

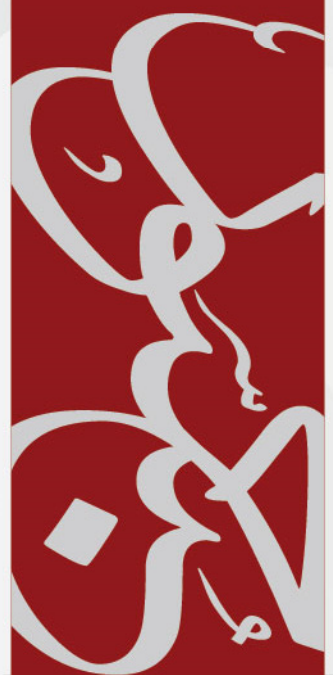
Ceasefire Agreement

The indications, contents and Reactions



Information

Report





جسور للدراسات
JUSOOR for STUDIES

"Jusoor for Studies" Center is an independent institution specialized in disseminating information, conducting studies and research concerned with political, social, economic, and legal affairs in the Middle East with a special focus on Syrian affairs. Jusoor extends bridges for authorities and decisions makers in different state specializations and development sectors. Jusoor aims to help them to make balanced decisions regarding issues in the region by providing them with data and detailed realistic scientific reports.

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First: contents of the agreement

Incidents before the agreement

Syrian regime's forces completed its control over the areas which were controlled by the Syrian armed opposition in Aleppo recently, due to an agreement to displace people of these areas to the west of the city for those who wanted to leave from both civilians and armed opposition members with their light weapons, which was mediated by turkey and Russia and an Iranian intervention , in exchange of declaring a truce for a ceasefire by all parties and evacuation of nearly 4000 people from the villages of Kafrya and Fouaa in Idleb countryside that were besieged by opposition.

About 35 thousand people of eastern Aleppo left their areas after several obstacles occurred during the exit of buses convoys prepared for evacuation¹.

After this agreement, Russia pressed to reach the ceasefire in all Syrian areas, not just in Aleppo, as the opposition factions demanded before the agreement of Aleppo.

This Russian pressure ended by a trilateral meeting in Moscow on 20/12/2016 for foreign ministers of Russia , turkey and Iran which led to an agreement between the three countries on a joint understanding as an outlines to resolve the Syrian issue which was called (declaration of Moscow) including emphasizing the sovereignty and unity of the Syrian territory as a democratic and secular state , and that Russia , turkey and Iran are preferring the joint efforts in eastern of Aleppo to evacuate civilians and armed opposition , and the readiness of the three parties to be guarantors of the agreement between the Syrian regime and the opposition.

According the description of the Russian foreign minister "Sergei Lavrov", the trilateral frame "Russia, Turkey and Iran" is the most effective one regarding to Syria, because the international group to support Syria has not been able to take a role in implementation of UN resolutions regarding to Syria, and Washington could not confirm its participation in the joint actions².

After a days from intensive talks between Russia and Turkey, they agreed on a draft ceasefire in all Syrian areas, Russia will put pressure on the Syrian regime to accept, while turkey will present it to the Syrian opposition to commit to the ceasefire.

The declaration of ceasefire started at 12 am on 30/12/2016³.

Content of the agreement

The contents of the agreement show the efforts of turkey and Russia to find a comprehensive political solution in Syria to stop the violence and provide humanitarian aid since a long period.

Regarding to the issue that there is a dispute about the stance of Fateh Al-Sham Front (Al-Nusra) from the ceasefire , one of the items emphasized that it was excluded which said that " this agreement does not include the groups which classified as a terrorist by the UNSC) , and other item mentioned Turkey and Russia as the main supporters and guarantors for this agreement , and according to this item , the next item said that the two parties are committed to stop the armed attacks including airstrikes , and stop expanding areas they dominated facing each other.

In another item ,the agreement stressed the need for commitment of all parties to the ceasefire , Ankara and Moscow will support the stop fighting action intensively by a joint follow up , and the fifth item presented a recommendation for countries that have influence over the factions (without naming these countries) , in reference to both the opposition and the Syrian regime in order to provide the necessary support to ensure the sustainability of the ceasefire and to acquire a real significance.

The agreement mentioned the role of Turkey in completing the evacuation from Aleppo, and in implement the ceasefire in all Syrian areas, which its time and date were determined starting 12 am on 30/12/2016.⁴

A document issued form the negotiation that took place in Ankara regarding the ceasefire (see the supplement no.1) showed that the consultations were included starting practical steps for the political solution, which is a practical explanation for what the agreement of ceasefire said.

