


Peace Agreement Access Tool PA-X <https://pax.peaceagreements.org/>

Country/ entity	Syria
Region	Middle East and North Africa
Agreement name	Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) Positive Response to initiative
Date	19 Jul 2017
Agreement status	Unilateral document
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/ conflict level	Intrastate/local conflict (Syrian Conflicts (1948 -) (1976 - 2005) (2011 -))
Stage	Ceasefire/related
Conflict nature	Inter-group
Peace process	Syrian Local Agreements
Parties	Harikat Tahrir al-Sham; Harikat Ahrar al-Sham.
Third parties	-
Description	Statement issued as part of a sequence of statements responding to an initiative to end the ongoing conflict between Harikat Tahrir al-Sham and Harikat Ahrar al-Sham in Idlib. Statement commits to ceasefire in response to focusing energy elsewhere.

Agreement document [SY_170719_HTS Positive Response to pre-negotiation agreement_EN.pdf](#)  | [Download PDF](#)

Agreement document (original language) [SY_170719_HTS Positive Response to pre-negotiation agreement_AR.pdf](#) | [Download PDF](#)

Local agreement properties

Process type Informal but persistent process

Rationale -> Local issues only; no external support mechanism; culture of signing There is no formally established mechanism to support the negotiation between Salafi armed groups. Moreover, this agreement cannot be linked to the national peace process. Indeed, both groups have a Salafist ideology; they oppose the rule of Bashar al-Assad in Syria and reject the idea of a national negotiation to solve the conflict. Yet, 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. Yet, the agreement is related to multiple local level processes in Idlib governorate in July 2017. The agreement was signed for the purpose of "preserv[ing] remaining energies and land to fight our enemies."

Name of Locale

NA

Nature Of Locale

Region

GPS Lat/Long (DD)

35.731782, 36.708680

Participant type

Local armed group

Mediator, facilitator or similar

Mediator or similar referred to

Mediator (references)

The initiative of the mediation was launched by three clerics: Sheikh Abu Mohammed al-Sadiq, Sheikh Abdul Razzaq al-Mahdi, and Sheikh Abu Hamza al-Masri.

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 Beneficial, the Merciful Page 1, “So fear Allah, and keep straight the relations between yourselves: Obey Allah and His Messenger, if ye do believe”
Grievance List	The agreement addresses the grievances of two Salafi-jihadi groups that lost a number of men during clashes for the control of villages in Idlib governorate.
Cattle rustling/ banditry	No specific mention.
Social cover	No specific mention.
