

|                                 |                                     |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Country/entity</b>           | Guatemala                           |
| <b>Region</b>                   | Americas                            |
| <b>Agreement name</b>           | Agreement on a Definitive Ceasefire |
| <b>Date</b>                     | 4 Dec 1996                          |
| <b>Agreement status</b>         | Multiparty signed/agreed            |
| <b>Interim arrangement</b>      | Yes                                 |
| <b>Agreement/conflict level</b> | Intrastate/intrastate conflict      |

### Guatemalan Civil War (1960 - 1996)

Civil war broke out in Guatemala when numerous leftist and agrarian groups took up arms in 1960 in face of the repression from the conservative regime of Carlos Castillo Armas. The Armas regime came to power in 1954 following a CIA-backed coup against the leftist government of Jacobo Arbenz. The main rebel umbrella was the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG). During the civil war numerous counts of genocide and mass disappearances occurred. In the late 1980s, when a civilian government came to power, the URNG changed tactics when releasing that they wouldn't come to power through armed conflict. The war came to an end on December 29, 1996, and since then URNG converted to an official political party.

Close  
Guatemalan Civil War (1960 - 1996)

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>Stage</b>           | Ceasefire/related  |
| <b>Conflict nature</b> | Government   |
| <b>Peace process</b>   | Guatemala peace process  |
| <b>Parties</b>         | <p>FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF GUATEMALA: (Signed) Gustavo PORRAS CASTEJÓN; (Signed) Otto PÉREZ MOLINA Brigadier General; (Signed) Raquel ZELAYA ROSALES; (Signed) Richard AITKENHEAD CASTILLO;</p> <p>FOR THE UNIDAD REVOLUCIONARIA NACIONAL GUATEMALTECA: (Signed) Commander Rolando MORAN; (Signed) Commander Pablo MONSANTO; (Signed) Carlos GONZALES; (Signed) Jorge ROSAL;</p> |
| <b>Third parties</b>   | FOR THE UNITED NATIONS: (Signed) Jean ARNAULT, Moderator;  |
| <b>Description</b>     | Set 60-day timetable for separation and assembly of forces and for URNG disarmament. Demobilisation to commence with a definitive ceasefire on date on which the UN verification mechanism was in place with full operational capacity.  |

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**Agreement document**

[GT\\_961204\\_AgreementOnDefinitiveCeasefire.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

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**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** Groups→Racial/ethnic/national group→Rhetorical  
Page 1, Whereas:  
... The Government of Guatemala reiterates that the incorporation of URNG in the political and legal life of the country, under conditions of security and dignity, is in the national interest, given that it is directly related to the objective of reconciliation and the consolidation of a democratic system open to all, and to the contribution of all Guatemalans in building a prosperous country, a just and equitable socio-economic system and a multicultural, multiethnic and multilingual nation,...

**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.

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**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)

Page 1, Whereas:

... The Government of Guatemala reiterates that the incorporation of URNG in the political and legal life of the country, under conditions of security and dignity, is in the national interest, given that it is directly related to the objective of reconciliation and the consolidation of a democratic system open to all, and to the contribution of all Guatemalans in building a prosperous country, a just and equitable socio-economic system and a multicultural, multiethnic and multilingual nation,

Page 1, Whereas:

... The contents of the peace agreements reflect a national consensus, having been endorsed by the various groups represented in the Assembly of Civil Society and outside it, and thus making the progressive implementation of the peace agreements a national agenda that must address the legitimate aspirations of Guatemalans while uniting the efforts of all behind these common objectives,