According to the document which consists from five items, the participated factions will committed to participate talks which are 13, by forming their

own delegation determined by its own, in a maximum period of January 23rd, 2017, which is expected to be launched in the capital of Kazakhstan "Astana" on 23/1/2017, and this delegation must be independent from the supreme commission of negotiation which welcomed the ceasefire before, and called all parties to commit to it. In addition to the direct participation of Russia and Turkey as guarantors in accordance with the ceasefire agreement, for the regime and the armed factions of Syrian opposition.

Unlike the previous negotiations for the political solution , the armed factions of opposition will participate the talks, under the name of "opposition" which supported the agreement of cessation of hostilities in Syria "according to the document" which was declared on 30/12/2016 and announced its joining to it, in addition to its emphasizing that there is not any alternative to the comprehensive political solution for the Syrian crisis , and it must begin soon in the political process in the country according to the Geneva statement and UNSC resolution no. 2254 , where UN will participate the expected talks.

The document assigned the two parties "the regime and the opposition) as the two delegations, to prepare a road map to resolve the Syrian crisis as soon as possible, and as a result for the joint action through talks which will take place under the auspices of the Russian and Turkish guarantors.

Under the last item of the document that " this agreement will implement since the moment of the opposition signature, and get the legally character on condition of the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic to sign with the participation of the Russian federation to the convention on a similar version in terms of text content of this document". It noted in this item, the referring to the Syrian regime as the leader of the Syrian Arab Republic.

In another document linked to the previous one(see supplement no.2) the thirteen factions have commissioned two persons to sign the agreement which mentioned above ,the commencement dated 29/12/2016 said that " the leaders of the armed factions for the Syrian opposition of the Syrian revolution who are the following names and the undersigned , are delegating Mr.Ousama Ibrahim Matermawi and Mr.Mounzer Sras full delegate to sign the agreement about the formation of a delegation to start negotiation of the political solution to find a comprehensive solution for the Syrian crisis in a peaceful way".

The commitment was signed by:

Al-sham corps, Ahel Al-Sham Front, Sultan Mourad Division, Free Army of Idleb , Souqur Al-Sham , Al-Rahman corps - Fa Astaqem gathering , Al-Izza Army , Al-Nasr Army - The First Coastal Division , Army of Islam , and Shouhdaa Al-Islam Brigade.

Participants of the agreement

In addition to the guarantors of the agreement "Russia and Turkey", the agreement was signed by seven armed factions in addition to the Syrian regime.

The Russian party also committed to the Turkish party to take a full commitment from Iran by issuing a written and announced support from Tehran without sufficient diplomatic statement to support it.

The commitment which was presented by the two signatories to the agreement by the armed factions " Ousam Maternawi and Mounzer Sras" (see supplement no.3) the following factions:

- 1- Al-sham corps, signed by Mounzer Sras
- 2- Sultan Mourad Division, signed by colonel Ahmed Othman
- 3- Souqur Al-Sham, signed by Abdul Haleem Mansour
- 4- Al-Sham Front, signed by Hussam Yassin
- 5- Al-Izza Army, signed by major Jameel Al-Saleh
- 6- The First Coastal Division, signed by Mouhammed Husain Hajj Ali
- 7- Shouhdaa Al-Islam Brigade, signed by Moayad Mouhammed Al-Habeb
- 8- Ahel al-sham Front (al-Mujahedeen Army and Thwaar Al-Sham), signed by Mouhammed Abdul Moutee Abdulhai.
- 9- Free Army of Idleb, signed by lieutenant Fares Al-Bayoush
- 10- Al-Rahman corps, signed by Hael Khalifa
- 11- Fa Astaqem gathering, signed by Moustafa Berro
- 12- Al-Nasr Army, signed by Mouhamed Ekrema
- 13- Army of Islam, signed by yamen Taljo

The Russian Defense Ministry published a list for seven factions which said that they joined the truce in Syria starting from the middle of night of 29/12/2016 -30/12/2016, which are⁵:

