

Country/entity	Philippines Mindanao
Region	Asia and Pacific
Agreement name	Joint Communiqué between the Government of the Republic of Philippines, Moro Islamic Liberation Front
Date	6 May 2002
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes

Agreement/conflict level Intrastate/intrastate conflict

Philippine Insurgencies (1968 -)

The Maoist Insurgencies (1968 -)

Philippines-NDF

The Philippines have been defined by a series of center-periphery and often ideologically Maoist, separatist insurgencies. The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), began its war against the central Philippine government in 1968 through their armed wing – the New People’s Army (NPA). Further legitimacy was gained through the establishment of the National Democratic Front (NDF) in 1973. Grievances were predominantly opposed to the corruption and repression under the authoritarian Marcos regime.

Philippines-Cordillera

With the overthrow of Marcos’ regime in 1986, the CPP factionalized further to take on more localized characteristics. The Cordillera Peoples Liberation Army (CPLA) broke away from the NDF in 1986 to focus on the protection of the Cordilleran people and land in northern Luzon. Hostilities were formally ended in July 2011, with an agreement signed between the central government, the CPLA and the Cordillera Bodong Administration (CBA) that allowed for the absorption of CPLA fighters into the Philippine Army and the re-working of the CBA-CPLA into a socio-development organisation.

Philippines-RPM-P

Meanwhile, purge among the CPP in the early 1990s, encouraged the formation of a parallel party, the Revolutionary Workers Party (RPM-P). Their armed wing, the Alex Boncayao Brigade (ABB) which had carried out a number of assassinations during the 1980s at the bequest of the CPP, followed suit and allied themselves with the RPM-P in 1997 forming the (RPM-P-RPA-ABB). Severely weakened by the split with the CPP and with the arrest of several key figures, the RPM-P-RPA-ABB signed a peace agreement in December 2000, which encouraged the RPM-P’s branch in Mindanao to break away in 2001.

The CPP-NPA has only participated in intermittent talks with the government. Talks halted in 2004 when Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo’s administration sought closer ties with the U.S. in the war on terror and added the CPP-NPA to the list of terrorist organisations, renewing violence. Following the launch of a counter-insurgency by the Philippine government, negotiations have been further delayed due to suspected internal differences between the CPP ‘old guard’ and younger members.

The Moro Insurgency (1968 -)

Philippines-Mindanao

The Moro Insurgency began in 1968, in Mindanao and the Sulu archipelago after the killing of Moro Commandos, the so-called Jabidah Massacre, by the Philippine Army following a plot to invade Sabah province in Malaysia. The Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) captured a swath of territory in the mid-1970s. In an attempt to stem the violence, the constitution was reformed and Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) was created 1990 granting a devolution of power to the provinces of Lanao del Sur, Maguindanao, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi. Following the establishment of the ARMM, the MNLF splintered into a range of smaller groups including Islamic factions such as the

Stage	Pre-negotiation/process
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Philippines - Mindanao process
Parties	Sec. Norberto Gonzales, representative of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines; Atty. Lanang Ali, representative of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front
Third parties	WITNESSED by: Sec. Eduardo Ermita, for the Government of the Republic of the Philippines; Al Haj Murad Ebrahim, for the Moro Islamic Liberation Front
Description	Parties agree to coordinate to capture criminal elements operating in MILF areas/communities, with the assistance of the police and armed forces of the Philippines.

Agreement document [PH_020506_Joint Communique between GRP-MILF.pdf \(opens in new tab\) | Download PDF](#)

Groups

Children/youth No specific mention.

Disabled persons No specific mention.

Elderly/age No specific mention.

Migrant workers No specific mention.

Racial/ethnic/national group No specific mention.

Religious groups No specific mention.

Indigenous people No specific mention.

Other groups No specific mention.

Refugees/displaced persons No specific mention.

Social class No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender No specific mention.

Men and boys No specific mention.

LGBTI No specific mention.

Family No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general) No specific mention.

State configuration No specific mention.

Self determination No specific mention.

Referendum No specific mention.

State symbols No specific mention.

Independence/secession No specific mention.

Accession/unification No specific mention.

Border delimitation No specific mention.

Cross-border provision No specific mention.

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed) No specific mention.

Elections No specific mention.

Electoral commission No specific mention.

Political parties reform No specific mention.

Civil society No specific mention.

Traditional/religious leaders No specific mention.

Public administration No specific mention.

Constitution No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing No specific mention.

Territorial power sharing No specific mention.

Economic power sharing No specific mention.

Military power sharing No specific mention.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general No specific mention.

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation No specific mention.

Civil and political rights No specific mention.

Socio-economic rights No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship	No specific mention.
Democracy	No specific mention.
Detention procedures	No specific mention.
Media and communication	No specific mention.
Mobility/access	No specific mention.
Protection measures	No specific mention.
Other	No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI	No specific mention.
Regional or international human rights institutions	No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law	No specific mention.
State of emergency provisions	No specific mention.
Judiciary and courts	No specific mention.
Prisons and detention	No specific mention.
Traditional Laws	No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Socio-economic development
Page 1, 2. Both sides agreed that the activities of these criminal groups impede the peace process, the effective pursuit of development programs, and the efficient delivery of basic services to the poor: for this purpose, immediate and joint action is needed for the security and upliftment of the affected communities.

