

Tiradda Bogagga Un Heshiiska Ku Qoranyahay

Heshiiskaan wuxuu ku qoranyahay Af-Soomali wuxuuna ka koobanyabay Todobo Bog.

Heshiiskan waxaa ila saxiixay Aasaasayaasha Shirkadda, kaddib markii ay akhristeen, raalina ay ku noqdeen side aan u qornay heshiiskan, waa kuwaan saxiixyadooda hoos ku qoran.

SUGITAANKA NOOTAAYADA

Anigoo ah Dr. Cabdifitaax Cumaar Maxamedleh xafiisyo nootaayo, kuna yaalla Xamar, Degmada Waaberi, Wadada Makka Al-Mukarramah, Kasoo horjeedka Daarta Gaabow, waxaan halkaan ku caddeynaya in qoraalkan heshiiska dhismaha shirkadda kor ku xusan uu yahay mid sax ah waafaqsan shareecada islaamka iyo shuruucda madaniga

ah ee Daika, islamarkaana ay saxiixeen dhinacyada Heshiiskan khuseeyso nootaayaduna hubisay inay yihii kuwii dhabta ahaa ee lahaa saxiixyadan kor ku xusan, laguna qoray diiwaanka Nootaayada.

The following was provided by Google Translate of the above:

Article 28

Number of Pages Written in the Agreement

This Agreement is written in Somali and consists of Seven Pages.

This Agreement was signed by the Founders of the Company, after they read it and agreed to the way we wrote this Agreement, these are their signatures below.

NOTARY'S ATTESTATION

I, Dr. Abdifitaax Omar Mohamedleh, notary offices, located in Xamar, Waaberi District, Makka Al-Mukarramah Road, Opposite Gaabow Building, hereby declare that this document of the above-mentioned company establishment agreement is correct and in accordance with Islamic law and the civil laws of the Republic of Somalia, and that it was signed by the parties to this Agreement, and the notary has verified that they are the real ones who had the above-mentioned signatures, and it was recorded in the Notary's register.

Document 3: 2020.09.12 [12 September 2020]: The confirmation for booking on FreedomAirline for Mr NoorHassanSheikhAbdi from Nairobi to Mogadishu shows that document laying on top of the Shiid Birood meteorite. It is apparently offered as a "proof of possession" during a visit to the site by Nur Hassan. The photograph of the meteorite in the background is interesting in that it shows details of extensive hammering in a closeup, an image that we have never seen before. The confirmation letter appears to be resting on a largely level surface at what was, and is, the top of the meteorite. That hammering and concrete would appear to provide new evidence for local prehistoric cold-forging during and/or after the age of smelted iron. It provides evidence of Shiid Birood's previous use as a highly valued cultural resource. At the top left there appear to be patches of concrete.

9 December 2025

Fragments from a lengthy and animated WhatsApp phone conversation with Nur Hassan in English. I try to explain that I am not a buyer, but that I have talked to p9 December 2025

Fragments from WhatsApp vigorous phone conversation with Nur Hassan. I try to explain that I am not a buyer, but have contacted potential buyers who are concerned about provenance.

I jotted down a few notes on the back of an envelope. Image to the right...

“Everything is mine.”

“I want to cut it 100 times [I give/gave] \$500,000 to Somalia.”

“I am Nur Hassan.”

“You have to sell the rock.”

[He says I have to auction it]

“I have given more than \$1 million. This rock is mine.”

“I tell you; this rock is mine.”

He mentions contacting a lawyer.

Since its clear there is no communication going on, he transfers the call to his son [Ali?].

When he says, “I give,” or “I have given,” it is unclear whether he means that he has paid his own money, or has personally presented money from his associates.

2025.08.31 Gessler to Nur Hassan

30 August 2025: FaceBook message from Abdulkadir Abiikar Hussein:

Nick Gessler: Hi
The owners are cutting the meteorite. They will cut into a part of 6 tons, and 9 tons. They will sell the 6 tons for 2.7 M\$

For more detailed info, please contact Nur Hassan, a major owner at WhatsApp +254—

[+254 722 114682](tel:+254722114682)



APPARENTLY NEVER SENT

31 August 2025: Gessler's response to Nur Hassan:

Hello Nur,

Do you represent the voice of all of the partners in the sale of EL ALI? Precisely, what is your position among them? Since 2020.12.13, nearly five years ago, I have contributed to the characterization and research on EL ALI and in particular consolidating and promoting its cultural and natural heritage values along with others in Somalia and around the World. I have contacted, perhaps a score or more prominent public museums and institutions experienced in the collection of high heritage value objects about EL ALI. Among the primary concerns that they all expressed were the lack of proper documentation of ownership. After repeated attempts on my part to acquire that information from you and/or your partners, no such information has been provided.