**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.

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## Governance

**Political institutions (new or reformed)** No specific mention.

**Elections** No specific mention.

**Electoral commission** No specific mention.

|                                      |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Political parties reform</b>      | <p>Governance→Political parties reform→Rebels transitioning to political parties</p> <p>Page 1, Whereas:</p> <p>... The agreement on a definitive ceasefire testifies to the decision by the political-military structure of URNG to constitute itself as a lawful political body and to be a participant, together with the Government and civil society, in working for peace, development and the common good,</p> <p>Page 6, C. Demobilization</p> <p>Logistical support</p> <p>29. A commission made up of representatives of URNG and of the Government of Guatemala shall be established under the coordination of the United Nations, in order to provide logistical support to the ceasefire and demobilization process. The number of members of the Commission shall be determined in accordance with needs.</p>   |
| <b>Civil society</b>                 | <p>Page 1, Whereas:</p> <p>... The contents of the peace agreements reflect a national consensus, having been endorsed by the various groups represented in the Assembly of Civil Society and outside it, and thus making the progressive implementation of the peace agreements a national agenda that must address the legitimate aspirations of Guatemalans while uniting the efforts of all behind these common objectives,</p> <p>Page 1, Whereas:</p> <p>... The agreement on a definitive ceasefire testifies to the decision by the political-military structure of URNG to constitute itself as a lawful political body and to be a participant, together with the Government and civil society, in working for peace, development and the common good,</p> <p>Page 1, Whereas:</p> <p>... During the current phase of negotiations the Government of Guatemala and the forces most representative of Guatemalan society have played a major role in creating the climate of trust which exists between the parties, who recognize that the support of the international community is an important element in the negotiation process,</p> |
| <b>Traditional/religious leaders</b> | No specific mention.  |
| <b>Public administration</b>         | No specific mention.  |
| <b>Constitution</b>                  | No specific mention.  |
| <hr/> <b>Power sharing</b>           |   |
| <b>Political power sharing</b>       | No specific mention.  |
| <b>Territorial power sharing</b>     | No specific mention.  |

**Economic power sharing**      No specific mention.

**Military power sharing**      No specific mention.

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**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.

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## **Rights related issues**

|                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>Citizenship</b>             | No specific mention.  |
| <b>Democracy</b>               | Page 1, Whereas:<br>... The Government of Guatemala reiterates that the incorporation of URNG in the political and legal life of the country, under conditions of security and dignity, is in the national interest, given that it is directly related to the objective of reconciliation and the consolidation of a democratic system open to all, and to the contribution of all Guatemalans in building a prosperous country, a just and equitable socio-economic system and a multicultural, multiethnic and multilingual nation, |
| <b>Detention procedures</b>    | No specific mention.  |
| <b>Media and communication</b> | Rights related issues→Media and communication→Media roles<br>Page 2, A. Ceasefire<br>Ban on political propaganda<br>7. During troop movements and once at the assembly points, the assembled forces may not engage in any propaganda or political activities beyond the assembly points.  |
| <b>Mobility/access</b>         | No specific mention.  |
| <b>Protection measures</b>     | No specific mention.  |
| <b>Other</b>                   | No specific mention.  |

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## **Rights institutions**

|  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| <b>NHRI</b>  | No specific mention. |
| <b>Regional or international human rights institutions</b> | No specific mention. |

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## **Justice sector reform**

**Criminal justice and emergency law** No specific mention.

**State of emergency provisions** Page 10, Page 12, Restriction of airspace,  
51. ... (a) Military flights over security zones shall be prohibited except in the event of a disaster or public emergency, in which case advance notice of such flights shall be given to the United Nations verification authority;

|                              |                      |
|------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Judiciary and courts</b>  | No specific mention. |
| <b>Prisons and detention</b> | No specific mention. |
| <b>Traditional Laws</b>      | No specific mention. |

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#### **Socio-economic reconstruction**

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| <b>Development or socio-economic reconstruction</b> | No specific mention. |
| <b>National economic plan</b>                       | No specific mention. |
| <b>Natural resources</b>                            | No specific mention. |
| <b>International funds</b>                          | No specific mention. |
| <b>Business</b>                                     | No specific mention. |
| <b>Taxation</b>                                     | No specific mention. |
| <b>Banks</b>  | No specific mention. |

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#### **Land, property and environment**

|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| <b>Land reform/rights</b>                 | No specific mention. |
| <b>Pastoralist/nomadism rights</b>        | No specific mention. |
| <b>Cultural heritage</b>                  | No specific mention. |
| <b>Environment</b>                        | No specific mention. |
| <b>Water or riparian rights or access</b> | No specific mention. |

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**Security  
Guarantees**

No specific mention.

## Ceasefire

Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision

Page 1, Whereas:

The definitive ceasefire is the outcome of the concluding of the substantive agreements emanating from the peace process and is also related to the operational agreements on "Basis for the integration of the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) in the political life of the country" and the "Timetable for the implementation and verification of the peace agreements", according to which the staggered demobilization of URNG forces called for under this Agreement must be started at the same time as the implementation of the undertakings set out in the peace agreements

Page 1-2, A. Ceasefire

Concept

1. Ceasefire means the cessation of all insurgent action by URNG units and the cessation of all counter-insurgent action by the Guatemalan armed forces.