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources No specific mention.

International funds No specific mention.

Business No specific mention.

Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

Pastoralist/nomadism rights No specific mention.

Cultural heritage No specific mention.

Environment No specific mention.

Water or riparian rights or access No specific mention.

Security sector

Security Guarantees

Page 1, 3. The AFP/PNP shall convey to the MILF an order of Battle containing the names and identities of criminal elements as defined in the Implementing Guidelines on the Security Aspect of the GRP-MILF Agreement on Peace of 2001 suspected of hiding in MILF areas/communities.

Page 2, 6. The MILF shall block the entry of criminals into MILF areas/communities. The MILF may request the assistance of the AFP or PNP in the conduct of operations against such criminal inside MILF areas/communities.

Ceasefire

Security sector→Ceasefire→General commitments

Page 1, 4. The MILF and the GRP shall form an Ad-Hoc Joint Action Group against criminal elements in order to pursue and apprehend such criminal elements. This group will operate in tandem with their respective Coordinating Committees on the Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH).

Page 2, 7. The Agreement shall be enforced by the MILF and the GRP through their respective coordinating committees on the Cessation of Hostilities.

Police

Page 1, 3. The AFP/PNP shall convey to the MILF an order of Battle containing the names and identities of criminal elements as defined in the Implementing Guidelines on the Security Aspect of the GRP-MILF Agreement on Peace of 2001 suspected of hiding in MILF areas/communities.

Page 2, 6. The MILF shall block the entry of criminals into MILF areas/communities. The MILF may request the assistance of the AFP or PNP in the conduct of operations against such criminal inside MILF areas/communities.

Armed forces

No specific mention.

DDR

No specific mention.

Intelligence services

No specific mention.

**Parastatal/rebel
and opposition
group forces**

Page 1, 1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) have agreed to the isolation and interdiction of all criminal syndicates and kidnap-for-ransom groups, including so-called “Lost Commands” operating in Mindanao.

Page 1, 3. The AFP/PNP shall convey to the MILF an order of Battle containing the names and identities of criminal elements as defined in the Implementing Guidelines on the Security Aspect of the GRP-MILF Agreement on Peace of 2001 suspected of hiding in MILF areas/communities.

Page 1, 4. The MILF and the GRP shall form an Ad-Hoc Joint Action Group against criminal elements in order to pursue and apprehend such criminal elements. This group will operate in tandem with their respective Coordinating Committees on the Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH).

Page 1, 5. A quick coordination system will be established by the GRP-MILF Ad-Hoc Joint Action group to enhance their communications and working relations for the successful apprehension or capture of criminal elements in accordance with this Agreement provided, that criminals operating outside MILF areas/communities are considered beyond the purview of the Peace Process.

Page 2, 6. The MILF shall block the entry of criminals into MILF areas/communities. The MILF may request the assistance of the AFP or PNP in the conduct of operations against such criminal inside MILF areas/communities.

**Withdrawal of
foreign forces**

No specific mention.

Corruption

No specific mention.

Crime/organised crime Page 1, 1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) have agreed to the isolation and interdiction of all criminal syndicates and kidnap-for-ransom groups, including so-called “Lost Commands” operating in Mindanao.

Page 1, 2. Both sides agreed that the activities of these criminal groups impede the peace process, the effective pursuit of development programs, and the efficient delivery of basic services to the poor: for this purpose, immediate and joint action is needed for the security and upliftment of the affected communities.

Page 1, 3. The AFP/PNP shall convey to the MILF an order of Battle containing the names and identities of criminal elements as defined in the Implementing Guidelines on the Security Aspect of the GRP-MILF Agreement on Peace of 2001 suspected of hiding in MILF areas/communities.

Page 1, 4. The MILF and the GRP shall form an Ad-Hoc Joint Action Group against criminal elements in order to pursue and apprehend such criminal elements. This group will operate in tandem with their respective Coordinating Committees on the Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH).

Page 1, 5. A quick coordination system will be established by the GRP-MILF Ad-Hoc Joint Action group to enhance their communications and working relations for the successful apprehension or capture of criminal elements in accordance with this Agreement provided, that criminals operating outside MILF areas/communities are considered beyond the purview of the Peace Process.

Page 2, 6. The MILF shall block the entry of criminals into MILF areas/communities. The MILF may request the assistance of the AFP or PNP in the conduct of operations against such criminal inside MILF areas/communities.

Drugs No specific mention.

Terrorism No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general No specific mention.

Amnesty/pardon No specific mention.

Courts No specific mention.

Mechanism No specific mention.

Prisoner release No specific mention.

Vetting	No specific mention.
Victims	No specific mention.
Missing persons	No specific mention.
Reparations	No specific mention.
Reconciliation	No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory No specific mention.

Other international signatory No specific mention.

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar No specific mention.

Enforcement mechanism No specific mention.

Related cases No specific mention.

Source Accord, GRP-MILF Peace Process: Compilation of Signed Agreements & other related Documents (1997-2010); (MILF Peace Panel/Asia Foundation, 2010), pp. 126-127.
