

**May 18, 2020**

**Statement from the AUIS Board of Trustees**

SULAIMANI, IRAQ — The American University of Iraq, Sulaimani (AUIS) Board of Trustees has received information that [Nature Iraq](#), an environmental nongovernmental organization led by engineer Dr. Azzam Alwash, is one of five organizations whose assets have recently been frozen by the Government of Iraq's Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Office. Dr. Alwash has appealed the directive through the Iraqi judicial system.

Dr. Alwash is an Iraqi member of the University community who has served on its Board of Trustees since its inception in 2007, currently in the role of Secretary of the Board. The University is otherwise unaffiliated with Nature Iraq.

Dr. Alwash's accomplishments in Nature Iraq have been recognized by the [Goldman Environmental Prize](#), Foreign Policy magazine's designation as a "[Leading Global Thinker of 2013](#)," and other awards.

The AUIS Board of Trustees is currently led by Board Chair, Dr. Jill Derby. AUIS prides itself on being a regional pioneer of transparency, due process, and fact-based decision making. Conduct of its Board and trustees is governed by its publicly available University [bylaws](#).

At this time, the University Board has indicated it is likely to refrain from taking any action under its bylaws until the results of Dr. Alwash's appeal are known.

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