

26 April 2021

HE Ihsan Abduljabbar Ismaeel
Minister of Oil
Ministry of Oil
Port Said Street, P.O. Box No. 6178
Mansour
Baghdad, Iraq

Excellency Salam,

I am writing to express the sincere condolences of the **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** to the **Government and people of Iraq**, following the tragic loss of life in the **Ibn Al-Khatib hospital in Baghdad**.

The fact that this fire broke out at a hospital at a time when health professionals are confronted with intense caseloads of **COVID-19 patients heightens our grief and heartache. We will keep you, the victims, the bereaved and the good people of Iraq in our thoughts** and prayers at this difficult time.

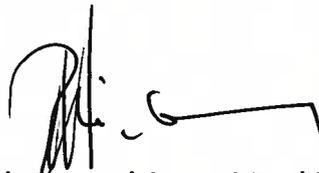
It is hard to find the appropriate words to express our sadness given that the majority of the victims of this fire were either **COVID-19 patients** or their relatives. **We pray for the speedy recovery for all of those injured by this fire.**

In this moment of tragedy, we have also seen the **bravery, courage and compassion of the heroic people of Iraq**. The **doctors, nurses and medical professionals** on the frontline in the battle against the pandemic are heroes who deserve our respect and gratitude. The **firefighters** who courageously fought the fire demonstrated selfless devotion to duty. The **hundreds of neighbourhood volunteers** who also fought the flames embodied the best principles of **neighbourliness** and community which **Iraq is renowned for throughout the world**.

In this hour of mourning, **OPEC stands shoulder-to-shoulder with the Government and great people of Iraq.** Your magnificent nation, **the birthplace of our Organization** and one of our **Founder Members**, is regarded with tremendous esteem, respect and affection by everyone in the **OPEC Family**.

We pray that **Almighty Allah** gives you the strength to bear **this terrible loss** and we will work closely with you, as the fraternity of nations rallies together to overcome the **COVID-19 pandemic**.

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



Mohammad Sanusi Barkindo
Secretary General