- Al-Sham Corps: It has 19 factions, the total number of its fighters is more than 4 thousand, are fighting in the countryside of Aleppo, Hama and Homs.
- Ahrar Al-Sham: It has more than 80 factions, the number of its fighters is about 16 thousands, are fighting in countryside of Aleppo, Damascus, Daraa ,Idleb , Latakia, Homs and Hama.
- Army of Islam: It has 64 factions, the total number of its fighters is about 12 thousands, are fighting in countryside of Aleppo, Damascus, Daraa, Deir Al- Zour , Latakia , Hama and Homs.
- Thwaar Al-Sham: It has 8 battalions, the total number of its members is about 2500 fighters, are fighting in countryside of Aleppo, Idleb and Latakia.
- Al-mujahedeen army: It has three large battalions, and the number of its members is more than 6 thousand, fighting ISIS in Idleb countryside.
- Shamia Front: It has 5 large factions, the total number of its members is about 3 thousand, are fighting in countryside of Aleppo, Idleb and Damascus.

Disputes after signing the agreement

Many violations of the truce have occurred despite the declaration of Syrian regime's commitment to the ceasefire, especially in Wadi Barada , which led the military factions that signed the agreement to threat cancelling the ceasefire agreement if the Syrian regime and Hezbollah Militias still violating it.

The signed factions noted that " the agreement that we signed with the Russian government stated clearly that the regime will sign a similar document. But we surprised by a consecutive statement from Russian officials confirming the explanation of the agreement in a different way from the document we signed , and we also surprised that copy of the regime is different from our copy in many places , and some points were removed which were a main , important and non-negotiable points" , accordingly , the signatories emphasized that they are only interested in what they signed , and any other agreement which we did not signed is not concerned with them at all" .

These factions called the SC to slow down in adoption of the agreement between them and the representatives of Russian government, while Russia

committed to its commitment and achieve it by forced the regime and its allies committed. (see supplement No.8)

The differences which mentioned in the faction's statement in the two Arabic texts are as following:

Regime document	Opposition document	The meaning
Document of regime entitled: declaration of forming delegations to start negotiation on a political settlement for a comprehensive solution of the Syrian crisis through peaceful means"	The document of opposition entitled" an agreement on forming a delegation to start negotiation about the political solution to find the comprehensive solution of the Syrian crisis in peaceful way"	The regime issued a statement to announce the ceasefire unilaterally, the opposition supported this declaration according to its agreement with turkey and Russia, thus the regime's commitment source is its own will, not the commitment of the other party.
The Syrian government announced the ceasefire	The leaders of factions are supporting the ceasefire which was announced in Syria on 30/12/2016 and joining it	The initiative was by the regime and the opposition joined it later, and this is not a joint initiative by two equal parties
The Syrian government announced the ceasefire	The leaders of factions are supporting the ceasefire which was announced in Syria on 30/12/2016 and joining it	The Syrian government announced a system for ceasefire, not a real ceasefire, thus it is not comprehensive but it is a part of system which allow using the military power according to a specific mechanism which is not a part of the agreement

It must find a comprehensive solution for the Syrian crisis, and it must start the political process according to the resolution no.2254 of UNSC as an advisory decision.	There is an alternative for the political solution, and it must find a comprehensive solution for the Syrian crisis, and it must start the political process according to the resolution no.2254 of UNSC	Geneva statement was not mentioned, and the resolution No.2254 was mentioned as an advisory decision
It must find a comprehensive solution for the Syrian crisis, and it must start the political process according to the resolution no.2254 of UNSC as an advisory decision.	There is an alternative for the political solution, and it must find a comprehensive solution for the Syrian crisis, and it must start the political process according to the resolution no.2254 of UNSC	The document of the regime did not prove the nature of the comprehensive solution , where it can be security , military or political solution , where the choice for the opposition was just the political solution
It must find a comprehensive solution for the Syrian crisis, and it must start the political process according to the resolution no.2254 of UNSC as an advisory decision.	There is an alternative for the political solution, and it must find a comprehensive solution for the Syrian crisis, and it must start the political process according to the resolution no.2254 of UNSC	The reference to the Geneva statement 2012 was removed, and just put the resolution no 2254 as a guiding frame for the political process.
To respect the sovereignty of Syria, secure the interests of Syrian people, end the bloodshed, preserve the national independence and seeking for the future stability of the country	Opposition recognizes the full respect of the sovereignty and unity of Syrian territory, and the need to secure the interests of Syrian people and end the bloodshed	The opposition text makes them responsible for the bloodshed and the lack of stability. They declared their interest of stability, the need of end bloodshed, and the regime is the only legal institution that responsible for

