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| **Country/entity** | Syria |
| **Region** | Middle East and North Africa |
| **Agreement name** | Agreement between Fatah al-Halab and the People's Protection Units on the Sheikh Maqsoud area and roads to Afrin |
| **Date** | 15 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**    Inter-group

**Peace process**    Syrian Local Agreements

**Parties**    Aleppo Operation Room
People's Protection Units

**Third parties**    -

**Description**    The parties agree to a ceasefire and to regulate civilian access routes. The hand written note in the original translation described the agreement coming into force as of 'September 19/2/2015' however the agreement was made on 15/12/2015 and the attached source describes it coming into force on the Saturday which is 19/12/2015. The translation has therefore been changed, please see source in implementation section.

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**Agreement document**    SY_151215_Agreement between Fatah al-Halab and the People's Protection Units on the Sheikh Maqsoud area and roads to Afrin.pdf (opens in new tab) | Download PDF

**Agreement document (original language)**    SY_151215_Agreement between Fatah al-Halab and the People's Protection Units on the Sheikh Maqsoud area and roads to Afrin_AR.pdf (opens in new tab)

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**Local agreement properties**

**Process type**    Informal but persistent process

**Rationale**    There does not seem to be much by way of supporting mechanism to enforce besides the military committee formed by both parties. Nonetheless the source attached to the agreement suggests that this agreement appears to be related to other agreements around the same time in Aleppo, whereby there is a response to the initiative set out by the Shura reconciliation council in Aleppo.

**Is there a documented link to a national peace process?**    No

**Link to national process: articulated rationale**    No link can be inferred from this agreement as it is signed by local actors who have generally been opposed to national institutions and have taken a stance against resolution being led at national level.

**Name of Locale**    Sheikh Maqsoud

**Nature of Locale**    Region

**GPS Lat/Long (DD)**    36.237175, 37.153401

**Participant type**    Local armed group

**Mediator, facilitator or similar**    No mention of mediator or similar

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**Local issues**

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| **Ritual/prayer and process (including use of scripture)** | Page 1, God Bless |
| **Grievance List** | While the agreement does not mention causes of the dispute, sources indicate that the Army of Revolutionaries recently joined the SDF faction and began fighting alongside the Kurdish People's Protection Units. Yet, Aleppo Operation Room accused the Kurdish faction of being "workers and treason" after carrying out what it said was a massacre against civilians in the northern Aleppo countryside in November. |
| **Cattle rustling/ banditry** | No specific mention. |
| **Social cover** | No specific mention. |