This statement of the Getty Museum sums up the positions of a wide variety of museums and institutions:

“Inquiry and Research No object will be acquired without assurance that good title can be transferred. The Museum shall rigorously research the provenance of a work of art prior to acquisition to determine that it is possible to obtain good title. ... For every acquisition, the Museum shall make a rigorous effort to obtain all available information and accurate written documentation about the ownership history of the object, as well as recent import and export documentation. Museum acquisitions must comply with applicable law.”

If you cut 6 tons of EL ALI you will effectively destroy SHIID BIROOD as a NATIONAL TREASURE of SOMALIA and a site of UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage Significance?

On 29 January 2025: A PROPOSAL was made to UNESCO to place SHIID BIROOD and its IMPACT SITE on SOMALIA'S TENTATIVE LIST OF WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE SITES. SHIID BIROOD, the IRON STONE of EL ALI / CEEL CALI.

SHIID BIROOD is among the WORLD'S MOST MASSIVE METEORITES:

4,603,000,000 years of natural heritage depth of the Solar System 13,610,000,000 years of natural heritage depth of the Milky Way Galaxy 13,800,000,000 years of natural heritage depth of the Universe.

SHIID BIROOD is the WORLD'S 7th LARGEST MASS of any OFFICIALLY NAMED METEORITE.

In 2020, El Ali was listed in Wikipedia as the 8th most massive mass of an officially named meteorite. In 2025 El Ali is listed as the 11th. Aletai now has three individuals more massive than El Ali. Campo del Cielo has two individuals more massive than El Ali. And Cape York has two individuals more massive than El Ali. If we only allow the most massive individual of a named meteorite in the competition, then Shiid Birood is the world's 7th most massive.

EL ALI's arrival on Earth is 14C radiometrically dated at circa 2,000 BP. Further dating by 10B, 14C, 22Na, 26Al, and 41C is in process.

SHIID BIROOD is AFRICA'S 2nd MOST MASSIVE METEORITE.

While Hoba (@ 60,000 kg) is clearly the most massive meteorite on the Earth and in Africa and a National Monument of Namibia, Shiid Birood (@ 15,150 kg) is the 2nd most massive and Mbosi (estimated @ 16,000 kg) is the 3rd most massive individual in all of Africa. El Ali's mass was actually weighted on the Mogadishu Weibrige at 15,150 kg, while Mbosi's weight was merely estimated @ 16,000 kg.

SHIID BIROOD is the PREDOMINANT EXAMPLE of a PREHISTORIC INDUSTRY of MINING METEORITES for METAL

2,000 years of cultural heritage depth. We have ship log records that the Inuit (Eskimos) mined the massive boulders of iron from Cape York in Greenland. These journals, penned in 1818, were kept by the explorers searching for the Northwest Passage (a northern route from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans). Their accounts document meeting Inuit Eskimos in Cape York, Greenland who used the iron to make knives and harpoon tips. Some of the most detailed accounts were by William Edward Parry, Captain of the ship Alexander, in the year 1818.

Portions are reproduced below. "Probably no other meteorite has been so intimately connected with the life and fate of so many people..." wrote Vagn Buchwald speaking of the Cape York irons. These accounts provide evidence for EL ALI's inclusion in this accolade. The substantial

archaeological research done on the Cape York iron meteorites, by Greenland and Danish researchers, provides the foundation for the archaeological potential of learning much more about this prehistoric tool-making industry from EL ALI, both from the meteorite and its impact site, through proper conservation, curation and research.

How did they remove small pieces of iron? By cold-forging, hammering the metal, moving it to corners and edges of the mass, by the process of plastic flow, to develop flakes and blades that could then be broken off. They also hammered shallow depressions into the iron, with oblique blows at angles towards one another, building up ridges where the ∞ -shaped depressions

coalesced, and could then be broken off. The hammering created tiny tensile cracks in the iron behind the oblique blows, by the process known as rolling contact fatigue. Many of the massive stones that the Inuit mined for metal were eventually found and taken to the American Museum of Natural History in New York, USA, and to the Geological Museum in Copenhagen, Denmark. The largest meteoric masses that were mined for metal were known as the Woman, Dog, and Savik I. An additional iron boulder known as Ovifak was also mined for metal, but was of telluric, not meteoric iron. Telluric iron rose from deep within the Earth.

All of the above masses show the distinct marks of plastic flow, spalling, rolling contact fatigue and shelling, and the lips, folds, curls, and ridges that formed from having been hammered to remove coin-sized flakes of iron. Small cutting blades were made with additional cold forging and finally set into bone or wooden handles, as serrated knives, spear and harpoon tips.