		achieving stability, end the bloodshed and preserve the national independence.
The government is committed to form a delegation no later than 31/12/2016 to conduct the negotiation of political settlement and the government will determine the members of the delegation independently.	The opposition is committed to form a delegation for the negotiation of political solution which aimed at a comprehensive solution for the Syrian crisis through peaceful ways until 16/12/2016 with a direct participation of the guarantors.	The purpose of formation the delegation of the regime to conduct the negotiation for political settlement, while the purpose mentioned in the opposition document was forming a delegation to conduct negotiation regarding to the political solution which aimed at a comprehensive solution for the crisis through peaceful ways.
The government is committed to form a delegation no later than 31/12/2016 to conduct the negotiation of political settlement and the government will determine the members of the delegation independently.	The opposition is committed to form a delegation for the negotiation of political solution which aimed at a comprehensive solution for the Syrian crisis through peaceful ways until 16/12/2016 with a direct participation of the guarantors.	Opposition is committed to form the delegation with a direct participation of the guarantors, which means that the agreement gave Russia and Turkey the right to have a direct role in forming the delegation, while the government of the regime will form it alone.
Based on the full respect for the sovereignty and unity	They recognized the full respect for the sovereignty and unity	The opposition were not respecting the Syrian sovereignty and it recognizes it

of the Syrian Arab republic territory	of the Syrian Arab Republic territory.	now which makes this phrase as a commitment which has its legal effects later , while the regime starting from the full respect of sovereignty and unity of the Syrian Arab Republic territory
And seeking for ensuring the future stability in the country and coordinate with the representative of the Russian federation	And declared the comprehensive interest of the urgent stability of the country with participation of the representative of the Russian federation and the Turkish Republic as guarantors	Turkey was not mentioned in the regime document, and there is not a Turkish copy of the agreement, despite the recognition that it is a formal language for the agreement.
The government is committed to form a delegation no later than 31/12/2016 to conduct the negotiation of political settlement and the government will determine the members of the delegation independently.	The opposition is committed to form a delegation for the negotiation of political solution which aimed at a comprehensive solution for the Syrian crisis through peaceful ways until 16/12/2016 with a direct participation of the guarantors.	The document of the regime is talking about a settlement, and the document of opposition is talking about a solution
According to the results of the joint action for the both delegations in a date - --/--/2017.the roadmap of the	The result of the joint action , the both delegations will prepare a roadmap for resolve the Syrian	The map of solution will be according to the joint action for the both delegation in an open date.

settlement for the internal political crisis in Syria.	crisis as soon as possible	
The work of both delegations will be with support of guarantors	The work of both delegations will be under the auspices of guarantors.	The document of the regime is talking about support, not auspices. But the text talks about guarantors, not a one guarantor, despite that Turkey was not mentioned in the document of the regime.

The days after the agreement showed the way of understanding and interpretation of the regime and its supporters to exclude Fateh Al-Sham Front from the agreement, where the regime continues shelling Wadi Barada under this exception and Russia considered this violation is legal.

The central channel for Hmeymim military base Информканал авиабазы Хмеймим said that: the friendly ground forces have the full right to attack Wadi Barada near Damascus, and this attack is not violated the items of ceasefire agreement, because this region has fighters who are belonging to ISIS and Nusra Front (see supplement no.9).

But the factions which signed the agreement of ceasefire in Syria declared in a press conference on 31/12/2016 that they are granting time for Russia to stop the offensive on Wadi Barada and the other areas mentioning that if the offensive still continuing on Wadi Barada before 8:00pm will absolve the factions of commitment to the ceasefire after the Russian failed to fulfill its commitments.

The statement said: we call all factions to raise the military readiness and join the operations to save Wadi Barada⁶

Which did not happen despite the continuation of the offensive actions by the regime on the region.

Second: The reactions

Local reactions

The Syrian regime

The Syrian regime declared in a statement issued by the leadership of its armed forces " a comprehensive cessation of hostilities" on all Syrian areas since the midnight of Thursday 3/12/2016, adding that it excludes ISIS and Fateh Al-Sham Front and all linked groups⁷ from the ceasefire decision, which are classified as terrorists on the list of terrorist.

Then the Syrian regime rushed to reply the content of " agreement of forming the delegation to Astana" by issuing a clarification statement about the formation of the delegations (see supplement no.3) emphasized the commitment of Syrian Arab republic's government to form a delegation until 31/12/2016 to conduct the negotiation of the political settlement and determine the members of the delegation independently.

