

<b>Country/entity</b>	Syria
<b>Region</b>	Middle East and North Africa
<b>Agreement name</b>	'Hudna' (truce) of al-Zabadani, Kefriyya and al-Fu'aa
<b>Date</b>	20 Sep 2015
<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 - )

<b>Stage</b>	Ceasefire/related
<b>Conflict nature</b>	Government
<b>Peace process</b>	Intra-Syrian Process (state/non-state)
<b>Parties</b>	Syrian Armed Forces/Hezbollah and Syrian rebel factions fighting under the banner of Jaysh al-Fatah
<b>Third parties</b>	-
<b>Description</b>	Short truce 'hudna' agreement between the Syrian Armed Forces/Hezbollah and Syrian rebel factions fighting under the banner of Jaysh al-Fatah allowing for the civilian evacuation Kefriyya and al-Fu'aa near Idlib. In return rebel fighters would leave Al-Zabadani and surrender medium and heavy arms to the regime. The regime would also release 500 rebel fighters.

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**Agreement document** [SY\\_150920\\_Hudna al-Zabadani, Kefriyya and al-Fu'aa\\_EN.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

**Agreement document (original language)** [SY\\_150920\\_Hudna al-Zabadani, Kefriyya and al-Fu'aa\\_AR.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#)

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### Local agreement properties

**Process type** Formal structured process

**Rationale** -> Link to national level; external support mechanism; culture of signing There was allegedly a formally-establish mechanism to support the negotiation as the agreement shall be "implemented under the auspices, supervision and in the presence of the United Nations". Moreover, the struggle between the parties - especially the Syrian army and the Syrian opposition groups - lies at the centre of the Syrian conflict and has been a recurring point of contention ever since 2011. Finally, this is the third ceasefire issued between the parties in the cities of al-Zabadani, al-Fu'aa and Kifraya, attesting for a culture of signing agreements as a medium to solve recurring issues in this locale and to reach peace.

**Is there a documented link to a national peace process?** Yes

**Link to national process: articulated rationale** The agreement seems to be linked to the national peace process. The agreement involves central state actors, as well as international actors.

**Name of Locale** al-Zabadānī, Kifrayā [Kafarya], al-Fu ' aa [al-Fu'ah]

**Nature of Locale** Region  
**GPS Lat/Long (DD)** 33.726348, 36.104165

**Participant type** Central state actor  
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)** No specific mention.

**Grievance List** Although the agreement does not refer to specific causes of the conflict, it lists a series of provisions to address local grievances. Those provisions include [Summary] (1) ceasefire; (2) departure of fighters from al-Zabadani to Idlib; (3) evacuation of families in al-Zabadani to Syria or Turkey; (4) evacuation of wounded in al-Fu'aa and Kifraya; (5) release of detainees; (6) demilitarisation of al-Zabadani; (7) medical teams to enter al-Fu'aa and Kifraya.

**Cattle rustling/ banditry** No specific mention.

**Social cover** No specific mention.

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