

Country/entity	Syria
Region	Middle East and North Africa
Agreement name	Agreement between elders and the Yarmouk Martyr Brigade
Date	12 May 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	Notables from Yarmouk The Yarmouk Martyrs Brigade
Third parties	-
Description	Five point agreement providing for the withdrawal of the Yarmouk Martyrs Brigade from Saham al-Golan, Heit and Al-Suruji checkpoint in exchange for finding a neutral external party to take over the areas.

Agreement document	SY_150512_Agreement between elders and the Yarmouk Martyr Brigade_EN.pdf (opens in new tab) Download PDF
Agreement document (original language)	SY_150512_Agreement between elders and the Yarmouk Martyr Brigade_AR.pdf (opens in new tab)

Local agreement properties

Process type	Isolated example
Rationale	-> Local issues only; no external support mechanism; no culture of signing There is no formally established mechanism to support the negotiation between Salafi armed groups and local populations. It is the first recorded case of a written agreement between those signatories.
Is there a documented link to a national peace process?	No
Link to national process: articulated rationale	No link to the national peace process in Syria is mentioned in the agreement, neither it can be inferred from further research. While the agreement involves local notables, it is unclear whether they are affiliated to any governance body and they are surely not official state representative. Second, Yarmouk Martyrs Brigade was affiliated to the Islamic State and rejects the national peace process, which would maintain Bashar al-Assad and the Syrian government in power. Finally, the agreement should be understood in the context of an “intra-religious insurgent groups” conflict where several factions that all oppose Bashar al-Assad engaged in fighting.
Name of Locale	Saham al-Golan, Heit and Al-Suruji checkpoint
Nature of Locale	Region

GPS Lat/Long (DD) 32.770206, 35.915851

Participant type Local armed group
Local community/civilian group(s)/civil society organisations

Mediator, facilitator or similar No mention of mediator or similar

Local issues

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

Grievance List The agreement addresses the consequences and grievances that arose from a series of clashes between the Yarmouk Martyrs Brigades, Jabhat al-Nusra and other Islamist groups in Daraa governorate.

Cattle rustling/ banditry No specific mention.

Social cover No specific mention.
