

Country/entity	Syria
Region	Middle East and North Africa
Agreement name	Field Agreement between the Free Syrian Army (FSA) and People's Defence Units (YPG) in the city of Ras al-Ain (Serê Kaniyê)
Date	18 Feb 2013
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	Framework/substantive - comprehensive
Conflict nature	Inter-group
Peace process	Syrian Local Agreements
Parties	The Free Syrian Army (FSA); People's Defence Units (YPG)

Third parties

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Description

Coordination agreement between the Free Syrian Army and the People's Defence Units in Ras al-Ain. Agreement provides for a military withdrawal, the non-interference in the city council by armed units, joint-checkpoints between FSA/YPG forces until the city can take over, to secure access and mobility in the city, further cooperation between the YPG and FSA to liberate regime-held cities, end hostile media between the two groups.

Agreement document

[SY_130200_Field Agreement between YPG and FSA.PDF \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

Agreement document (original language)

[SY_130200_Field Agreement between YPG and FSA_AR.PDF \(opens in new tab\)](#)

Groups

Children/youth No specific mention.

Disabled persons No specific mention.

Elderly/age No specific mention.

Migrant workers No specific mention.

**Racial/ethnic/
national group** No specific mention.

Religious groups Groups→Religious groups→Rhetorical
Page 1, untitled preamble, Based on our belief in the unity of a free Syrian land and people, and motivated by the commitment to the principles of peaceful coexistence between all components of the Syrian people and rejection of all sectarian, ethnic, chauvinistic and exclusionary approaches. And in order to unite all people in the battle of dignity against the bloody authoritarian regime in order to build a free Syria where all components enjoy their legitimate rights under the banner of 'Syria for All Syrians' to be a country that can genuinely express the authenticity and the civilization of the coexistence.

Indigenous people No specific mention.

Other groups No specific mention.

**Refugees/displaced
persons** No specific mention.

Social class No specific mention.

Gender

**Women, girls and
gender** No specific mention.

Men and boys No specific mention.

LGBTI No specific mention.

Family No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general) No specific mention.

State configuration No specific mention.

Self determination No specific mention.

Referendum No specific mention.

State symbols No specific mention.

Independence/ secession No specific mention.

Accession/ unification No specific mention.

Border delimitation No specific mention.

Cross-border provision No specific mention.

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed) No specific mention.

Elections No specific mention.

Electoral commission No specific mention.

Political parties reform No specific mention.

Civil society No specific mention.

Traditional/religious leaders No specific mention.

Public administration No specific mention.

Constitution No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing Power sharing→Political power sharing→General Sub-state level
Page 1, 3. To establish by consensus a local civil council that represents the social components to manage all the civic affairs of the town.

Page 1, 5. Local council represents the sovereign entity in the city, The intervention of military forces in the affairs of the local council is completely prohibited.

Territorial power sharing No specific mention.

Economic power sharing No specific mention.

Military power sharing Power sharing→Military power sharing→Proportionality
Page 1, 6. To establish common checkpoints between the YPG and the Free Syrian Army at the entrances to the city of Ras al-Ain, until the City Council takes over when it is able to.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general No specific mention.

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation No specific mention.

Civil and political rights No specific mention.

Socio-economic rights No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship No specific mention.

Democracy No specific mention.

Detention procedures No specific mention.

Media and communication Rights related issues→Media and communication→Media roles
Page 1, 10. To end hostile media campaigns between the two parties.

Mobility/access Page 1, 7. To facilitate and secure the passage of people, goods and forces of each party across the checkpoints of the other party.

Protection measures No specific mention.

Other No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI No specific mention.

Regional or international human rights institutions No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law No specific mention.

State of emergency provisions No specific mention.

Judiciary and courts No specific mention.

Prisons and detention No specific mention.

Traditional Laws No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction No specific mention.

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds No specific mention.

Business No specific mention.

Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

Pastoralist/nomadism rights No specific mention.

Cultural heritage No specific mention.

Environment No specific mention.

Water or riparian rights or access No specific mention.

Security sector

Security Guarantees

Page 1, 1. Redeployment of military forces and the complete removal of armed manifestations from the town.

Page 1, 4. The border checkpoint to be managed by the city council.

Page 1, 5. Local council represents the sovereign entity in the city, The intervention of military forces in the affairs of the local council is completely prohibited.

Page 1, 6. To establish common checkpoints between the YPG and the Free Syrian Army at the entrances to the city of Ras al-Ain, until the City Council takes over when it is able to.

Page 1, 7. To facilitate and secure the passage of people, goods and forces of each party across the checkpoints of the other party.

Page 1, 9. Cities and towns where there is no existence of the regime: Derbassiyeh, Amouda, Tel Tamer, Maabada and Al-Malikiha are considered liberated cities and a should be declared so in a joint statement.

Ceasefire No specific mention.

Police No specific mention.

Armed forces No specific mention.

DDR No specific mention.

Intelligence services No specific mention.

Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	<p>Page 1, 1. Redeployment of military forces and the complete removal of armed manifestations from the town.</p> <p>Page 1, 2. To establish a temporary monitoring and follow-up committee agreed upon by both parties, in order to follow up and monitor the implementation of the terms of the agreement.</p> <p>Page 1, 5. Local council represents the sovereign entity in the city, The intervention of military forces in the affairs of the local council is completely prohibited.</p> <p>Page 1, 6. To establish common checkpoints between the YPG and the Free Syrian Army at the entrances to the city of Ras al-Ain, until the City Council takes over when it is able to.</p>
Withdrawal of foreign forces	No specific mention.
Corruption	No specific mention.
Crime/organised crime	No specific mention.
Drugs	No specific mention.
Terrorism	No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general	No specific mention.
Amnesty/pardon	No specific mention.
Courts	No specific mention.
Mechanism	No specific mention.
Prisoner release	No specific mention.
Vetting	No specific mention.
Victims	No specific mention.
Missing persons	No specific mention.

Reparations No specific mention.

Reconciliation No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory No specific mention.

Other international signatory No specific mention.

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar No specific mention.

Enforcement mechanism Page 1, 2. To establish a temporary monitoring and follow-up committee agreed upon by both parties, in order to follow up and monitor the implementation of the terms of the agreement.

Related cases No specific mention.

Source Rim Turkmani, Mary Kaldor et. al., 'Hungry for Peace', LSE/Madani Report, October 2014, p. 33

Arabic version: Available on wayback machine from <https://web.archive.org/web/20130325151326/http://ar.firatnews.com/news/akhr-l-khbr/mrsm-twqy-tfq-mydny-fy-sryh-knyh-byn-ypg-wljysh-lhr.htm>
