

<b>Country/entity</b>	Syria
<b>Region</b>	Middle East and North Africa
<b>Agreement name</b>	Terms for Cessation of Hostilities in Syria, incorporated in Joint Statement of the United States and the Russian Federation, as Co-Chairs of the ISSG, on Cessation of Hostilities in Syria
<b>Date</b>	22 Feb 2016
<b>Agreement status</b>	Multiparty signed/agreed
<b>Interim arrangement</b>	Yes

**Agreement/conflict level** Interstate/intrastate conflict(s)

**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>	Syrian peace process
<b>Parties</b>	United States of America - Co-chair of the International Syria Support Group (ISSG), Represented by the Office of the Spokesperson, Washington, D.C.  Russian Federation - Co-chair of the ISSG

**Third parties** United Nations  
ISSG Ceasefire Task Force

**Description** Cessation of Hostilities agreement between the Syrian government and rebel factions, mediated by the US and Russia. Agreement does not extend to specific groups including ISIS (IS, ISIL, Daesh), and Jabhat al-Nusra.

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**Agreement document** [SY\\_160222\\_CoH.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

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### Groups

**Children/youth** Groups→Children/youth→Substantive  
Page 3, ANNEX,  
2. ... All parties further commit to work for the early release of detainees, particularly women and children.

**Disabled persons** No specific mention.

**Elderly/age** No specific mention.

**Migrant workers** No specific mention.

**Racial/ethnic/  
national group** No specific mention.

**Religious groups** No specific mention.

**Indigenous people** No specific mention.

**Other groups** No specific mention.

**Refugees/displaced  
persons** No specific mention.

**Social class** No specific mention.

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## Gender

<b>Women, girls and gender</b>	Page 3, ANNEX, TERMS FOR CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES IN SYRIA, 2. ... All parties further commit to work for the early release of detainees, particularly women and children.
<b>Men and boys</b>	No specific mention.
<b>LGBTI</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Family</b>	No specific mention.

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## State definition

<b>Nature of state (general)</b>	No specific mention.
<b>State configuration</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Self determination</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Referendum</b>	No specific mention.
<b>State symbols</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Independence/ secession</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Accession/ unification</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Border delimitation</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Cross-border provision</b>	No specific mention.

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## Governance

<b>Political institutions (new or reformed)</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Elections</b>	No specific mention.

<b>Electoral commission</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Political parties reform</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Civil society</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Traditional/religious leaders</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Public administration</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Constitution</b>	No specific mention.

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#### **Power sharing**

<b>Political power sharing</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Territorial power sharing</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Economic power sharing</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Military power sharing</b>	No specific mention.

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#### **Human rights and equality**

<b>Human rights/RoL general</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Bill of rights/similar</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Treaty incorporation</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Civil and political rights</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Socio-economic rights</b>	No specific mention.

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## **Rights related issues**

**Citizenship** No specific mention.

**Democracy** No specific mention.

**Detention procedures** No specific mention.

**Media and communication** Rights related issues→Media and communication→Other  
Page 4, ANNEX, TERMS FOR CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES IN SYRIA,  
2. ... The Russian Federation and the United States, as co-chairs of the ISSG and ISSG Ceasefire Task Force, are prepared to work together to ensure effective communications and develop procedures necessary for preventing parties participating in the cessation of hostilities from being attacked by Russian Armed Forces, the U.S.-led Counter ISIL Coalition, the Armed Forces of the Syrian government and other forces supporting them, and other parties to the cessation of hostilities.

Page 3, ANNEX, TERMS FOR CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES IN SYRIA,  
... The United States and the Russian Federation as co-chairs confirm that the cessation of hostilities will be monitored in an impartial and transparent manner and with broad media coverage.

**Mobility/access** Page 3, ANNEX, TERMS FOR CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES IN SYRIA,  
1 ... To allow humanitarian agencies, rapid, safe, unhindered and sustained access throughout areas under their operational control and allow immediate humanitarian assistance to reach all people in need;

**Protection measures** No specific mention.

**Other** No specific mention.

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## **Rights institutions**

**NHRI** No specific mention.

**Regional or international human rights institutions** No specific mention.

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## **Justice sector reform**

**Criminal justice and emergency law** No specific mention.

**State of emergency provisions** No specific mention.

**Judiciary and courts** No specific mention.

**Prisons and detention** No specific mention.

**Traditional Laws** No specific mention.

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## **Socio-economic reconstruction**

**Development or socio-economic reconstruction** No specific mention.

**National economic plan** No specific mention.

**Natural resources** No specific mention.

**International funds** No specific mention.

**Business** No specific mention.

**Taxation** No specific mention.

**Banks** No specific mention.

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## **Land, property and environment**

**Land reform/rights** No specific mention.

**Pastoralist/nomadism rights** No specific mention.

**Cultural heritage** No specific mention.

**Environment** No specific mention.

**Water or riparian rights or access** No specific mention.

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**Security sector**

**Security Guarantees** Page 3, ANNEX, TERMS FOR CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES IN SYRIA,  
1 ... To proportionate use of force (i.e., no greater than required to address an immediate threat) if and when responding in self-defense.

