

<b>Country/entity</b>	Syria
<b>Region</b>	Middle East and North Africa
<b>Agreement name</b>	Agreement in East Ghouta and Jubar between the Free Syrian Army (FSA) and Russia
<b>Date</b>	16 Aug 2017
<b>Agreement status</b>	Multiparty signed/agreed
<b>Interim arrangement</b>	Yes
<b>Agreement/conflict level</b>	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 - )

<b>Stage</b>	Ceasefire/related
<b>Conflict nature</b>	Government
<b>Peace process</b>	Intra-Syrian Process (state/non-state)
<b>Parties</b>	Free Syrian Army in Jubar and East Ghouta, represented by Faylaq al-Rahman [Signed by President of the Political Bureau of the Free Syrian Army in Jubar and East Ghouta, [Illegible]]
<b>Third parties</b>	Representative of the Russian Guarantor, [Illegible]
<b>Description</b>	Agreement guaranteed by Russia between the Free Syrian Army/Faylaq al-Rahman Corps and the Syrian Regime providing for a ceasefire; prohibition of Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, Islamic State or Jabhat al-Nusra fighters in FSA areas; access to humanitarian aid and goods through various checkpoints; that the area is ruled by a command council, that Russian forces will be a control force and that a committee will be created to release those imprisoned.

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**Agreement document** [SY\\_170816\\_East Ghouta and Jubar, FSA and Russia\\_EN.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

**Agreement document (original language)** [SY\\_170816\\_East Ghouta and Jubar, FSA and Russia\\_AR.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#)

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### Local agreement properties

**Process type** Formal structured process

**Rationale** -> Link to national level; external support mechanism; culture of signing A regional mechanism supported the negotiation of the agreement that came as the result of three-day negotiation held in Geneva. Moreover, Russia – one of the signing parties – has quickly assumed a central role in the negotiations between Bashar al-Assad government and the opposition factions, aiming at bringing a definitive end to the Syrian conflict.

**Is there a documented link to a national peace process?**

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**Link to national process: articulated rationale** It seems difficult to link the agreement to the national peace process, which is not mentioned in the text of the agreement. On the one hand, Russia aims to foster negotiation between al-Assad government and opposition factions to stabilise the country and reach definite peace. On the other side, in the agreement, the Free Syrian Army reaffirms its devotion to the revolution “until the realisation of a free and noble Syria”, which implies that Bashar al-Assad must leave step down.

<b>Name of Locale</b>	al-Jobeh [Jobar], Eastern Ghouta
<b>Nature of Locale</b>	Region
<b>GPS Lat/Long (DD)</b>	33.928364, 36.496495
<b>Participant type</b>	Central state actor Local armed group
<b>Mediator, facilitator or similar</b>	No mention of mediator or similar

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#### Local issues

**Ritual/prayer and process (including use of scripture)** No specific mention.

**Grievance List** The agreement addresses the grievances that arose from the clashes between the Free Syrian Army and Syrian government forces in Jubar and East Ghouta. Such grievances include 1) the targeting of diplomatic missions in the ground by the Free Syrian Army, especially the Russian embassy in Damascus; 2) the presence of Salafi-jihadi groups in those areas such as Hayat Tahrir al-Sham and Daesh; 3) the humanitarian situation in the contested areas.

**Cattle rustling/ banditry** No specific mention.

**Social cover** No specific mention.

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