

US strongly condemns assassination of senior Raqqa leader

by Wladimir van Wilgenburg - 15/03/2018 00:00



The U.S. State Department on Friday condemned the killing of Omar Alloush, a member of the Raqqa Civil Council, who was assassinated on Wednesday evening in his home in Tal Abyad.

“We strongly condemn killing of Omar Alloush, a brave & senior member of #Raqqa Civil Council who worked tirelessly to support stabilization in ISIS liberated areas of #Syria,” Heather Nauert, the spokesperson of the U.S. State Department said on Thursday.

“We are concerned by this violence on a civilian leader. Our condolences go out to his family and friends,” she added.

Omar Alloush, who played a key role in establishing councils in Manbij, Tabqa and Raqqa, was killed in his home with a silencer in Tal Abyad on Wednesday evening.

Senior Kurdish officials suspect that Turkey was behind the assassination. It would have not been the first time that Turkey tries to kill Kurdish officials.

In January 2013, three Kurdish activists from Turkey were murdered in Paris. Other officials of the Raqqa Civil Council (RCC) were also targeted.

In January, unidentified masked gunmen in Tal Abyad [attempted](#) to assassinate Ibrahim Hassan, the head of Raqqa's Reconstruction Committee of the city of Raqqa. Moreover, Ibrahim Salama, a negotiator with ISIS was also killed last month, a British reporter said.

"Martyr Omar Aloush, was assassinated by the enemies of the people," Sinem Mohammed, a representative of the Syrian Democratic Council (SDC) said on her Twitter account on Thursday.

"He fought extremist ideology and entrenched the principle of the brotherhood of people and co-existence," she added.