Outlook

Re: El-Ali Meteorite on sale at Hessink's Auction in the Netherlands

From Nicholas Gessler, Ph.D. <nick.gessler@duke.edu>
Date Mon 2/16/2026 4:09 PM
To Richard Hessink <Richard@hessink.com>
Bcc Martin Fletcher <martin.anthony.fletcher@gmail.com>

Dear Richard Hissink,

Thank you for your email. Please visit our web resource at https://people.duke.edu/~ng46/El-Ali/. Our website was a collaborative effort which began in 2021.01.07. It's size is approximately ~1 GB, while our research files are ~47 GB.

I was initially contacted by the sellers on 2020.12.13, to help them characterize the meteorite and to sell it. I am largely responsible for the "History" writeup in the Meteoritical Bulletin. The sellers promised our North American Team two kilograms of the meteorite on the date of the Bulletin's publication on EL ALI on 2021.07.17. But on publication day, they refused to provide anything, and on 2021.08.22 they cut off any further cooperation. While trying to find a home for Shiid Birood (the currently preferred name) I contacted more than a dozen institutions, advising the sellers that they must disclose realistic PROVENANCE, which they refused for years, and must reduce their asking price significantly from $200,000,000. It is now at $3,200.000.. For five years, colleagues and I have been delving deeply into its cultural and natural heritage prehistoric and historic significance. Please visit our main page which began simply as a transparent bulletin board for information. It was slowly reorganized into a PHOTO JOURNAL of its prehistoric and historic heritage significance, and more recently a CHRONOLOGY of events. It is updated frequently. Please note that Abdirahman Haji-Jama, of Global Resources, under the sellers' direction, claimed, in their apocryphal "history," that their prospectors found the meteorite on 2020.04.05. False! Somali Media published at least seven (7) interviews of altercations at the meteorite impact site as early as two (2) months before their claimed day of discovery. We only became aware of the controversies surrounding the acquisition of the meteorite after the HISTORY portion of the METEORITICAL BULLETIN entry was published. There are also irregularities in the documentation from the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources: a false GPS location and no evidence of a prospecting permit ever having been issued.

The sellers have been aware of our research for five years. They still will not provide GPS coordinates for the impact site. Nur has claimed that no one owned the meteorite before he did. He has been aware of our website and has communicated sporadically with me on WhatsApp since 2025.08.31. He asked that I remove his photo from our website as recently as 2025.12.11. I did so. Nur's English was not fluent, and his son Ali's English was much better. Is the gentleman in the white shirt Nur's son, Ali?

The Minister of Petroleum and Minerals Resources has been aware of our research since 2026.01.07 or perhaps earlier.

With best regards,
Nick Gessler

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EL ALI Research Archive (8th largest meteorite in the world)
"Probably no other meteorite has een so intimately connected with the life and fate of so many people..."
https://people.duke.edu/~ng46/El-Ali/

* COMPLEX SYSTEMS: ARTIFICIAL LIFE, CULTURE & EVOLUTIONARY COMPUTATION, Multiagent Modeling & Simulation: ISIS-170, CompSci-107, VisualMediaStudies-172
* ESPIONAGE, CRYPTOLOGY & PSYCHOLOGICAL OPERATIONS, Networks of Trust, Secrecy & Deception: ISIS-235, CulturalAnthropology-226, VisualMediaStudies-245.
* METEORITICS: METEORITES & SOLAR SYSTEM HISTORY, Science, culture and history of Meteorites: ISIS-230, EarthOceanSciences-230

From: Richard Hessink <Richard@hessink.com>
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2026 11:20 AM
To: Nicholas Gessler, Ph.D. <nick.gessler@duke.edu>
Subject: El-Ali Meteorite on sale at Hessink's Auction in the Netherlands

Dear Mr. Nicholas Gessler,

I was contacting Mr. Martin Fletcher from about a resent article he wrote in the British Newspaper 'The Telegraph' on 10th of December 2025 about the 'El Ali' Meteorite. He advise me to get in contact with you.

In September 2025, after the successful sale of the 'Gibeon' Meteorite (1), we received a request for selling the rare 'El Ali' Meteorite (2) in one of our next International Mineral Auctions. I was invited to Nairobi (Kenia) on the 26th of January 2026 by Mr. H.E. Dahir Shire Mohamed (3), the Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources of the Federal Government of Somalia and the owners of this 'El Ali' Meteorite, Mr. Noor Hassan Sheikh Abdi (4-5) and Mr. Abdikarim Mohamed Ahmed (6), owner/manager of Kureym Mining & Rocks Company in Somalia. (7)

During this meeting, Mr. H.E. Dahir Shire Mohamed, the Minister of Petroleum and Mineral Resources of the Federal Government of Somalia handed me over an 'Authentication of Ownership and Lawful Export of the El Ali Meteorite' (8-9). On the same meeting I presented the 'Terms and Condition' for the Mineral sale and together we signed the contract for the sale of the 'El Ali' Meteorite. (9)

During this visite in Nairobi we also started with the producing for a documentary what will tell the story of 'El Ali', the meeting with Mr. H.E. Dahir Shire Mohamed (Minister of Somalia), my visite to China on the 24th of January 2026 and the preparing for the shipping of the 'El Ali' Meteorite to Space Expo Museum in Noordwijk (NL). We also prepare a promotion tour to London, Paris and Berlin.

Photo with Minister H.E. Dahir Shire Mohamed and me (11).

For more information and details, please contact me.

Yours sincerely,

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(Author of the Catalogue Raisonné of Banksy’s Street Art)