Archaeologists from Greenland documented the archaeology of many Inuit camp sites where the iron was mined and utilized, finding tons of hammerstones at the localities of each of the masses of Cape York that are in museums today. The basalt hammerstones were hauled in from 50 miles away to facilitate the mining. These iron blades and workpieces were traded over a distance of 1,000 miles for time period of over 1,000 years.

The foregoing evidence from Greenland, suggests what we should expect to find in Somalia. The SHIID-BIROOD / EL ALI / CEEL CALI meteorite shows identical hammer markings. Moreover, hammerstones have been found in the upturned soil from the meteorite's removal by heavy equipment. And in that soil, one or two pieces of removed metal, showing hammering, have been recovered. In the future, when archaeology at the meteorite's impact site is possible, we expect to find abundant hammerstones, individual flakes, and some evidence of the tools that were fashioned with those metal blades, and the habitation sites of those who mined the metal and their cultures at that distant date two millennia in the past.

Look carefully at the videos and images on our website. The evidence of hammering is clear in the abundance of lips, folds and curls at the edges, and the downward plastic flow over the entire surface, which extends well below the present-day level of the ground, to the surface of

the soil when it was mined 2000 years ago. Look at the images of a hammerstone and hammered metal flake immediately below:

Hammerstone Hammered Flake

Today, we do know something about how iron flakes and blades from cold massive irons may be removed. We know this under the engineering research specialty of metal fatigue. Today, since smelted iron is readily available, and ton-sized iron masses are scarce and protected in museums, we have no need to do what prehistoric Inuit and Somalis did. Today, we invest millions of dollars into research to prevent the removal of flakes, blades and spalls of metal from manufactured steels. Today, our research on metal fatigue, would have been regarded by the Inuit, and prehistoric Somalis, not as failure, but as technological expertise giving rise to a viable new tool-making industry. They did this long before smelted iron became an industry. From 6*11 November 2023, a paper was presented in Nairobi, Kenya at the WORLD OF IRON @ 10 conference entitled "SOMALIA'S IRON AGE BAGAN WITH EL ALI." A detailed paper is currently in preparation providing extensive documentation of the foregoing claims. (N. Gessler)

SHIID BIROOD has been SIGNIFICANT in the TRADITIONS of the LOCAL CULTURES for GENERATIONS. 600 years of cultural heritage depth.

For generations the meteorite was visited and celebrated in the cultural traditions and ceremonies of the local people of El Ali. It was featured in songs, dances, poetry, and stories.. We hope that members of the community will provide us with examples in writing, in sound recordings and on video.

SOMALIA'S CONSTITUTIONAL OBLIGATIONS to HERITAGE CONSERVATION:

Why were the investigations conducted by the Somali Security Services, the Somali esport permit and shipping documents regarding Shiid Birood, not made public? Why were the financial involvements of Al-Shabaab, not made public?

Article 31, paragraph 2, of the Draft Somali Provisional Constitution of 1 August 2012: Article 31: Language and Culture:

1. The state shall promote the positive traditions and cultural practices of the Somali people, whilst striving to eliminate from the community customs and emerging practices which negatively impact the unity, civilization and well-being of society.
- 2. The state shall collect, protect and preserve the country's historic objects and sites, whilst developing the know-how and technology that shall enable the fulfilment of such an obligation.**
3. The state shall promote the cultural practices and local dialects of minorities.

4. The rights mentioned in this Article shall be implemented in accordance with the fundamental rights recognized in this Constitution.

2026.01.02 [2 January 2026]: **Complete WhatsApp communications with Nur Hassan** (copied and pasted) with graphics omitted.

[5:32 PM, 8/31/2025] Nick Gessler: Hello Nur,

Recently, SHIID BIROOD was for sale:

at \$300/kg * 15,000kg = \$4,500,000 for EL ALI

at \$250/kg * 15,000kg = \$3,750,000 for EL ALI

you propose to sell 6,000kg for \$2,700,000 (or \$450/kg)

at \$450/kg * 15,000kg = \$6,750,000 for EL ALI

So, at this time you are asking \$6,750,000 for EL ALI?

If you cut the meteorite as you propose to do, then Somalia will lose a National Treasure and a site and object of UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage Significance.

Is that what you propose to do?

In about one week, 10,000,000 people will read about your action. The State of Shabelle will be upset with you.

Is this the route that you will take?

Or do I misunderstand you?

If you have a reasonable proposal to solve this issue, we are listening.