It also stated that the delegation will start the joint action with the opposition delegation in a time no later than 15/1/2017 which will be in Astana with participation of UN, pointing to the commitment to the special recommendation to put a roadmap for political settlement in Syria, with support of the Turkish and Russian guarantors.

The armed factions

Reactions of the armed factions were contrary to the event and its importance, and the role of these factions within it, so most of factions did not issue formal statements to support it, and just issued some informal phrases (via tweets using the social media for some figures)

Leaders of the signed factions expressed their reservations on the agreement and the extreme displeasure of what happened in signing two different copies by the Syrian regime and the opposition and blamed the Turkish part which is their guarantor and the commissioners to sign the agreement.

Ahrar Al-Sham

When the agreement signed and the participated factions 'names were announced ,it was noted that the movement of Ahrar Al-Sham did not sign it , and attributed its stance in the words of its spokesman (Ahmed Qara Ali) that the movement have many reservations on the agreement and the negotiating process , and it will clarify these reservations later , while a media resources reported from the movement that " the proposed political process is not clear and it may result from it changing in the bases of the

political solution , so it must be clear to consider if they will attend these negotiations⁸.

Nour El-Deen Zanki movement

The movement did not sign the statement of ceasefire , its official spokesman " captain Abdul Salam Abdul Razzaq" commented on this saying" the movement is committed to the ceasefire although we did not sign the agreement " mentioning through media statements that " we are with any solution which can stop the bloodshed and will not affect the Syrian revolution" while he considered the Syrian regime as the weakest party and it did not have representatives in meetings of the agreement" , adding that he expects that the truce will withstand for nearly a month ,and if there were not negotiation after that period, there will be military action , while pointing to the fear of violations by regime and Iran for the agreement , which is depending on the seriousness of Russia⁹.

The Southern Front

The southern front emphasized on the words of its spokesman " Essam Al-Rayes" that it has not been communicating with them by any international or regional party to participate the agreement of ceasefire which he said that it is not concerned them, adding that " they will not commit to ceasefire which we did not consider its items, so we have reservations for the ceasefire agreement until understanding the items of it, participate it and decide if it serve the Syrian revolution"¹⁰ .

Fateh Al-Sham Front

The agreement excluded Fateh Al-Sham Front(Al-Nusra) from the ceasefire , the spokesman of the front commented on the agreement saying; " we will not attend and sign , and we did Not MANDATE anyone to the announced agreement which start by a truce and reach a political solution to end the crisis in Syria " pointing that the fate of Assad was not mentioned in text or orally in the agreement which tries to reproduce the regime" and he also emphasized that the items did not mention the Iranian militias and the Russian occupation , but it considered Russia as a guarantor" , and Fateh Al-Sham Front believes that the solution in Syria is toppling the regime militarily , and any solution which will strengthen the regime or reproduce it is a waste of sacrifices , betrayal for the blood and infanticide of the six years revolution.(see supplement No.4)

Political opposition

The supreme commission for negotiation

It welcomed the agreement of truce and announced its support for the efforts to stop sufferings of the civilians , and its readiness to provide expertise and the technical military support for the participant factions in the negotiations in Astana, demanding that the negotiation must be with a clear agenda including effective mechanism to monitor the cessation of hostilities and to ensure that all parties will commit it , and contribute to achieve the humanitarian items no. 12 ,13 , and 14 of the UNSC resolution no.2254 under the supervision of the un and with international guarantees which pave for the negotiation of political transition which will be hold in Geneva.

The national coalition for the revolutionary forces and opposition:

The coalition issued a press statement said that the agreement is a chance for Syrians to confirm their adherence to their rights in freedom, justice and dignity, calling the Syrians to demonstrate on Friday 30/12/2016 which will be the first day of ceasefire¹¹.

Muslim brotherhood:

Muslim brotherhood in Syria issued a statement welcoming the declaration of ceasefire in all Syrian areas, and considered it as a positive and important step. The statement said: we call the guarantors to oblige all parties especially the regime of Assad and its militias, with real guarantees to success the agreement and monitor its implementation, and prevent the attempts to foil it by Iran and Assad regime, and develop mechanisms to punish the party which violate the agreement ¹²(see supplement no.12)

Declaration of Damascus:

Declaration of Damascus issued a statement supporting the agreement of ceasefire, the statement said that " the declaration of Damascus strongly support this agreement due to its believe on the sanctity of the Syrian blood, and the extreme interest to end the suffering of Syrians of more destruction, displacement and forced relocation, which increase the wounds and make the Syrian scene more complicated. (see supplement no.10)

The national commission of coordination

The commission issued a statement dealt with the agreement positively, the statement said that the commission welcomes the agreement and emphasized that the joint effort to hold a meeting for the national democratic opposition forces is a national need to find the political solution, far away from the attractions and the international and regional aligned (see supplement No.11).

