

14 July 2021

HE Ihsan Abduljabbar Ismaeel
Minister of Oil
Ministry of Oil
Baghdad, Iraq

Your Excellency,

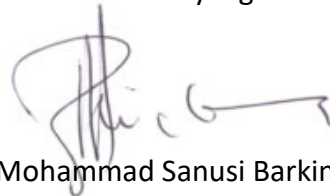
I am writing to extend the heartfelt condolences of the **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** on the **loss of life following a fire at the Imam Hussein Teaching Hospital in the city of Nasiriya**. That this **heartbreaking tragedy** occurs within three months of the fire at the **Ibn al-Khatib hospital in Baghdad** and in the midst of the **global health pandemic** heightens our grief and intensifies our mourning. We will keep the **victims**, the **Government** and the **heroic people of Iraq** in our **thoughts and prayers** during this difficult time.

It is challenging to find the appropriate words that convey our sadness given that the majority of victims of this fire were **patients** being treated for **COVID-19**, their **families** caring for them, **health care workers** or those who were participating in the rescue efforts. We pray that those who mourn will be comforted and that those who are injured, recover quickly.

Once again, at a moment of tragedy, we have also seen acts of **tremendous courage, good neighborliness and community spirit from the people of Iraq** as volunteers bravely rushed to help with the rescue mission. The **doctors and nurses treating the sick** and the **firefighters combatting the flames** are **heroes who deserve our respect**. These events have typified the resilience, courage and kindness that are hallmarks of the Iraqi character.

In this hour of mourning, **OPEC** once again, stands **shoulder-to-shoulder with the people of Iraq**. We are proud that **your great country is one of our Founder Members, the birthplace of our Organization** and we remain indebted for the extensive and unique contribution Iraq has made to OPEC's successes over the last **61 years**. We pray that **Almighty Allah gives you the fortitude to bear this terrible loss and will work closely with you**, as the community of nations rally together to overcome the worst impacts of this dreadful **COVID-19 pandemic**.

Please accept, Excellency, assurances of my highest consideration and respect.



Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo
Secretary General