

Country/entity	Syria
Region	Middle East and North Africa
Agreement name	Agreement between the Civilian Democratic Council and Sheikh Masour and the Executive Committee of the Royal Commission on the Application of the Agreement with the Syrian Democratic Forces
Date	1 Apr 2025
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes

Agreement/conflict level Intrastate/intrastate 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 - partial
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Syrian peace process
Parties	Muqaddam Muhammad Abd al-Ghani - Representative of the Committee (assigned by the Presidency of the Republic) Lt. Masoud Boutell - Joint Presidency of the Council (Sheikh Maqsoud and Ashrafiya Civil Council) Lt. Haytham Sulaiman - Joint Presidency of the Council (Sheikh Maqsoud and Ashrafiya Civil Council)

Third parties	-
Description	Local security-governance pact covering two Kurdish-majority Aleppo neighbourhoods. Key points: protection of ethnic diversity; staged implementation via joint central committees; MoI-Internal Security cooperation; removal of barriers and withdrawal of military units east of the Euphrates; freedom of movement and non-harassment of refugees; compensation for displaced; family-prisoner exchanges; equal neighbourhood representation in Aleppo Provincial Council and economic bodies; preservation of existing municipal services pending final political solution.

Agreement document	SY_250401_Agreement text between the Civil Council of Afrin and Sheikh_EN (opens in new tab) Download PDF
Agreement document (original language)	SY_250401_Agreement text between the Civil Council of Afrin and Sheikh (opens in new tab)
Source of document	https://hawarnews.com/en/agreement-between-sheikh-maqsoud-ashrafieh-neighborhood-councils-damascus-authority

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	Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Substantive First: Sheikh Maqsoud and Ashrafiya neighborhoods are considered Kurdish-majority areas with Arab, Armenian, and other minorities who live there and belong to it. We affirm the protection and respect of the social and cultural privacy of these two neighborhoods as a necessary matter to strengthen peaceful coexistence.
Religious groups	No specific mention.
Indigenous people	No specific mention.
Other groups	No specific mention.

Refugees/displaced persons Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Substantive
Eighth: Ensuring freedom of movement for the residents of the neighborhoods, and preventing any prosecution or harassment of any person who was a refugee before the agreement, provided this does not conflict with Syrian blood.
Twelfth: Compensating the displaced persons from the two neighborhoods in Aleppo province, and exchanging the families of all prisoners after liberation.

Social class No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender No specific mention.

Men and boys No specific mention.

LGBTI No specific mention.

Family Twelfth: Compensating the displaced persons from the two neighborhoods in Aleppo province, and exchanging the families of all prisoners after liberation.

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)	Governance→Political institutions (new or reformed)→General references Eleventh: The work of the civic institutions in the neighborhoods shall be coordinated with the municipal institutions and the services provided to them, without discrimination from other neighborhoods, through the municipal offices present in the neighborhoods.
Elections	No specific mention.
Electoral commission	No specific mention.
Political parties reform	No specific mention.
Civil society	Eleventh: The work of the civic institutions in the neighborhoods shall be coordinated with the municipal institutions and the services provided to them, without discrimination from other neighborhoods, through the municipal offices present in the neighborhoods. Thirteenth: The neighborhoods shall enjoy the right of complete and fair representation in the Aleppo Provincial Council, as well as in the chambers of commerce and industry, and other fields, in accordance with the applicable laws.
Traditional/religious leaders	No specific mention.
Public administration	Third: The Ministry of Interior shall cooperate with the internal security forces, take responsibility for protecting the residents of the two neighborhoods, and prevent any attacks or assaults against them. Fourteenth: Preserving the service, administrative, financial, and municipal institutions and the local councils existing in the neighborhoods, until the agreement of the joint central committees on a sustainable solution.
Constitution	No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing	Power sharing→Political power sharing→Proportionality in legislature Sub-state level Thirteenth: The neighborhoods shall enjoy the right of complete and fair representation in the Aleppo Provincial Council, as well as in the chambers of commerce and industry, and other fields, in accordance with the applicable laws.
Territorial power sharing	No specific mention.
Economic power sharing	No specific mention.
Military power sharing	No specific mention.

