

Country/entity	Philippines Mindanao
Region	Asia and Pacific
Agreement name	Agreement for General Cessation of Hostilities
Date	18 Jul 1997
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	Ceasefire/related
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Philippines - Mindanao process
Parties	Amb. Fortunato Il Abat, GRP Panel Chairman; Ghazail Jafar, MILF Political Affairs Central Committee Vice Chair, MILF Panel Chairman
Third parties	Attested: Ruben D. Torres, Executive Secretary; Sec. Renato S. De Villa, Dept. of National Defense Witnesses for GRP: Maj. Gen. Joselin B. Nazareno, GRP Sub-Committee on Cessation of Hostilities Chairman Lt. Gen. Edgardo E. Batenga (Ret.), GRP Technical Committee Member ASec. Jovenal F. Lazaga, GRP Technical Committee on Agenda Setting Chairman Atty. Grace M. Tan, Office of the President Director Atty. Alberto A. Bernardo, NPUDC Executive Director; Witnesses for the MILF: Mohagher Iqbal, MILF Central Committee Member Sammy Al Mansour, MILF-BIAF Deputy Chief of Staff Omar Habas, MILF Central Committee Member Abdulmanaf Mantawil, MILF Secretariat, Technical Committee Chairman Atty. Omar B. Umpar, MILF Legal Counselor
Description	This is a ceasefire agreement that mandates further meetings to discuss implementation of this Agreement, and the overall resumption of formal peace talks.

Agreement document [PH_970718_Agreement for General Cessation of Hostilities.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 Groups→Indigenous people→Rhetorical
Page 1, Preamble
Whereas, while an informal ceasefire has been observed between the GRP and the MILF, with and end in view of finding a just and lasting solution to the centuries old problem of the Bangsamoro and native inhabitants of Mindanao, it becomes necessary that peace and order be assured;

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 Gender→Men and boys→Gender neutral wording
Page 1, Preamble
Know all men by these presents:

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 No specific mention.

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 No specific mention.

Ceasefire Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision
Page 1, Preamble
Whereas, while an informal ceasefire has been observed between the GRP and the MILF, with and end in view of finding a just and lasting solution to the centuries old problem of the Bangsamoro and native inhabitants of Mindanao, it becomes necessary that peace and order be assured;

Page 1, Preamble
Whereas, in view of the foregoing, it becomes imperative for the GRP and the MILF to enter into an agreement for general cessation of hostilities and to agree to continue the formal peace talks;

Page 1, 1. To commit the armed forces of the GRP and the MILF to a General Cessation of Hostilities;

Page 1, 2. To direct their respective Sub-Committee on Cessation of Hostilities to meet on 20 July 1997, and on such dates thereafter, but not to exceed two (2) months, to draw and finalise the guidelines and ground rules for the implementation of this Agreement;

Police No specific mention.

Armed forces Page 1, 1. To commit the armed forces of the GRP and the MILF to a General Cessation of Hostilities;

DDR No specific mention.

Intelligence services No specific mention.

Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces Page 1, 1. To commit the armed forces of the GRP and the MILF to a General Cessation of Hostilities;

Withdrawal of foreign forces No specific mention.

Corruption No specific mention.

Crime/organised crime No specific mention.

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

<https://peacemaker.un.org/philippines-generalcessationhostilities97>
