

Proposal for Cooperation – N. Gessler, Ph.D. 15 June 2021.

When I began to contact international museums and corporations regarding the purchase of this meteorite beginning in January 2021, I was given very little information and the asking price \$200,000,000. The sentiment of most of those who I approached was that the meteorite should stay in Somalia. I am now encouraged to pursue a plan to ensure that your company is paid a fair price and to ensure that the meteorite is conserved and curated in Somalia for the benefit of the people of Somalia and stakeholders in the scientific and world heritage community.

In short, I think it may be possible to form an international consortium that could raise the sum of money you require. That consortium could include representatives from the prospecting community, business community, government, UNESCO and/or other interested bodies.

- 1) The Somalia government would have to express their desire to purchase the stone and conserve and curate it in Somalia for the benefit of the people of Somalia and of the international community of scientists and others committed to conservation of meteorites. It is posted on the Internet that the Somalia has ratified the “UNESCO Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage” on 23 July 2020 although they have not yet proposed any properties to be listed. On 6 June 2016 UNESCO and policy makers from the Somalia government met in Mogadishu. Somalia has expressed an interest in Cultural Heritage (i.e. the National Museum, Library and Theater) but has to date expressed no interest in Natural Heritage. This needs to change. We should inform them that the El Ali meteorite IS PART OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF SOMALIA. The meteorite has been clearly used by camel herders as an anvil for making their tools for generations and it has been celebrated in dances, songs and poetry for generations. Meteorites, geology, and the rocks and the minerals of Somalia as well as the wildlife of Somalia ARE PARTS OF THE NATURAL HERITAGE OF SOMALIA. (I can send you .pdfs of the UNESCO documents which include the names of those persons in Somalia who have worked with UNESCO on the UNESCO HERITAGE CONVENTION.)
- 2) The METEORITICAL SOCIETY is the world’s largest organization representing persons interested in the science and culture of meteorites. It was founded in 1933 in Chicago. It has over 1,000 members located in 52 countries. The group of scientists I have assembled to do research on the El Ali meteorite will soon be publishing a brief description of the meteorite in the METEORITICAL BULLETIN. Later we are working to prepare a larger publication in METEORITES AND PLANETARY SCIENCES. We are happy to provide credit to your company and the finders in this story. The METEORITICAL SOCIETY is having its annual convention in Chicago the week of 14-21 August. I have proposed to the SOCIETY that they provide a booth, table, wall space and speaking time for us to present what we have learned about the El Ali meteorite. That could also provide us with the opportunity to reach everyone in the international meteorite

community, who I believe would also agree that the Somalia government should purchase the meteorite from your company. The Chicago meeting could be instrumental in convincing the Somalia government that they have a responsibility to work with you towards purchasing the El Ali meteorite. It would require work from everyone to accomplish this, but the outcome would be of benefit to all.

I believe that this is feasible.

It requires an effort within Somalia to convince the government and its representatives to the UNESCO World Cultural and Natural Heritage Convention that the El Ali meteorite IS PART OF SOMALIA'S CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE. I believe that there are influential people in Somalia who could accomplish that.

It requires an effort outside of Somalia to encourage the government of Somalia to purchase the meteorite for the benefit of all the stakeholders, and to assist in raising funds to accomplish the meteorite's purchase. Our participation at this conference in Chicago could assist.