

Country/entity	Syria
Region	Middle East and North Africa
Agreement name	al-Bab Security Agreement
Date	16 Jun 2017
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	<p>"In the presence of the military factions undersigned and in the presence of the military council and the local council of the al-Bab city and the security organisation and in the presence of the brothers... "</p> <p>The Military Council [Signature]; The Security Organisation [Signature]; The Sham Front [Signature]; Al-Sultan Murad, signed by Abu al-Walid al-Fari ; The Samarkand General [Signature]; Sham Legion [Signature] ;; Ahrar al-Sharqiyyah [Signature]; Al-Muntasir Bi-llah, signed by Ahmed Karamu; The Local Council of the City of al-Bab [Signature]; Firqa al-Hamza, signed by Walid al-'Ali ; Al-Firqa al-Shumaliyyah, signed by Muhammad Mansur [illegible] ; Suqur al-Shimal [Signature]; Brigade 51 [Signature]; Northern Brigade, signed by Muhammad Mustafa al-Uthman; Al-Sultan Muhammad Fatih, signed by [Illegible] al-Shakir ; Ahrar al-Sham, signed by Abu Muhammad [illegible];</p>
Third parties	[Allegedly brokered by Turkey according to secondary sources]
Description	7-point agreement providing for the overall demilitarisaion of al-Bab city through the evacuation of all military headquarters in al-Bab City; defining who is responsible for arrests; prohibition on wearing masks; a prohibition of firing firearms; defining who may arrest soliders (not police); a prohibition on arresting former-ISIS affiliates (civilians and fighters).

Agreement document	SY_170616_al-Bab Security Agreement_EN.pdf (opens in new tab) Download PDF
Agreement document (original language)	SY_170616_al-Bab Security Agreement_AR.pdf (opens in new tab)

Local agreement properties

Process type Isolated example

Rationale -> Local issues only; no external support mechanism; no culture of signing This is a local peace process that is apparently not supported by any mechanism. Moreover, the agreement does not highlight the persistence of a specific issue. Rather it was signed in a once-off attempt to solve the problems in al-Bab city. Finally, the agreement does not reflect a culture of signing agreements; it is the first agreement of this kind to be signed by a number of military and civilian parties.

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, although the agreement involves local governance actors representing civilian constituencies, the signing parties are not official state representative. Second, the majority of the 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 al-Bab

Nature of Locale City

GPS Lat/Long (DD) 36.371143, 37.514409

Participant type Local state actor
Local armed group
Domestic religious organisation/leader or other elder

Mediator, facilitator or similar Mediator or similar referred to

Mediator (references) Turkish Army

Type of mediator/facilitator/similar Central state actor

Local issues

Ritual/prayer and process (including use of scripture) Page 1, In the name of God, most Gracious, most Compassionate

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

Page 1,

1. Evacuation of all military headquarters located within al-Bab city.
2. All arrests and raids are carried out by the Chief Operating Room and the Military Council.
3. It is strictly forbidden to wear the “al-Sham” mask over the face for military and civilians even during raids.
4. Shooting and any infraction are strictly forbidden and the [gun] owner will be accountable and [his] arms [will be] confiscated.
5. The arrest of any military is prohibited through the National Police and the only authority authorized to arrest the military is the main Operating Room and the Military Council.
6. Armed patrols inside the city is forbidden.
7. The seizure of those who used to work for the Islamic State as a civilian or a soldier is forbidden, and carrying weapon is forbidden.

Cattle rustling/ banditry No specific mention.

Social cover No specific mention.
