

Cease-fire Agreement in Syria Signed by the Jihadists with the Exception of Al-Qaeda and ISIS-Daesh

By [Voltaire Network](#)

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Voltaire Network — a cease-fire agreement has been concluded in Syria. So announced the Russian president, Vladimir Putin, in the presence of his Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Defense [1]. Russia and Turkey are its guarantors. The Islamic Republic of Iran participated in drawing up the agreement but is [now] staying quietly in the background.

Three documents have been signed by the Arab Syrian Republic and seven rebel groups representing more than 60,000 jihadists:

1. Faylaq al-Sham (4,000 combatants)
2. Ahrar al-Sham (16,000 combatants)
3. Jaysh al-Islam (12,000 combatants)
4. Suvar agi-Sham (12,000 combatants)
5. Jaysh al-Mujahidin (8,000 combatants)
6. Jaysh Idlib (6,000 combatants)
7. Jabhat al-Shamiyah (3,000 combatants)

The three documents are:

- A cease-fire (which does not apply to al-Qaeda and Daesh) over the entire territory starting this evening (Thursday 29 December 2016), at midnight local time.
- Measures aimed at respecting the truce and deploying Russian forces.
- The conditions for peace negotiations which will take place at Astana (Kazakhstan). Iran and Egypt will be included in these negotiations and the United States will be able to join them once President-elect Donald Trump is sworn in (that is after 20 January 2017). Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Jordan, Qatar and the United Nations will be consulted.

The agreement shatters the unity of the jihadists, [splintering them] into two groups: in one camp, are those who will pursue the objectives of Nato and who have refused to sign it; and in the other camp are those who have accepted to give up arms.

In sponsoring this agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkey – a Nato member – has abandoned its ambition to become the leader of the Sunni world and has distanced itself from the United States.

The National Coalition of opposition forces and the revolution announced its support for this agreement.

At the beginning of the month, Qatar withdrew from the war against Syria. It has become a shareholder of Rosneft, the biggest company in the world and has aligned its energy policy to Russia's.

This agreement has been under discussion for two months. The parties that oppose it – notably Israel and the United Kingdom – have tried to scupper it by assassinating the Russian ambassador at Ankara, then by bombing the Russian embassy at Damascus on 28 and 29 December.

The United States, France and the United Kingdom are not participating in this cease-fire. Washington has been accused by President Erdogan of continuing to support Al-Qaeda and Daesh, something which the US ambassador to Ankara has denied. However on 23 December, the outgoing president Barack Obama signed a fiscal defense law authorizing the delivery of arms to the “opposition” (sic) in Syria.

Saudi Arabia, which has not commented on the agreement, announced coming to the aid of Syrian refugees. The Kingdom should distribute humanitarian aid, exclusively from the mosques that it has set up in the refugee camps.

President Putin has ordered his Defense Minister to reduce Russian military presence in Syria. However, Russia will continue to take action against terrorism (al-Qaeda and Daesh).

The war against Syria has cost the lives of at least 300, 000 Syrians. It was planned by the United States and its NATO partners and financed by the Gulf Monarchies.

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