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|---|---|
| **Country/entity** | Syria |
| **Region** | Middle East and North Africa |
| **Agreement name** | Statement on behalf of two parties in al-Waer neighbourhood, Homs. |
| **Date** | 31 Aug 2016 |
| **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 -
 )

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|---|---|
| **Stage** | Ceasefire/related |
| **Conflict nature** | Government |
| **Peace process** | Intra-Syrian Process (state/non-state) |
| **Parties** | 43 signatories on behalf of 'two parties in al-Waer neighbourhood, Homs'. According to secondary sources, the representatives are from Jabhat Fatah al-Sham (formerly al-Nusra Front). |
| **Third parties** | - |
| **Description** | Agreement by 43 'representatives' agreeing to 'accept the political solution within our neighbourhood'. This includes the transfer of a payment from the neighbourhood (unspecified to whom). Although not explicit in text, agreement negotiates the evacuation of 500 opposition fighters and a few civilians from al-Waer to Idlib according to secondary sources. |

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|---|---|
| **Agreement document** | SY_160831_Statement on behalf of two parties in al-Waer neighbourhood, Homs_EN.pdf (opens in new tab) \| Download PDF |
| **Agreement document (original language)** | SY_160831_Statement on behalf of two parties in al-Waer neighbourhood, Homs_AR.pdf (opens in new tab) |

## Local agreement properties

| | |
|---|---|
| **Process type** | Informal but persistent process |
| **Rationale** | -> Local issues only; no external support mechanism; culture of signing There is no formally established mechanism to support the negotiation between rebel armed groups and the Syrian government. Yet, the struggle between those two parties lies at the centre of the Syrian conflict and has been a recurring point of contention ever since 2011. Moreover, it seems that the Syrian government agreed to manage its conflict with opposition groups through peace agreements, especially in main cities such as Homs. This is mainly the result of local and international pressure to limit the use of violent mean and protect civilians. Hence, one could argue that this agreement has been signed in the framework of a repeated process - although one cannot speak of a 'culture" of signing peace agreements. |
| **Is there a documented link to a national peace process?** | No |

**Link to national process: articulated rationale**

It seems complicated to link this agreement to the national peace process in Syria. The singing parties clearly intend to keep this agreement circumscribed to al-Waer neighbourhood, as they mention; "we declare our decision to accept the political solution within the neighbourhood".

**Name of Locale**

al-Waer neighbourhood

**Nature of Locale**

Smaller

**GPS Lat/Long (DD)**

34.742008, 36.663823

**Participant type**

Local armed group

**Mediator, facilitator or similar**

No mention of mediator or similar

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**Local issues**

**Ritual/prayer and process (including use of scripture)**

Page 1, In the name of God, the Merciful, the Compassionate

**Grievance List**

Page 1,
In order to stop the bloodshed of neighbourhood residences, and to achieve their dignity, we declare our decision to accept the political solution within the neighbourhood.

**Cattle rustling/ banditry**

No specific mention.

**Social cover**

No specific mention.

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