Page 2, A. Ceasefire

Entry into force

2. The ceasefire shall enter into force as of 0000 hours on D-day, the date on which the United Nations verification mechanism shall be in place with full operational capacity. This phase must be completed no later than D+60, with the demobilization of URNG.

3. The parties agree to maintain the current cessation of offensive military activity by URNG and of counter-insurgent military activities by the Guatemalan armed forces until D-day.

4. The United Nations shall notify the parties of the establishment of the verification mechanism as soon as possible so that D-day may be set.

Page 2, A. Ceasefire

Deployment of the verification mechanism

5. From D-10 to D-day the United Nations shall deploy its personnel and equipment in order to verify the ceasefire at the sites determined by the parties in the annexes to this Agreement.

Page 2, A. Ceasefire

Verification sites

6. For purposes of verification, during the period of the ceasefire, representatives of the United Nations shall be present in the military units of the Guatemalan armed forces designated in annex C and at the URNG assembly points specified in annex A to this Agreement.

Page 5, B. Separation of forces

Verification of military units of the Guatemalan armed forces designated in annex C

22. The military units of the Guatemalan armed forces designated in annex C of this document shall be subject to verification programmes by the United Nations during the ceasefire process and shall give prior notice of their movements to the verification authority when such movements are scheduled to be conducted within the coordination zones.

Page 6, C. Demobilization

Logistical support

29. A commission made up of representatives of URNG and of the Government of Guatemala shall be established under the coordination of the United Nations, in order to provide logistical support to the ceasefire and demobilization process. The number of members of the Commission shall be determined in accordance with needs.

**Police**

No specific mention.

Page 2, A. Ceasefire

Entry into force

3. The parties agree to maintain the current cessation of offensive military activity by URNG and of counter-insurgent military activities by the Guatemalan armed forces until D-day.

Page 2, A. Ceasefire

Verification sites

6. For purposes of verification, during the period of the ceasefire, representatives of the United Nations shall be present in the military units of the Guatemalan armed forces designated in annex C and at the URNG assembly points specified in annex A to this Agreement.

Page 2, B. Separation of forces

Concepts

8. Redeployment of Guatemalan armed forces units: withdrawal means the establishment of spaces in which there is no Guatemalan armed forces presence of any kind. These spaces are to ensure safety and logistical support for URNG in order to facilitate verification by the United Nations.

Page 3, B. Separation of forces

Separation distance

10. Once the assembly points for members of URNG have been agreed upon and the military units of the Guatemalan armed forces referred to in annex C have been redeployed, the minimum distance between the units and the assembly points shall be 6 kilometres, in order to ensure that the operation proceeds without incident. The URNG assembly points shall be located preferably no less than 20 kilometres from the border.

Page 3, B. Separation of forces

Security zone

11. A security zone having a radius of 6 kilometres shall be established around each assembly point in which no units of the Guatemalan armed forces, Volunteer Civil Defence Committees (CVDC) or members of URNG may be present.

Page 3, B. Separation of forces

Coordination zone

13. A coordination zone extending a further 6 kilometres shall be established around each security zone. Movement by military units of the Guatemalan armed forces and CVDCs must be coordinated in advance with the United Nations verification authority.

Page 3, B. Separation of forces

Establishment of assembly points and transit routes

14. Assembly points and transit routes are listed in the following annexes to this Agreement:

(c) Annex C: Redeployment and location of Guatemalan armed forces military units subject to verification.

Page 3, B. Separation of forces

Information concerning troops and weapons

15. URNG shall provide the United Nations with detailed information on the number of troops, lists of names, inventories of weapons, explosives and mines, and all other necessary information concerning the existence of minefields, munitions and other

## DDR

Security sector→DDR→DDR programmes

Page 1, Whereas:

The definitive ceasefire is the outcome of the concluding of the substantive agreements emanating from the peace process and is also related to the operational agreements on "Basis for the integration of the Unidad Revolucionaria Nacional Guatemalteca (URNG) in the political life of the country" and the "Timetable for the implementation and verification of the peace agreements", according to which the staggered demobilization of URNG forces called for under this Agreement must be started at the same time as the implementation of the undertakings set out in the peace agreements

Page 2, A. Ceasefire

Entry into force

2. The ceasefire shall enter into force as of 0000 hours on D-day, the date on which the United Nations verification mechanism shall be in place with full operational capacity. This phase must be completed no later than D+60, with the demobilization of URNG.