Nick

[8:21 AM, 9/1/2025] Nick Gessler: One month ago you said you would return the stone to Somalia. Now you want money. How much money do you want for the entire stone?

[8:40 AM, 9/1/2025] Nick Gessler: Now you want \$500/kg!

That is \$7,500,000 for the stone.

You change your mind every month.

If you cut the stone, you will destroy its heritage value.

[8:51 AM, 9/1/2025] Nick Gessler: With Global Resources you promised us 2kg to be paid when EL ALI was published in the Meteoritical Bulletin. You did not keep that promise.

[1:22 AM, 12/4/2025] Nur Hassan: Hi

[12:31 PM, 12/9/2025] Nur Hassan: Ok

[12:32 PM, 12/9/2025] Nur Hassan: <https://people.duke.edu/~ng46/El-Ali/>

[12:33 PM, 12/9/2025] Nick Gessler: I told you that I would remove the picture.

[2:10 PM, 12/9/2025] Nick Gessler: Here are the emails of the journalists who are writing about the Shiid Birood site and meteorite:

"Daniel Vergano" <daniel.vergano@sci.am.com>

"Jacob Kushner" <jacobfkushner@gmail.com>

"Martin Fletcher" <martin.anthony.fletcher@gmail.com>

You, or Nur Hassan, may wish to write to them directly.

I do not control what the journalists will say.

No one before, in the history of this planet, has cut a meteorite of this size, or of this prehistoric, historic and cultural significance, to pieces. It is the world's 7th or 11th largest, and Africa's 2nd or 3rd largest. And it is the largest meteorite on this Earth that has been mined-for-metal for about 2-3000 years. If the meteorite and the site where it was found, are destroyed to make keychains, slices, beads and paperweights. A National Treasure of Somalia will have permanently been destroyed. It will be forever gone. For cutting, the Chinese meteorite called Aletai can be purchased for about \$100 / kilogram. Why would a cutter pay \$200 / kilogram to purchase Shiid Birood? I personally think a better strategy would be to sell it to an institution or a museum that will conserve and care for it. Instead of it being the world's 7th or 11th largest, and Africa's 2nd or 3rd largest, it could be #1 in its having been the beginning of the iron age in Africa. #1!

[2:19 PM, 12/9/2025] Nick Gessler: If you wish me to put your documents on our website, please send them and I will do so.

If you do not wish me to put your documents on our website, please do not send them to me.

I have contacted some of the largest museums and auction houses in the world. None have asked me to make you an offer on their behalf. You must ask yourselves, "why do they not buy it?" The answer is that many do not have the money. And none of them wish to purchase an

object which originated from a country that may some day wish to have the pieces back. Perhaps some people like Elon Musk or Bill Gates would not mind purchasing it and then gifting it back to Somalia. The only way to reach those people is through the media. To date, none of them have shown interest.

[2:56 PM, 12/9/2025] Nick Gessler: In this country, and in other countries, the ownership of meteorites has been contested. There is law about the ownership of previously unowned property. The law specifies two ways in which an unowned property may be come owned. One way is by "possession." The other way is by "accession." They are summarized on our website:

<https://people.duke.edu/~ng46/El-Ali/#:~:text=ON%20THE%20OWNERSHIP%20OF%20PREVIOUSLY%20UNOWNED%20PROPERTY%3A>

[2:57 PM, 12/9/2025] Nick Gessler: I would advise you to read those publications, and others, before you send me any documents.

[3:00 PM, 12/9/2025] Nick Gessler: I would also advise you to read about "provenance." These are the guidelines provided by the World's largest museum, which I also approached about acquiring Shiid Birood. Also the Louvre, the British Museum, the California Science Center and the Smithsonian.

<https://people.duke.edu/~ng46/El-Ali/GETTY%20guidelines.jpg>

[11:47 AM, 12/11/2025] Nick Gessler: In order to avoid any past and future misunderstandings, please put any further communications in writing in English. I have given you the names of three auction houses. Please contact them.

[11:50 AM, 12/11/2025] Nick Gessler: I have also given you the contact information for 3 journalists. Please contact them.

[11:51 AM, 12/11/2025] Nur Hassan: Alright

[11:59 AM, 12/11/2025] Nur Hassan: Thanks for your offers but I'm not interested my interest was you to take down my photos which was on your site and you did so and I'm grateful.

[12:00 PM, 12/11/2025] Nick Gessler: Have a pleasant day...

[12:03 PM, 1/2/2026] Nur Hassan: My name is Noor Hassan, partner of El Ali Meteorite, if you need prove you can contact Minister of Mining of Somalia. I want you to remove all pictures and comment from your website about the Meteorite. If you don't remove it in 48hours we shall go to the court