| | |
|---|---|
| **Country/entity** | Syria |
| **Region** | Middle East and North Africa |
| **Agreement name** | Agreement between Hayat Tahrir al-Sham (HTS) and Ahrar al-Sham (AAS), Badia, Idlib |
| **Date** | 19 Jul 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** | Ahrar al-Sham<br>Hayat Tahrir al-Sham |
| **Third parties** | Third signatory unknown. |
| **Description** | 5 point agreement that the commander of HTS Badia sector will hand over authority to his deputy without further harm to him. That all HTS detainees are released by Ahrar al-Sham; That all headquarters and weapons remain in current possession and that the front is provided further weaponry; that the Badia sector will not enter ongoing combat (in sector); that Ahrar al-Sham fighters are not harassed due to past actions, unless belligerent or if there is a case against the person. In the latter case, photos must be provided by a Badia sector official. |

| | |
|---|---|
| **Agreement document** | SY_170719_Ahrar al-Sham and HTS Agreement, Badia, Idlib_EN.pdf (opens in new tab) \| Download PDF |
| **Agreement document (original language)** | SY_170719_Ahrar al-Sham and HTS Agreement, Badia, Idlib_AR.pdf (opens in new tab) |

**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 singing 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. |
|---|---|
| **Name of Locale** | Idlib |
| **Nature of Locale** | Region |
| **GPS Lat/Long (DD)** | 36.084343, 36.501904 |
| **Participant type** | Local armed group |
| **Mediator, facilitator or similar** | No mention of mediator or similar |

---

**Local issues**

| **Ritual/prayer and process (including use of scripture)** | Page 1, In the name of God, the Beneficent, the Merciful |
|---|---|
| **Grievance List** | The agreement addresses the grievances that arose from the confrontation between two armed groups who fought for the control of Badia area. |
| **Cattle rustling/ banditry** | No specific mention. |
| **Social cover** | No specific mention. |

---