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Rebels Split as Syrian Govt. Agrees to Cease-Fire

By Jason Ditz

October 24, 2012

According to UN Special Envoy Lakhdar Brahimi, the Syrian government and the largest rebel faction, the Free Syrian Army (FSA), have both agreed to a temporary ceasefire for the duration of the Eid al-Adha holiday, meaning the potential for a multi-day pause in the civil war.

Brahimi has expressed hopes that the temporary truce will gave both sides time to consider the value of negotiation, and that it might lead to a new round of settlement talks, though whether or not that happens remains to be seen.

It may be hard to even keep the ceasefire going for the Eid, as the al-Nusra faction, one of the more aggressive Islamist blocs in the civil war, has rejected the idea of a ceasefire, and has promised to continue its offensive.

That could make it difficult for the other factions to sustain their ceasefires, as the Syrian military will inevitably retaliate against al-Nusra attacks, and potentially draw other rebel blocs, which were respecting the ceasefire, into the battle as well.