Syrian Islamic council

The council welcomed the agreement of ceasefire in Syria, but it called the factions to be in full readiness due to the possibility of the violations by Syrian regime and its allies anytime, and the council supported the calls for demonstrations on Friday of (the revolution brings us together).

The council commented on the negotiation of Astana saying" the expected negotiation should be sponsored by the qualified revolutionary Syrians within the constants approved by the Syrians, in a document known as "document of the five principles, and the first of them was toppling the criminal regime headed by the tyrant Bashar Al-Assad (see supplement No.6)

Opposition figures

Some political figures confirmed their support for the agreement of cease fire by phone calls with Jusoor for Studies center ... These figures are:

Abdul Baset Seda: the former president of the Syrian national council, who said that the agreement is acceptable but it must be careful, and the opposition must be united politically and militarily.

Michel Kilo: head of democratic change body:

Mouaz Al-Khateb: the former president of the national coalition, who strongly welcomed the agreement and considered it as the beginning of solution.

Burhan Ghalioun: the former president of the national council who welcomed the agreement carefully.

Ahmed Ramadhan: head of media department of the coalition.

The civil events

Many civil events called the Syrians to demonstrate on the Friday of (the revolution brings us together) to invest the agreement of ceasefire in Syria and to demand the unification of military factions' efforts and their commitment to the objectives and principles of the Syrian revolution¹³.

Regarding to Wadi Barada, the actor events issued a statement about the continued military action in the area without the commitment of the Syrian regime and Hezbollah forces to the ceasefire, and the events denied presence of Fateh Al-Sham front and demanded for workshops to repair the spring as soon as the campaign stopped.

The statement also said that "when the ceasefire started, and after we have been notified by the negotiation delegation of the free army that the agreement includes Wadi Barada, we were surprised by a very strong escalation by the regime and Hezbollah militias, and our area was targeted by more than 35 explosive barrels and 10 air strikes with several attempts to break into the area without any violations by the fighters of the area who just defense.

The events called the countries that sponsored the agreement to assume their responsible and put pressure on the Syrian regime and its allied militias to stop the violation to save civilians' lives and protect the ceasefire" and also demanded the sponsored countries to send representatives as well as the un and the international red cross to enter Wadi Barada and to assess bad humanitarian situation and work to enter urgent humanitarian and medical aid.

The statement was signed by the relief commission of Wadi Barada and its surroundings, the medical commission of Wadi Barada, the media commission of Wadi Barada, the local council of Wadi Barada, civil defense in Wadi Barada, Barada Al-Khaier foundation, and Ghaouth Barada foundation" (see supplement No.7).

International reactions

Security council

The security council in the last hours of 2016 by consensus agreed the Turkish-Russian draft resolution (see supplement No.9)

The resolution welcomed the Turkish-Russian efforts to stop violence in Syria and start a political process, and supported these efforts.

The Russian representative to the United Nations Vitaly Churkin and his Turkish counterpart presented the documents that have been agreed between them regarding Syria to the security council within a letter for members, to be considered as a resolution of security council (see supplement No.9)

Russia

The Russian president Vladimir Putin announced the ceasefire in all Syrian areas through signing three documents pave to solve the Syrian crisis with the Turkish party and include the ceasefire, monitor the agreement, and a statement to start the peace talks to solve the Syrian issue.

Putin considered all agreements that have been reached are weak and need special care and cooperation, and Russia accepted to limit its military deployment in Syria.

Putin also made a telephone call with the Turkish president to discuss the achievement of ceasefire agreement and the arrangements for the meeting of Kazakhstan regarding to the Syrian issue¹⁴.

The Russian foreign minister Sergei Lavrov communicated with his Iranian, Turkish, Kazakh and Egyptian counterparts to discuss and inform them of the ceasefire, Lavrov said that the arrangements are ongoing to hold the Astana meeting, while he emphasized the need to adherence the opposition factions to commitment of the ceasefire through a phone call with his Turkish counterpart.

He also expressed the Russian hope of American joining to the Turkish Russian Iranian efforts to reach the settlement of the Syrian issue¹⁵.

