

Country/entity	Syria
Region	Middle East and North Africa
Agreement name	Azaz City Agreement between Ahrar al-Sham (AAS) and Jabhat al-Sham
Date	13 Nov 2016
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	Implementation/renegotiation
Conflict nature	Inter-group
Peace process	Syrian Local Agreements
Parties	Harakat Ahrar al-Sham; Jabhat al- Shamiyya
Third parties	President of the Central Court – Azaz, [illegible]
Description	Following a dispute over a checkpoint in the City of Afrin between Harakat Ahrar al-Sham and Jabhat al-Shamiyya, the Central Court in Azaz ruled that Harakat Ahrar al-Sham owes an apology to Jabhat al-Shamiyya and that control over the checkpoint return to the Central Court according to the previous rulling on 25/7/2016.

Agreement document [SY_161114_Azaz City Agreement Between Ahrar Al-Sham and Jabhat al-Sham_EN.pdf \(opens in new tab\) | Download PDF](#)

Agreement document (original language) [SY_161114_Azaz City Agreement Between Ahrar Al-Sham and Jabhat al-Sham_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	No specific mention.
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 No specific mention.

**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 Page 1, The present Central Court in Azaz has entered the conflict situation that has arisen between Harakat Ahrar al-Sham [The Movement of the Free Men of the Levant] on the one side and Jabhat al-Shamiyya [The Levant Front] on the other side concerning the dispute that arose by the major traffic checkpoint in the city of Afrin. The solution of the situation was that the Central Court will supervise the situation in Azaz by overlooking the conduct of the affairs of the checkpoint and crossing to the city of Afrin by removing the two sides from the management of the checkpoint. The Central Court will take over [the management]. The checkpoint of the National Hospital will be subject to supervision and management standards.

Protection measures No specific mention.

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, In order for the Central Court in the province to follow its principle of neutrality in dealing with general issues, the Court has decided that:
There will be an apology for dismissing the implementation of the mentioned agreement between the two sides. The elements of the judicial control and its official documents will be withdrawn.

Prisons and detention No specific mention.

Traditional Laws No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction No specific mention.

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 No specific mention.

Water or riparian rights or access No specific mention.

Security sector

Security Guarantees No specific mention.

Ceasefire No specific mention.

Police No specific mention.

Armed forces No specific mention.

DDR No specific mention.

Intelligence services No specific mention.

Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces Page 1, The present Central Court in Azaz has entered the conflict situation that has arisen between Harakat Ahrar al-Sham [The Movement of the Free Men of the Levant] on the one side and Jabhat al-Shamiyya [The Levant Front] on the other side concerning the dispute that arose by the major traffic checkpoint in the city of Afrin. The solution of the situation was that the Central Court will supervise the situation in Azaz by overlooking the conduct of the affairs of the checkpoint and crossing to the city of Afrin by removing the two sides from the management of the checkpoint. The Central Court will take over [the management]. The checkpoint of the National Hospital will be subject to supervision and management standards.

Page 1, On Wednesday 9/11/2016, members of Harakat Ahrar al-Sham, under the lead of Abu Hussni Ahrar, came to the mentioned checkpoint, dismissed the members of the court and took over the checkpoint with the force of weapons on the grounds that the court will not ban the passage of cars from the Bab al-Salama crossing towards the city of Afrin.

Page 1, Despite the request of the Central Court to Abi al-Waleed Ahrar al-Sham, Deputy Commander of Harakat Ahrar al-Sham in Azaz, to implement the agreement according to its wording, he did not do so. He did not take the incident of the checkpoint seriously, stating that 80% of the resources of the checkpoint belong to Harakat Ahrar al-Sham.

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	No specific mention.
Vetting	No specific mention.
Victims	No specific mention.
Missing persons	No specific mention.
Reparations	No specific mention.
Reconciliation	No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory	No specific mention.
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 Account of Mete Sohtaoglu, Twitter, 14 November 2016, 3:49am, <https://twitter.com/metesohtaoglu/status/798130794484989953>
