**SENCKENBERG**
NATURE RESEARCH

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To

Coalition of Somali HRDs CSHRDS
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30. June 2026

**Letter of invitation to attend the 88th Annual Meeting of The Meteoritical Society in Frankfurt, Germany from 9th August - 14th August 2026**

To whom it may concern,

Eight representatives of the El Ali community are cordially invited to attend **the 88th Annual Meeting of The Meteoritical Society.**

The meeting will take place from *9th to 14th August 2026* at the Goethe University Campus Westend in Frankfurt am Main, Germany. The meeting is hosted by the *Goethe University* and the *Senckenberg – Leibniz Institution for Biodiversity and Earth System Research*, with support by the *Physikalischer Verein.*

The Meteoritical Society is an international organisation dedicated to the promotion of research and education in planetary science with emphasis on the studies of meteorites and other extraterrestrial materials that further our understanding of the origin of the Solar System. Established in 1933, the Meteoritical Society has more than 1000 members from over 50 nations, including scientists, amateur scientists and enthusiasts spanning the entire range of planetary science.

The goal of this annual meeting is to bring together the international scientific community to present their scientific research via talks or posters to the wider scientific community. A further goal is to stimulate the exchange of scientific results and ideas, and to enable networking. Special activities for promoting networking among students and early career scientists include an early career

scientist lunch on Sunday 9th August 2026 as well as a mentor/mentee program. Public outreach is ensured by the public Barringer lecture celebrating the 50th anniversary of The US Antarctic Meteorite Program (ANSMET).

Further information about this year's annual meeting of the Meteoritical Society can be found here: https://www.metsoc2026-frankfurt.com.

The purpose of this invitation is to provide the El Ali delegation (see list below) with the opportunity to meet and speak and network with participants of the annual meeting of the Meteoritical Society. Beyond this objective, the organisers wish to emphasise that, due to the late request, they have declined to support any further activities and are therefore unable to provide either a dedicated space or any other resources. The professions of the El Ali delegation demonstrate that most are not trained scientists in the the field of meteoritics and will, thus, not contribute to the scientific topics nor will they add scientific benefit to the meeting.

The proposed agenda of the El Ali delegation is to inform about the traditional metal-working, historic cultural practices, and prehistoric mined-for-metal significance of this ancient "rock of iron." Shiid Birood / El Ali / Ceel Cali iron meteorite is a massive (15-ton) iron meteorite having been mined for metal prehistorically, proto-historically and traditionally used as a blacksmith's anvil for several generations.

Some years ago, the meteorite was removed from its original place of find. It is a major interest of the El Ali delegation to claim cultural heritage for this meteorite. For further information and links see:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/El_Ali_meteorite

Below is a list of the information we have regarding the eight representatives of the El Ali delegation whom we are inviting:

PERSONAL

INFORMATION

DELETED

The organisers **will not cover** costs for accommodation, travel, health insurance, nor the conference registration fee, nor costs for a Wednesday afternoon trip or a post-conference excursion.

We would like to request that you carefully consider granting an appropriate visum for those representatives of the El Ali community who are citizens of Somalia to be able to attend the conference for the dates mentioned above.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Jutta Zipfel

*Chair of the Organisation Committee of the 88th Annual Meeting of The Meteoritical Society*

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