

Country/entity	Syria
Region	Middle East and North Africa
Agreement name	Houran Ceasefire
Date	23 Dec 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	House of Justice in Houran
Third parties	al-Muthanna Islamic Movement
Description	Four point-agreement providing for a ceasefire between armed factions in Houran, southern Syria.

Agreement document [SY_141223_HouranCeasefire_EN.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

Agreement document (original language) [SY_141223_HouranCeasefire_AR.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#)

Local agreement properties

Process type Isolated example

Rationale The dispute was settled by a pre-established and structured judicial body (house of justice in Houran). According to source, the dispute was mediated by an independant Islamist faction. Yet, this is an isolated example of local peace process between the two belligerents (Jabhat al Nusra and Liwa Shuhada al-Yarmouk).

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. The two disputing factions are Salafist groups opposed to the Syrian regime of Bashar al-Assad and reject the national peace process that would maintain the Syrian president in power.

Name of Locale Houran

Nature of Locale Region

GPS Lat/Long (DD) 32.823701, 35.931560

Participant type Other

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

Mediator (references) Page 1, This is the best and fairest resolution) and after the conflicting parties in the Yarmouk river region approved the initiative presented by the al-Muthanna Islamic Movement

Type of mediator/facilitator/similar Local armed group

Local issues

Ritual/prayer and process (including use of scripture) Page 1, In the Name of Allah, the Most Beneficent, the Most Merciful Praise be to God and prayers and peace be upon Messenger of God, and after: According to the words of the Almighty: (O believers! Obey Allah and obey the Messenger and those in authority among you. Should you disagree on anything, then refer it to Allah and His Messenger, if you truly believe in Allah and the Last Day.

Page 1, God is the Arbiter of Success

Grievance List Although the agreement does not refer to specific causes of the conflict, it lists four provisions to address local grievances between armed factions around Yarmouk river. It seems that the confrontation between Jabhat al-Nusra and Liwa Shuhada al-Yarmouk lies at the centre of the dispute.

Cattle rustling/ banditry No specific mention.

Social cover No specific mention.
