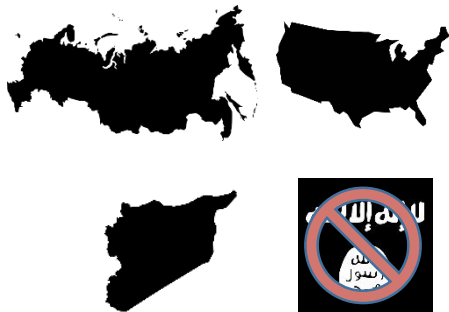


# U.S. and Russia Announce a Ceasefire in Syria That Will Begin Saturday, February 27th

## Details of the Ceasefire Agreement



### Who are the Parties to the Ceasefire?

- Russia
- U.S. led coalition
- Assad and his regional backers (Iran, Hezbollah)
- High Negotiations Committee (Represents main Syrian opposition groups)
- ISIL and all groups labeled terrorists like the Al-Qaeda affiliated al-Nusra are not subject to the ceasefire

### Provisions of the Ceasefire

- All designated members to the ceasefire will stop armed hostilities
- The U.S. and Russia will coordinate with one another to determine which areas in Syria are not to be bombed and where the ceasefire will take place
- Sets up a communication hotline to a committee co-chaired by the U.S. and Russia to report ceasefire violations
- Committee will determine if violations of the ceasefire have occurred
- If they have, the violator will be thrown out from the ceasefire



**Chances for Syrian Ceasefire to Succeed**

- Still not very high, but better than the last time Russia and the U.S. tried to negotiate a ceasefire
- Assad is in a better position to negotiate due to successful Russian-backed Aleppo offensive, which makes it less likely he will break the ceasefire
- On the other hand, ceasefire may be hard to enforce since terrorist groups like al-Nusra are intermixed with Syrian opposition
- This might lead to accidental aerial attacks from Assad coalition on Syrian groups who are part of the ceasefire

Source: BBC, "Syria Conflict: U.S.-Russia Brokered Truce to Start This Weekend," February 22, 2016; Patrick Wintour, "US and Russia Agree to Enforce New Syria Ceasefire," The Guardian, February 22, 2016. Images from Noun Project: Krisada.