**Ceasefire** Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision  
Agreement as a whole provides terms of ceasefire.  
Page 3, ANNEX, TERMS FOR CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES IN SYRIA,  
1 ... To cease attacks with any weapons, including rockets, mortars, and anti-tank guided missiles, against Armed Forces of the Syrian Arab Republic, and any associated forces;

Page 3, ANNEX, TERMS FOR CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES IN SYRIA,  
2. The above-mentioned commitments will be observed by such armed opposition groups, provided that the Armed Forces of the Syrian Arab Republic, and all forces supporting or associated with the Armed Forces of the Syrian Arab Republic have confirmed to the Russian Federation as co-chair of the ISSG by no later than 12:00 (Damascus time) on February 26, 2016 their commitment to and acceptance of the following terms:

Page 3, ANNEX, TERMS FOR CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES IN SYRIA,  
2. ... To cease attacks with any weapons, including aerial bombardments by the Air Force of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Aerospace Forces of the Russian Federation, against the armed opposition groups (as confirmed to the United States or the Russian Federation by parties to the cessation of hostilities);

Page 3, ANNEX, TERMS FOR CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES IN SYRIA,  
2. ... To proportionate use of force (i.e., no greater than required to address an immediate threat) if and when responding in self-defense.

Page 3, ANNEX, TERMS FOR CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES IN SYRIA,  
... The Russian Federation and the United States, as co-chairs of the ISSG and ISSG Ceasefire Task Force, are prepared to work together to ensure effective communications and develop procedures necessary for preventing parties participating in the cessation of hostilities from being attacked by Russian Armed Forces, the U.S.-led Counter ISIL Coalition, the Armed Forces of the Syrian government and other forces supporting them, and other parties to the cessation of hostilities.

**Police** No specific mention.

**Armed forces** No specific mention.



<b>DDR</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Intelligence services</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces</b>	<p>Page 2, ANNEX, TERMS FOR CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES IN SYRIA, The nationwide cessation of hostilities is to apply to any party currently engaged in military or paramilitary hostilities against any other parties other than “Daesh”, “Jabhat al-Nusra”, or other terrorist organizations designated by the UN Security Council.</p> <p>Page 3, ANNEX, TERMS FOR CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES IN SYRIA,  1. To take part in the cessation of hostilities, armed opposition groups will confirm – to the United States of America or the Russian Federation, who will attest such confirmations to one another as co-chairs of the ISSG by no later than 12:00 (Damascus time) on February 26 2016 – their commitment to and acceptance of the following terms:</p> <p>Page 3, ANNEX, TERMS FOR CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES IN SYRIA,  1 ... To refrain from acquiring or seeking to acquire territory from other parties to the ceasefire;</p> <p>Page 3, ANNEX, TERMS FOR CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES IN SYRIA,  2. ... To cease attacks with any weapons, including aerial bombardments by the Air Force of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Aerospace Forces of the Russian Federation, against the armed opposition groups (as confirmed to the United States or the Russian Federation by parties to the cessation of hostilities);</p>
<b>Withdrawal of foreign forces</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Corruption</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Crime/organised crime</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Drugs</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Terrorism</b>	Page 2, ANNEX, TERMS FOR CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES IN SYRIA, The nationwide cessation of hostilities is to apply to any party currently engaged in military or paramilitary hostilities against any other parties other than “Daesh”, “Jabhat al-Nusra”, or other terrorist organizations designated by the UN Security Council.

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## **Transitional justice**

**Transitional justice general** No specific mention.

**Amnesty/pardon** No specific mention.

**Courts** No specific mention.

**Mechanism** No specific mention.

**Prisoner release** Page 3, ANNEX, TERMS FOR CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES IN SYRIA, 2 ... All parties further commit to work for the early release of detainees, particularly women and children.

**Vetting** No specific mention.

**Victims** No specific mention.

**Missing persons** No specific mention.

**Reparations** No specific mention.

**Reconciliation** No specific mention.

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## **Implementation**

**UN signatory** No specific mention.

**Other international signatory** Agreement is published within the framework of a Joint Statement by the US and Russian governments.

**Referendum for agreement** No specific mention.

**International mission/force/ similar** The surrounding rubric indicates: Page 2, Paragraph 4, 4. In order to promote the effective implementation of the cessation of hostilities, the ISSG Ceasefire Task Force, co-chaired by the United States and Russia, has been established under UN auspices, including political and military officials from the co-chairs and other Task Force members; the UN Office of the Special Envoy for Syria (OSE) serves as secretariat. ...

**Enforcement mechanism**

Page 2, Paragraph 4, The primary functions of the Task Force are, as provided in the ISSG Statement of February 11, to: ... c) resolve allegations of non-compliance; d) refer persistent non-compliant behavior by any of the parties to the ISSG Ministers or those designated by the Ministers to determine appropriate action, including the exclusion of such parties from the arrangements of the cessation of hostilities, and the protection it affords them.

Page 2, Paragraph 5, The United States and Russia are prepared, in their capacities as co-chairs of the Ceasefire Task Force and in coordination with other members of the ISSG Ceasefire Task Force as appropriate, to develop effective mechanisms to promote and monitor compliance with the ceasefire both by the governmental forces of the Syrian Arab Republic and other forces supporting them, and the armed opposition groups. To achieve this goal and to promote an effective and sustainable cessation of hostilities, the Russian Federation and the United States will establish a communication hotline and, if necessary and appropriate, a working group to exchange relevant information after the cessation of hostilities has gone into effect. In addressing incidents of non-compliance, every effort should be made to promote communications among all parties to restore compliance and rapidly de-escalate tensions, and non-forcible means should be exhausted whenever possible before resorting to use of force. The United States and Russia as co-chairs of ISSG Ceasefire Task Force will develop such further modalities and standard operating procedures as may be necessary to implement these functions.

Any party can bring a violation or potential violation of the cessation of hostilities to the attention of the Task Force, either through the OSE or the co-chairs. The OSE and Co-Chairs will establish liaison arrangements with each other and the parties, and inform the public generally about how any party may bring a violation to the attention of the Task Force.

**Related cases**

No specific mention.

**Source**

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2016/02/253115.htm>

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