

<b>Country/entity</b>	Syria
<b>Region</b>	Middle East and North Africa
<b>Agreement name</b>	Minutes of Agreement (between Ahrar al-Sham (AAS) and Jaysh al-Fatah, Idlib)
<b>Date</b>	21 Jul 2016
<b>Agreement status</b>	Multiparty signed/agreed
<b>Interim arrangement</b>	Yes
<b>Agreement/conflict level</b>	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 - )

<b>Stage</b>	Pre-negotiation/process
<b>Conflict nature</b>	Inter-group
<b>Peace process</b>	Syrian Local Agreements
<b>Parties</b>	Side one: Harakat Ahrar al-Sham al-Islamiyya, represented by Brother Doctor Hussein and Abu Ahmed Tarmanin, member of the Shura of Jaysh al-Fatah [Signed]  Side two: Jund al-Aqsa, represented by Brother Khalid Khatib and Abu Hashim Miri, member of the Shura Council of al-Fatah [Signed]
<b>Third parties</b>	Judicial Committee of Jaysh al-Fatah : Sheikh Abdu al-Rizaq al-Mahdi, Abu Jabir al-Hamawi, Abu al-Harith al-Misri, Abu Islam al-Hamawi (and) al-Mu'tasim b-Allah al-Jazrawi.
<b>Description</b>	Ruling issued by the Presidency of the Shura Council of Idlib on behalf of the Idlib Judicial Committee of Jaysh al-Fatah providing for 9 items: (1) that the dispute be solved by the Judicial Committee; (2) that barracades be pulled back; (3, 4 & 5) that the prisoners and dead are exchanged; (6 & 7) assigning representatives from both parties; and that (8) the media hostilities end and to solve the 'judicial file' as soon as possible.

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**Agreement document** [SY\\_160721\\_Minutes of Agreement\\_EN.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

**Agreement document (original language)** [SY\\_160721\\_Minutes of Agreement\\_AR.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#)

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### Local agreement properties

**Process type** Formal structured process

**Rationale** -> Local issues only; external support mechanism; culture of signing There is a formally established local mechanism to support the negotiation between the two Salafi armed groups (Judicial Committee). Moreover, it seems that both signing parties choose to solve daily pragmatic issues related to their armed struggle through agreements. Although one cannot speak of a “culture” of signing peace agreements, the parties are involved (in a non-proactive and non-conscious way) in a persistent practice of signing local agreements.

**Is there a documented link to a national peace process?**

No

**Link to national process: articulated rationale** No link to the national peace process in Syria is mentioned in the agreement, neither it can be inferred from further research. First, the agreement does not involve local governance actors; and the signing parties themselves are not official state representative. Second, all parties to the agreement reject the national peace process, as it would maintain Bashar al-Assad and the Syrian government in power.

**Name of Locale** Oram

**Nature of Locale** City

**GPS Lat/Long (DD)** 35.791500, 36.568143

**Participant type** Local armed group

**Mediator, facilitator or similar** Mediator or similar referred to

**Mediator (references)** Judicial Committee of Jaysh al-Fatah : Sheikh Abdu al-Rizaq al-Mahdi, Abu Jabir al-Hamawi, Abu al-Harith al-Misri, Abu Islam al-Hamawi (and) al-Mu'tasim b-Allah al-Jazrawi.

**Type of mediator/facilitator/similar** Local armed group Domestic religious organisation/leader or other elder

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## Local issues

### **Ritual/prayer and process (including use of scripture)**

No specific mention.

### **Grievance List**

Although the agreement does not refer to specific causes of the conflict, it lists nine provisions to address local grievances.

Page 1, The following terms have been agreed:

1. The problem will be referred to the Judicial Committee.
2. The two sides will pull back their barricades.
3. The deceased Jund al-Aqsa soldiers will immediately be handed over to the Executive Force of Jaysh al-Fatah.
4. The deceased of Harakat Ahrar al-Sham al-Islamiyya will be handed over to their families after a medical examiner has seen them.
5. Both sides will immediately release their detainees.
6. Brother Doctor Hussein will be the one responsible for bringing any items from Harakat Ahrar al-Sham al-Islamiyya upon the request of the Council of Justice of Jaysh al-Fatah.
7. Brother Khalid Khatib will be the one responsible for bringing any items from Jund al-Aqsa upon the request of the Council of Justice of Jaish al-Fatah.
8. Both sides will cease their media escalation.
9. The judicial file will be terminated as soon as possible.

### **Cattle rustling/ banditry**

No specific mention.

### **Social cover**

No specific mention.

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