

Country/entity	Syria
Region	Middle East and North Africa
Agreement name	Homs Ceasefire
Date	4 Dec 2015
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/conflict level	Intrastate/local conflict

Syrian Conflicts (1948 -) (1976 - 2005) (2011 -)

The agreements relate to three different conflict contexts. Israel-Syria and Syria-Lebanon. The Syrian-Israeli conflict was a key factor for the Syrian intervention during the Lebanese Civil War, with Syrian-backed Palestinian Liberation Army units intervened in 1976 against the Palestinian/Leftist militias. Following a massacre at Tel al-Zaatar that year, Syria was forced to accept a ceasefire at a meeting of the Arab League. However, the Arab League also mandated an Arab Deterrence Force, consisting of mostly Syrian soldiers with token contributions from other Arab League states, thus further legitimizing the Syrian presence in Lebanon. During a second bout of fighting that began in 1989, caused by the formation of rival Lebanese regimes in East and West Beirut, the Syrian-backed regime won and in 1991 the 'Treaty of Brotherhood, Cooperation and Coordination' was signed to legalize the Syrian occupation as a means to ensure the security of Syria. Syrian forces were forced to withdraw in 2005 following possible involvement in the assassination of Lebanon's President Hariri.

Syria-internal. In 2011, domestic upheaval following a wave of protests across the Arab World soon led to violent repression of protestors by Syrian government troops. The violence progressed steadily and by July 2011 the Free Syrian Army (FSA) was formed consisting of defected military units and new recruits. The FSA and rebel umbrella group known as the Syrian National Council represented the first attempt at coordinating rebel factions in late 2011. However, a steady influx of foreign fighters and increased sectarianism radicalised opposition groups, which relied on foreign funding. The nature of the conflict changed drastically in late 2013 as infighting among the opposition groups increased. One of the more significant developments was the split between the al-Qaeda outfits the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL, ISIS), and Jabhat al-Nusra in early 2014 in addition to the intensified targeting of other rebel factions by ISIS fighters in particular, including the Kurdish Peshmerga, the FSA and other jihadist outfits. Since the summer of 2014, the conflict was further internationalized when ISIS announced the formation of an Islamic state eroding the state line between Iraq and Syria and also in mid-2015 when Russian forces intervened on behalf of the Bashar al-Assad government in Damascus.

Close

Syrian Conflicts (1948 -) (1976 - 2005) (2011 -)

Stage	Ceasefire/related
Conflict nature	Government
Peace process	Intra-Syrian Process (state/non-state)
Parties	Government Deeb Zaytūn, head of the Syrian Intelligence Talāl al-Barāzī, Governor of Homs Rebel Groups Faylaq al-Shām: Āhrār al-Shām and Katā'ib al-Jihād al-Islāmī [participants not noted in agreement]
Third parties	International Observers Yaqoub al-Helo, the representative of the United Nations Development Program in Syria Khoula Matar, head of UN and Arab League Envoy to Syria Staffan De Mistura's political office.
Description	A short truce for the city of Homs allowing for the withdrawal of non-state militants, disarmament, relocation of civilians and past provisions for victims.

Agreement document [SY_151207_Homs Ceasefire_EN.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

Agreement document (original language) [SY_151207_Homs Ceasefire_AR.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#)

Groups

Children/youth No specific mention.

Disabled persons No specific mention.

Elderly/age No specific mention.

Migrant workers No specific mention.

Racial/ethnic/national group No specific mention.

Religious groups No specific mention.

Indigenous people No specific mention.

Other groups No specific mention.

Refugees/displaced persons Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Rhetorical
Page 1, Second Phase:
4. Civilians who left or were displaced shall return to the neighbourhood.

Social class No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender No specific mention.

Men and boys No specific mention.

LGBTI No specific mention.

Family No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general) No specific mention.

State configuration No specific mention.

Self determination No specific mention.

Referendum No specific mention.

State symbols No specific mention.

Independence/secession No specific mention.

Accession/unification No specific mention.

Border delimitation No specific mention.

Cross-border provision No specific mention.

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed) No specific mention.

Elections No specific mention.

Electoral commission No specific mention.

Political parties reform No specific mention.

Civil society Page 1, First Phase:
4. Humanitarian organisations will be permitted to do their work

Traditional/religious leaders No specific mention.

Public administration No specific mention.

Constitution No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing No specific mention.

Territorial power sharing No specific mention.

Economic power sharing No specific mention.

Military power sharing No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general No specific mention.

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation No specific mention.

Civil and political rights No specific mention.

Socio-economic rights No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship No specific mention.

Democracy No specific mention.

Detention procedures No specific mention.

Media and communication No specific mention.

Mobility/access No specific mention.

Protection measures Rights related issues→Protection measures→Other
Page 1, Second Phase:
1. The roads leading to general services (the Post Office, and the Directorate of Environmental Affairs) and the government roundabouts ([the roundabouts including] the station, the Judicial Palace and the blood bank, etc.) will be opened. The protection of roads will be undertaken by a limited number of men from the intelligence services and the police for the specified duration exclusively. The police and intelligence services will be responsible for the operation of these services, whereon this will be discussed with the Central Negotiation Commission.

Other No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI No specific mention.

Regional or international human rights institutions No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law No specific mention.

State of emergency provisions No specific mention.