Militarily, the Russian president Vladimir Putin expressed his approval with the vision of Russian defense ministry to limit its presence in Syria, with continuous work to fight terrorism saying: we stand with the signed agreements, including development of the military logistic facilities in Tartus and Hememem base.

While a Russian fighter jet participated bombed sites of ISIS in Al-Bab with the Turkish forces, and three air strikes that killed 13 members of the organization¹⁶.

United States

Washington welcomed the agreement and its spokesman "mark toner" said that any effort will stop violence, save souls and prepare for new and positive political negotiation will be welcomed by US, and the ceasefire that Russia and turkey negotiated is a positive development, and US hope to implement fully.

The absent of American replies about the agreement was notable, except the previous statement, referred to Washington was working with Russia to reach a comprehensive ceasefire but the talks between them did not lead to an effective solution, especially after the US election and the end of Obama's rule¹⁷.

European union

The European union supported the ceasefire agreement, the high representative for foreign policy of the European union "Federica Mogherini" emphasized that it is important to implement the agreement fully by all parties of conflict, indicating that the agreement will help in entering the humanitarian aid without hindrance to people in Syria under the auspices of un.

Mogherini expressed that European Union welcomed any intermediate step by other international actors, such as the announced meeting in Astana, and she made several phone calls regarding this issue with the Turkish foreign minister and the special envoy of UN Staffan De Mistura.

The European officials also declared the intention of the union to hold two meetings about Syria , the first will be in mid-January , and the second in spring of 2017, and renewed welcoming of the union by the ceasefire in Syria with Turkish Russian guarantees indicating that the announcement of stop clashes on the eve of the new year is a good and bring pleasure" and expressed the worries of the union about the air attacks and the clashes in Wadi Barada , western of Damascus countryside , which occurred after 24 hours of the agreement¹⁸.

France

The French spokesman said in a statement that the adoption of the resolution no.2336 by consensus shows the interest of the international community to implement the ceasefire in Syria" adding that France hope to respect the ceasefire by all parties to save souls of civilians and enter the humanitarian aid".¹⁹

Regional and international reactions

Turkey

Turkey was the second party in the agreement of ceasefire as a supporting country for the Syrian opposition, and the Turkish foreign minister held intensive meetings with his Russian counterpart to reach this agreement.

Turkish foreign Minister issued a statement after reaching the agreement to clarify that great efforts have made for long period to end violence and start entering the humanitarian aid, and it is well known that the meetings between opposition and the regime started to find a political solution, then the agreement of ceasefire has done between most of the Syrian parties, and it will not include the organizations which classified as terrorist by the security council²⁰.

The Turkish foreign minister later said that there are countries that are seeking to violate the ceasefire without naming them, and he held talks with his Iranian counterpart during three days in more than 20 times by phone.

He also emphasized that it is important to put positive pressure on the regime and Hezbollah militias by Iran as Moscow promised, and expressed his country welcoming the participation of USA in the efforts of the political solution including Astana meeting, although his consideration that the expulsion of Washington for Russian diplomats is a mistake²¹.

The Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan also wished the ceasefire to be a means of the good for humanity as a whole, in a press conference with the president of Kosovo, Erdogan also thanked all the supporters of the agreement especially Russian president, emphasizing that turkey will continue fighting against ISIS until securing lives of Turkish people under full guarantees and without make concessions in this regard²².

The Turkish prime minister, Bin Ali Yildirim denied that people protection's units will be included in the ceasefire agreement and considered it as a terrorist organization.

He expressed the hope to stop bloodshed in Syria and the region saying that people would have got rid of the suffering and pain²³.

Iran

Iran was a party in the tripartite talks in Ankara between Turkey, Russia and Iran, which led to Moscow declaration a few days before the ceasefire agreement between turkey and Russia, therefore, Tehran was one of indirect partners on reaching this agreement.

The first Iranian comment on the ceasefire was by a Tweet of foreign minister, Mohamed Jawad Zareef describing the agreement as a "great achievement" on twitter, also Zareef made a phone call with his Russian counterpart to welcome the ceasefire, the two parties agreed during the call to continue consultation and coordination within the tripartite agreement of turkey, Russia and Iran to launch the negotiation between the regime and opposition in Astana, Kazakhstan²⁴.

Iranian president, Hassan Rouhani received the Syrian foreign minister. Waleed Al-Mouallem within a formal meeting in Tehran, due to invitation for him and Ali Mamlouk to visit Tehran²⁵.

