

British YPG fighter fell in a land mine blast in Raqqa

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Oliver Hall, Oliver Hall, nom de guerre Canser Zagros, fell in Raqqa on November 25 whilst clearing mines to make the city inhabitable following its liberation.

The YPG (People's Protection Units) announced his death in a statement that described him as a martyr who “participated actively in the collective life, which is promoted within the YPG”.

“On November 25th, 2017, CanÅÿêr Zagros (Oliver Hall), who was involved in mine clearance work, martyred as he was trying to defuse a booby-trap” YPG said in a statement.

Oliver is the seventh British citizen to be killed fighting IS since the first foreign volunteers arrived in Rojava to fight alongside YPG. Like Jac Holmes, Oliver Hall (24), from the Portsmouth area, was fighting against IS since August 2017. He is the fourth British fighter to have been killed in Raqqa since July.

"Oliver fell taking part in humanitarian work, underlining the volunteers' dedication not just to the fight against Islamic State but to the creation of a new and better future for the people of Raqqa", the Kurdistan Solidarity Campaign in the UK said in a statement.

"Comrade CanÂÿêr Zagros, who joined the ranks of YPG from the United Kingdom during the Raqqa Campaign, actively took part in various fields. Like many other internationalist comrades who made ultimate sacrifice, Comrade CanÂÿêr had been trying to fulfil his duties and responsibilities for months and did a great work" YPG statement read.

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) coalition, of which the YPG is the leading component, have been waging fierce battles with IS militants in Syria over the past 18 months. The SDF have driven IS from large areas of northern Syria, Raqqa and finally Deir ez-Zor.