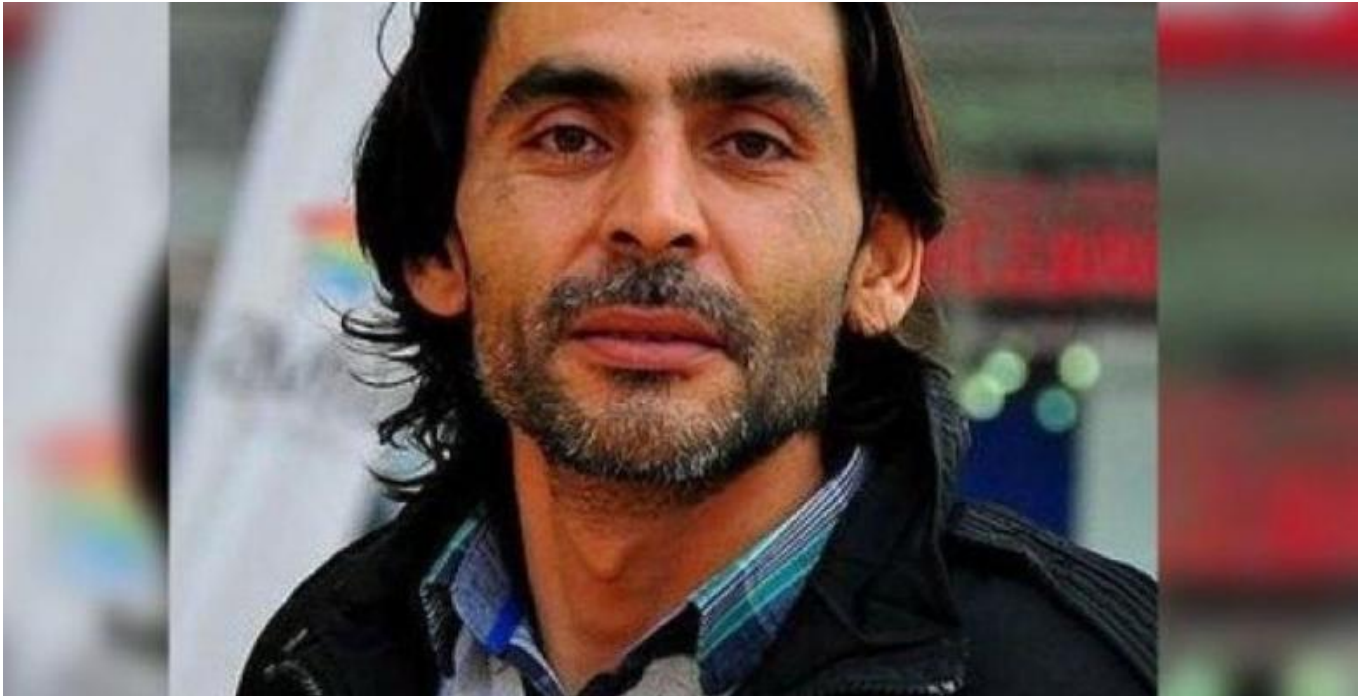


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Syrian journalist & filmmaker who exposed ISIS Aleppo atrocities assassinated in Turkey

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28/12/2015



Naji Jerf, editor-in-chief of the Hentah monthly, known for his documentaries describing violence and abuses on Islamic State-controlled territories (IS, formerly ISIS/ISIL) was shot and killed near a building housing Syrian independent media outlets in the Turkish city of Gaziantep. His death was originally reported by a group of citizen journalists he was working with.

Jerf recently completed a [documentary](#) investigating violence and crime in the IS-held parts of Aleppo for the RBSS group [*"Raqā is Being Slaughtered Silently"*]. The film won a Committee to Protect Journalists'(CPJ) International Press Freedom Award in November.

According to reports, he was hit by a bullet in the head as he was walking in the street. He was taken to hospital, where he died. The attack happened in front of security cameras nearby, according to Turkish news outlet T24 website.

A friend of Jerf's has told AFP the journalist was *"supposed to arrive in Paris this week after receiving, along with his family, a visa for asylum in France."*

The Brussels-based European Federation of Journalists (EFJ) has said in a statement for RT that *"the EFJ strongly calls on Turkish authorities to step up measures to protect Syrian journalists and media workers based in Turkey."*

*"The EFJ notes that this killing comes after Islamic State claimed responsibility for the deaths of the executive director and the head of the production department for a Syrian media collective, in Urfa, in October. It seems clear to us that Syrian journalists and media workers who have fled to Turkey are not safe at all,"* the statement stressed.

CPJ's Middle East and North Africa program coordinator Sherif Mansour said *"Syrian journalists who have fled to Turkey for their safety are not safe at all,"* recalling several Syrian journalists as well as prominent Turkish

opposition figures murdered in Turkey over the past months.

*"We call on Turkish authorities to bring the killers of Naji Jerf to justice swiftly and transparently, and to step up measures to protect all Syrian journalists on Turkish soil," he added.*

[READ MORE: Prominent Kurdish lawyer shot dead in southeast Turkey](#)

Earlier in November, president of the bar association and a campaigner for Kurdish rights, Tahir Elci was shot dead by unknown gunmen on a street in Diyarbakir in Kurdish-dominated southeastern Turkey. RT's crew covering Kurdish protests following Elci's murder was teargassed by the Turkish police while filming on the spot.

In October, two Syrian journalists, Ibrahim Abd al-Qader and Fares Hamadi – also an early member of RBSS group – were found slain in an apartment in the town of Urfa in southeastern Turkey.

Can Erimtan of the Istanbul Gazette has told RT the murderers might be *"local supporters of Islamic State, given the fact they knew where to go and how to do their business."*

*"As for the reason why this man [Naji Jerf] was targeted, he was working towards exposing the atrocities committed by Islamic State, and for that reason silencing him seemed like a fair option to them," he said.*

Erimtan added *"there is a clear link between Islamic State and the Ankara government"* and *"[there is] a lot of ISIS activity in the country, [while] the authorities are either unwilling to take drastic measures [or are unaware] of what to do."*

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