Rouhani discussed with Al-Mouallem ways of enhancing and developing the relations between Iran and the Syrian regime, emphasizing the Iranian support for the regime in fighting terrorism as he said²⁶.

Rouhani also discussed the ceasefire with his Russian counterpart, Putin by a phone call received from Putin, about the importance of the agreements which led to cessation of hostilities in Syria, and launching of negotiating in Astana, and they agreed on continue coordinating their efforts for the final settlement of the Syrian issue²⁷.

In his turn, the higher secretary of the Iranian National Council of security "Ali Shamkhani) described the Iranian vision about the form of political solution in Syrian said: any political path or talks leads to weaken the total and legal sovereignty of state of the Syrian territory as a whole or to put a part from Syria under control of the terrorist groups or the foreign military occupation would be inconsistent with the interests of the Syrian people and threaten the countries of the region, which will fail , the main way to restore security and stability in Syria is fighting terrorism strongly , and focusing on the Syrian-Syrian talks to find a national agreement to hold a inclusive election²⁸"

League of Arab states

Secretary General of the Arab League, Ahmed Abu Al-Ghait welcomed the ceasefire in Syria saying in statement: the cessation of hostilities always was the main base of the Arabic stance in the Syrian crisis, and we hope to be a real will for all parties to reach the political solution for the Syrian crisis"

The Arab League will hold a meeting on 4/1/2017 at the level of permanent delegates to discuss the ceasefire, and it is expected that the un envoy to Syria, Ramzi Ezz El-Deen will attend the meeting.

On December 20th, the council of league at the end of urgent meeting at the level of foreign ministers denounced "the actions of the Syrian regime, its allies, the terrorist organizations and all those who caused the suffering of people in Aleppo"

The Arab foreign ministers renewed their commitment to the "sovereignty of the Syrian state, its independence, unity of its territory and territorial integrity"

And the emphasized that the only possible solution for the Syrian crisis is the political solution with participation of all parties, according to the aspirations of Syrian people."

Qatar

Doha welcomed the agreement of ceasefire, saying that it will contribute to alleviating the suffering of the Siyan people, and implementing the ceasefire is a step for the comprehensive and permanent ceasefire in Syria, save civilians and accelerate arrival of humanitarian aid, emphasizing the need to commit this agreement by the regime²⁹.

Saudi Arabia

There is not any formal stance regarding to ceasefire in Syria until now, which shows the Saudi dissatisfaction on this agreement.

Bahrain

Bahrain welcomed the agreement by a statement of the foreign ministry , saying that : the cessation of hostilities is a main and important step to move to political solution for the Syrian crisis " the ministry also expressed its hope to all parties' commitment to this ceasefire to ensure stability and pave for the political settlement " and also called for the intensive international efforts, and enhance cooperation to reach the settlement and find a political solution according to Geneva 1 statement ,

which preserve the unity of territory in Syria and power of institutions , and ensure security, stability and prosperity for Syrians³⁰.

Egypt

The Egyptian foreign ministry called all parties in Syria to commit to the agreement, saying that it is a step for ending the humanitarian suffering of the Syrian people due to the violence and fighting, and a preparation for resumption the political negotiation, with the continues fighting against terrorism and the extremism, and targeting terrorist groups³¹.

The spokesman of the Egyptian foreign ministry, Ahmed Abu Zaid said that Cairo is considering the possibility to join the ceasefire agreement in Syria³².

Jordan

The minister of state for media affairs , and the formal spokesman of the Jordanian government "Ali Al-Moumeni" expressed the hope of his government that the declaration will prepare for serious and practical steps to achieve the political solution for the Syrian crisis , and the hope for Syrian people in achieving the security and stability" adding that "Jordan called since the beginning of the Syrian crisis to seek for a political solution as the only solution for peace and stability in Syria , and stop all kinds of violence and conflicts"³³.

Tunisia

The foreign ministry expressed its hope that this agreement paves to reach the comprehensive solution to stop suffering of the Syrian people and tragedies they lived, and expressed satisfaction with the willingness of all parties to start negotiation aimed at reaching the comprehensive political settlement³⁴.

Algeria

The official spokesman of the foreign ministry " Abdul Aziz bin Ali Shareef" said" we welcome the ceasefire in Syria, and call all parties to commit it to start negotiation to find the political solution that takes into account the higher interests of Syria and its people³⁵.

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