Country/entity	Syria
Region	Middle East and North Africa
Agreement name	Homs Ceasefire
Date	4 Dec 2015
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	Government
Peace process	Intra-Syrian Process (state/non-state)
Parties	Government Deeb Zaytūn, head of the Syrian Intelligence Talāl al-Barāzī, Governor of Homs Rebel Groups Faylaq al-Shām: Āhrār al-Shām and Katā'ib al-Jihād al-Islāmī [participants not noted in agreement]
Third parties	International Observers Yaqoub al-Helo, the representative of the United Nations Development Program in Syria Khoula Matar, head of UN and Arab League Envoy to Syria Staffan De Mistura's political office.
Description	A short truce for the city of Homs allowing for the withdrawal of non-state militants, disarmament, relocation of civilians and past provisions for victims.

Agreement document	SY_151207_Homs Ceasefire_EN.pdf (opens in new tab) | Download PDF
Agreement document (original language)	SY_151207_Homs Ceasefire_AR.pdf (opens in new tab)

Local agreement properties

Process type	Formal structured process
Rationale	-> Link to national level; external support mechanism; culture of signing There was allegedly a formally-establish mechanism to support the negotiation as representatives of the United Nations and the Arab League acted as international observers of the peace process. Moreover, the struggle between the two parties lies at the centre of the Syrian conflict and has been a recurring point of contention ever since 2011. Finally, reports point to previous attempts to reach a reconciliation between the Syrian government and rebel groups in al-Waer neighbourhood. Although those attempts were not successful, they account for a culture of signing agreements as a medium to solve recurring issues in this locale and to reach peace.
Is there a documented link to a national peace process?	Yes

Link to national process: articulated rationale	The agreement seems to be linked to the national peace process. The agreement involves national and local governance actors, as well as international observers.
Name of Locale	al-Wa'ir
Nature of Locale	Smaller
GPS Lat/Long (DD)	34.740963, 36.670947
Participant type	Central state actor Local armed group International or transnational actor
Mediator, facilitator or similar	Mediator or similar referred to
Mediator (references)	Two international observers
Type of mediator/ facilitator/similar	International or transnational actor

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Local issues

Ritual/prayer and process (including use of scripture)	No specific mention.
Grievance List	The agreement addresses local grievances that arose from the clashes between opposition groups and the Syrian government forces in the city of Homs. Those grievances are thought to be addressed by a number of provisions, including a full ceasefire, demilitarisation, opening of humanitarian access, and the return of civilians.
Cattle rustling/ banditry	No specific mention.
Social cover	No specific mention.
