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| <b>Country/entity</b>           | Syria   |
| <b>Region</b>                   | Middle East and North Africa                              |
| <b>Agreement name</b>           | Agreement between al-Nusra Front and Harakat Hazm, Aleppo |
| <b>Date</b>                     | 28 Oct 2014   |
| <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 - )

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|------------------------|---|
| <b>Stage</b>           | Ceasefire/related   |
| <b>Conflict nature</b> | Inter-group   |
| <b>Peace process</b>   | Syrian Local Agreements   |
| <b>Parties</b>         | Signed by Abu Hafs al-Baghdadi and Ahmad Dirî representing the Aleppo factions of Jabhat al-Nusra and Harakat Hazm, respectively.   |
| <b>Third parties</b>   | Witnesses:<br>Sheikh Farouq [signed] [affiliation unclear];<br>Sheikh Abu Bakri [signed] [affiliation unclear];<br>Colonel Abu Ahmad Mahitah [signed] [affiliation unclear]<br>Islamic Front<br>Army of the Mujahideen<br>Ansar al-Din Front<br>Abu Amara Brigades<br>Nur al-Din al-Zanki Movement<br>The Military Council<br>The Local Council of the City of Aleppo |
| <b>Description</b>     | Agreement delineating the territories of the two conflict parties in Aleppo City.<br>Agreement has unique enforcement mechanism.  |

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| <b>Agreement document</b>                     | <a href="#">SY_141028_Harakat Hazm and Nusra Agr, Bab al-Hawa, Idlib_EN.pdf (opens in new tab)</a>   <a href="#">Download PDF</a> |
| <b>Agreement document (original language)</b> | <a href="#">SY_141028_Harakat Hazm and Nusra Agr, Bab al-Hawa, Idlib_AR.pdf (opens in new tab)</a>                                |

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### Local agreement properties

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| <b>Process type</b>  | Isolated example   |
| <b>Rationale</b>   | -> Local issues only; external support mechanism; no culture of signing A formally-established mechanism apparently supported the negotiation between the two parties as several witnesses signed the agreement. Although tensions pre-existed the agreement in the same locale, no further information supports the case of a "culture" of signing agreements or a recurrent peace process. |
| <b>Is there a documented link to a national peace process?</b> | No   |

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| <b>Link to national process: articulated rationale</b> | No link to the national peace process in Syria is mentioned in the agreement, neither it can be inferred from further research. First, the agreement does not involve local governance actors; and the signing parties themselves are not official state representative. Second, all parties to the agreement reject the national peace process, as it would maintain Bashar al-Assad and the Syrian government in power. |
| <b>Name of Locale</b>                                  | al-Jandool, Aleppo city   |
| <b>Nature of Locale</b>                                | Smaller   |
| <b>GPS Lat/Long (DD)</b>                               | 36.248760, 37.172783  |
| <b>Participant type</b>                                | Local state actor<br>Local armed group<br>Domestic religious organisation/leader or other elder   |
| <b>Mediator, facilitator or similar</b>                | No mention of mediator or similar   |

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#### Local issues

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| <b>Ritual/prayer and process (including use of scripture)</b> | Page 1, In the Name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful<br><br>Page 1, Allah said: "And if two factions among the believers should fight, then make settlement between the two. But if one of them oppresses the other, then fight against the one that oppresses until it returns to the ordinance of Allah."<br><br>Page 1, May Allah support our endeavor |
| <b>Grievance List</b>   | Although the agreement does not refer to specific causes of the conflict, it lists five provisions to address local grievances. It seems that the confrontation between the al-Nusra Front and the Harakat Hazam in the province of Aleppo lies at the centre of the dispute. The issue of territorial control seems particularly important to the parties.     |
| <b>Cattle rustling/ banditry</b>                              | No specific mention.  |
| <b>Social cover</b>   | No specific mention.  |

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