Judiciary and courts Page 1, Second Phase:
5. Release of those who have been arrested, except for convicts or those referred to court, and of those kidnapped on both sides.

Prisons and detention No specific mention.

Traditional Laws No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Humanitarian assistance
Page 1, First Phase:
4. Humanitarian organisations will be permitted to do their work

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds No specific mention.

Business No specific mention.

Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

Pastoralist/nomadism rights No specific mention.

Cultural heritage No specific mention.

Environment Page 1, Second Phase:
2. The roads leading to general services (the Post Office, and the Directorate of Environmental Affairs) and the government roundabouts ([the roundabouts including] the station, the Judicial Palace and the blood bank, etc.) will be opened. The protection of roads will be undertaken by a limited number of men from the intelligence services and the police for the specified duration exclusively. The police and intelligence services will be responsible for the operation of these services, whereon this will be discussed with the Central Negotiation Commission.

Water or riparian rights or access No specific mention.

Security sector

Security Guarantees Page 2, Third Phase:
At the end of these terms, the situation of the areas of Jazīrah al-Siba'ah and al-Basatīn will be assessed in a meeting between the two sides.

Ceasefire Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision
Page 1, First Phase:
1. A full ceasefire for a period of ten days from the date of signing the agreement.
2. Expulsion [from the talks] of those who contravene or breach this agreement
... 5. The 'Diwār Muhandisīn' Road connecting the al-Wa'ir neighbourhood and the city will be opened for pedestrians only. [Government] Security forces will establish a checkpoint. Those wishing to relocate outside the neighbourhood will be allowed to return to settle their affairs in the office located beside the checkpoint. Those needing to settle [further] issues are to be taken to the [city] centre.

Page 1, At the end of the first phase, the actions taken will be evaluated to avoid negative repercussions. The undertaking of phase one is also limited to 25 days, and on the condition that no article will be implemented unless article one is upheld.

Police Page 1, Second Phase:
1. The roads leading to general services (the Post Office, and the Directorate of Environmental Affairs) and the government roundabouts ([the roundabouts including] the station, the Judicial Palace and the blood bank, etc.) will be opened. The protection of roads will be undertaken by a limited number of men from the intelligence services and the police for the specified duration exclusively. The police and intelligence services will be responsible for the operation of these services, whereon this will be discussed with the Central Negotiation Commission.

Armed forces No specific mention.

DDR

Security sector→DDR→Demilitarisation provisions

Page 1, First Phase:

... 3. Presentation of a list of medium and heavy weapons, which are to be surrendered during the second phase.

Page 1, Second Phase:

1. All medium and heavy weaponry is to be gathered by the Joint Commission consisting of the Neighbourhood and Regime Committees. The weapons will remain in storage facilities within the neighbourhood (in the al-Barr Hospital). These arms will be barred from use and under the supervision of the Joint Commission.

Page 1, Second Phase:

3. A plan will be presented that includes mine disposal within the neighbourhood, except the area of al-Jazīrah al-Siba'ah.

6. Medium and heavy weapons located in the al-Barr Hospital will be handed over to the regime.

Intelligence services

Page 1, Second Phase:

1. The roads leading to general services (the Post Office, and the Directorate of Environmental Affairs) and the government roundabouts ([the roundabouts including] the station, the Judicial Palace and the blood bank, etc.) will be opened. The protection of roads will be undertaken by a limited number of men from the intelligence services and the police for the specified duration exclusively. The police and intelligence services will be responsible for the operation of these services, whereon this will be discussed with the Central Negotiation Commission.

Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces

No specific mention.

Withdrawal of foreign forces

No specific mention.

Corruption

No specific mention.

Crime/organised crime

No specific mention.

Drugs

No specific mention.

Terrorism

No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general No specific mention.

Amnesty/pardon No specific mention.

Courts No specific mention.

Mechanism No specific mention.

Prisoner release First Phase:
... 6. The Neighbourhood Committee shall prepare lists of those missing, kidnapped, or of unknown fate, and will thereby work to determine their fates. In addition, a list of names shall be prepared to include those arrested and facing prison sentences by the regime, [who will later] be released upon surrendering medium and heavy weaponry in the second phase.

Page 1, Second Phase:
5. Release of those who have been arrested, except for convicts or those referred to court, and of those kidnapped on both sides.

Vetting No specific mention.

Victims No specific mention.

Missing persons First Phase:
... 6. The Neighbourhood Committee shall prepare lists of those missing, kidnapped, or of unknown fate, and will thereby work to determine their fates. In addition, a list of names shall be prepared to include those arrested and facing prison sentences by the regime, [who will later] be released upon surrendering medium and heavy weaponry in the second phase.

Reparations No specific mention.

Reconciliation No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory International Observers
Yaqoub al-Helo, the representative of the United Nations Development Program in Syria [signatory status unknown.]
Khoula Matar, head of UN and Arab League Envoy to Syria Staffan De Mistura's political office. [signatory status unknown.]

Other international signatory No specific mention.

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar No specific mention.

Enforcement mechanism No specific mention.

Related cases No specific mention.

Source Source: 'Al-Arabi al-Jadeed publishes the truce agreement for al-Wa'er neighbourhood in Homs', al-Araby, 4 December 2015, <https://www.alaraby.co.uk/politics/2015/12/3/العربي-الجديد-ينشر-اتفاق-هدنة-حي-الوعر-في-حمص>
