

Country/entity	Syria
Region	Middle East and North Africa
Agreement name	Hurritan and Malah Ceasefire
Date	16 Feb 2014
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	Inter-group
Peace process	Syrian Local Agreements
Parties	Jaysh al-Muhajireen wal-Ansar, 'Abd al-Karim al-Awkarani [Illegible] Harakat Ahrar al-Sham al-Islamiyya, Abu 'Amir al-Shami [Illegible] Liva' Shuhada Badr, 'Abd al-Khalaq Abu Ahmad [Illegible]
Third parties	The agreement was made in the presence of Sheikh Abu 'Amir, representative of Harakat Ahrar al-Sham al-Islamiyya and in the presence of two representatives of the two sides.
Description	Eight point ceasefire calling for an end to hostilities, prisoner release, Jaysh al-Muhajireen wal-Ansar to remain in their current location; to not set up in areas occupied by families; division of power over the checkpoints; that weapons cases before the respective date of signature will not be dropped; that Shuhada Badr will not set up in the Malah area; that the sides will support each other in the fight against the Syrian regime.

Agreement document [SY_140216_Hurritan and Malah Ceasefire_EN.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

Agreement document (original language) [SY_140216_Hurritan and Malah Ceasefire_AR.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#)

Local agreement properties

Process type Informal but persistent process

Rationale -> Local issues only; external support mechanism; culture of signing A formally-established mechanism supported the negotiation as Ahrar al-Sham brokered the agreement. Moreover, this agreement cannot be linked to the national peace process. Indeed, both groups oppose the rule of Bashar al-Assad in Syria and reject the idea of a national negotiation to solve the conflict. It is unclear whether the signing parties have previously resorted to agreements as a means to solve recurrent issues related to their armed struggle.

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. The agreement mentions that "The two sides vow to give all forms of support to each other in the battle against the regime of al-Assad, according to their capacity".

Name of Locale Hurritan [Hraytan], Malah [al-Malah]

Nature of Locale Region

GPS Lat/Long (DD) 36.289007, 37.084567

Participant type Local armed group

Mediator, facilitator or similar Mediator or similar referred to

Mediator (references) Abu 'Amir al-Shami

Type of mediator/facilitator/similar Domestic religious organisation/leader or other elder

Local issues

Ritual/prayer and process (including use of scripture) Page 1, In the Name of Allah the Merciful
Page 1, First: The two sides have agreed to a full suspension of hostilities. [They have also agreed] to refer all outstanding issues between them, as well as emerging issues, to the rightful law of Allah by the arbitration of the Sharia [Shari'ah] Board in Aleppo.

Page 1, Praised be Allah, Lord of the Two Worlds

Grievance List Although the agreement does not refer to specific causes of the conflict, it lists eight provisions to address local grievances. It seems that the clashes between local armed groups for the control of Hurritan and Malah lie at the centre of the dispute.

Cattle rustling/ banditry No specific mention.

Social cover No specific mention.