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 Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Equality
First: Sheikh Maqsoud and Ashrafiya neighborhoods are considered Kurdish-majority areas with Arab, Armenian, and other minorities who live there and belong to it. We affirm the protection and respect of the social and cultural privacy of these two neighborhoods as a necessary matter to strengthen peaceful coexistence.
Thirteenth: The neighborhoods shall enjoy the right of complete and fair representation in the Aleppo Provincial Council, as well as in the chambers of commerce and industry, and other fields, in accordance with the applicable laws.
Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Freedom of movement
Eighth: Ensuring freedom of movement for the residents of the neighborhoods, and preventing any prosecution or harassment of any person who was a refugee before the agreement, provided this does not conflict with Syrian blood.
Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Vote and take part
Thirteenth: The neighborhoods shall enjoy the right of complete and fair representation in the Aleppo Provincial Council, as well as in the chambers of commerce and industry, and other fields, in accordance with the applicable laws.

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	No specific mention.
Mobility/access	Fifth: Removing the earthen barriers from the main roads, while maintaining the main checkpoints under the supervision of the internal security forces affiliated with the Ministry of Interior, until stability and calm are achieved in the neighborhoods. Eighth: Ensuring freedom of movement for the residents of the neighborhoods, and preventing any prosecution or harassment of any person who was a refugee before the agreement, provided this does not conflict with Syrian blood. Ninth: Forming a coordination committee to facilitate movement and transportation between Aleppo city and the areas of northern and eastern Syria.
Protection measures	Rights related issues→Protection measures→Protection of civilians Third: The Ministry of Interior shall cooperate with the internal security forces, take responsibility for protecting the residents of the two neighborhoods, and prevent any attacks or assaults against them. Fourth: Preserving domestic peace and the safety of citizens, preventing armed demonstrations in the neighborhoods, and ensuring that weapons remain exclusively in the hands of the internal security forces affiliated with the Ministry of Interior in the neighborhoods.
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 First: Sheikh Maqsoud and Ashrafiya neighborhoods are considered Kurdish-majority areas with Arab, Armenian, and other minorities who live there and belong to it. We affirm the protection and respect of the social and cultural privacy of these two neighborhoods as a necessary matter to strengthen peaceful coexistence.
Third: The Ministry of Interior shall cooperate with the internal security forces, take responsibility for protecting the residents of the two neighborhoods, and prevent any attacks or assaults against them.
Fourth: Preserving domestic peace and the safety of citizens, preventing armed demonstrations in the neighborhoods, and ensuring that weapons remain exclusively in the hands of the internal security forces affiliated with the Ministry of Interior in the neighborhoods.

Ceasefire No specific mention.

Police Third: The Ministry of Interior shall cooperate with the internal security forces, take responsibility for protecting the residents of the two neighborhoods, and prevent any attacks or assaults against them.
Fourth: Preserving domestic peace and the safety of citizens, preventing armed demonstrations in the neighborhoods, and ensuring that weapons remain exclusively in the hands of the internal security forces affiliated with the Ministry of Interior in the neighborhoods.
Fifth: Removing the earthen barriers from the main roads, while maintaining the main checkpoints under the supervision of the internal security forces affiliated with the Ministry of Interior, until stability and calm are achieved in the neighborhoods.
Seventh: Organizing internal security centers in both Ashrafiya and Sheikh Maqsoud neighborhoods.

Armed forces Sixth: Withdrawing military forces to the eastern Euphrates region, by their leadership.

DDR No specific mention.

Intelligence services No specific mention.

Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces No specific mention.

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	Twelfth: Compensating the displaced persons from the two neighborhoods in Aleppo province, and exchanging the families of all prisoners after liberation.
Vetting	No specific mention.
Victims	No specific mention.
Missing persons	No specific mention.
Reparations	Transitional justice→Reparations→Material reparations Twelfth: Compensating the displaced persons from the two neighborhoods in Aleppo province, and exchanging the families of all prisoners after liberation.
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	Second: The provisions of this agreement shall be implemented in stages until the agreement of the joint central committees on a sustainable solution. Tenth: Forming committees in the neighborhoods to implement the agreement on the ground.