Page 2, A. Ceasefire

Verification sites

6. For purposes of verification, during the period of the ceasefire, representatives of the United Nations shall be present in the military units of the Guatemalan armed forces designated in annex C and at the URNG assembly points specified in annex A to this Agreement.

Page 2, A. Ceasefire

Ban on political propaganda

7. During troop movements and once at the assembly points, the assembled forces may not engage in any propaganda or political activities beyond the assembly points.

Page 2, B. Separation of forces

Concepts

8. Redeployment of Guatemalan armed forces units: withdrawal means the establishment of spaces in which there is no Guatemalan armed forces presence of any kind. These spaces are to ensure safety and logistical support for URNG in order to facilitate verification by the United Nations.

Page 2, B. Separation of forces

Concepts

9. Assembly and disarming of URNG members: assembly of URNG members shall take place at the points specified by the parties. Their size shall be determined by the number of URNG members to be assembled and shall be sufficient to allow for temporary residence in adequate conditions.

Page 3, B. Separation of forces

Separation distance

10. Once the assembly points for members of URNG have been agreed upon and the military units of the Guatemalan armed forces referred to in annex C have been redeployed, the minimum distance between the units and the assembly points shall be 6 kilometres, in order to ensure that the operation proceeds without incident. The URNG assembly points shall be located preferably no less than 20 kilometres from the border.

Page 3, B. Separation of forces

Security zone

Page 14 of 20

11. A security zone having a radius of 6 kilometres shall be established around each assembly point in which no units of the Guatemalan armed forces, Volunteer Civil

**Intelligence  
services**

No specific mention.

**Parastatal/rebel  
and opposition  
group forces**

Page 1, Whereas:

... The Government of Guatemala reiterates that the incorporation of URNG in the political and legal life of the country, under conditions of security and dignity, is in the national interest, given that it is directly related to the objective of reconciliation and the consolidation of a democratic system open to all, and to the contribution of all Guatemalans in building a prosperous country, a just and equitable socio-economic system and a multicultural, multiethnic and multilingual nation,

Page 1, Whereas:

... The agreement on a definitive ceasefire testifies to the decision by the political-military structure of URNG to constitute itself as a lawful political body and to be a participant, together with the Government and civil society, in working for peace, development and the common good,

Page 2, B. Separation of forces

Concepts

9. Assembly and disarming of URNG members: assembly of URNG members shall take place at the points specified by the parties. Their size shall be determined by the number of URNG members to be assembled and shall be sufficient to allow for temporary residence in adequate conditions.

Page 3, B. Separation of forces

Separation distance

10. Once the assembly points for members of URNG have been agreed upon and the military units of the Guatemalan armed forces referred to in annex C have been redeployed, the minimum distance between the units and the assembly points shall be 6 kilometres, in order to ensure that the operation proceeds without incident. The URNG assembly points shall be located preferably no less than 20 kilometres from the border.

Page 3, B. Separation of forces

Security zone

11. A security zone having a radius of 6 kilometres shall be established around each assembly point in which no units of the Guatemalan armed forces, Volunteer Civil Defence Committees (CVDC) or members of URNG may be present.

Page 3, B. Separation of forces

Coordination zone

13. A coordination zone extending a further 6 kilometres shall be established around each security zone. Movement by military units of the Guatemalan armed forces and CVDCs must be coordinated in advance with the United Nations verification authority.

Page 3, B. Separation of forces

Establishment of assembly points and transit routes

14. Assembly points and transit routes are listed in the following annexes to this Agreement:

(a) Annex A: Assembly points for URNG units;

(b) Annex B: Transit routes by which URNG units are to travel to the assembly points;

Page 3, B. Separation of forces

Information concerning troops and weapons

15. URNG shall provide the United Nations with detailed information on the number of troops, lists of names, inventories of weapons, explosives and mines, and all other necessary information concerning the existence of minefields, munitions and other military equipment, both in their possession and in storage. The Guatemalan armed forces shall likewise provide updated information on the number of troops in the units to



|                                     |                      |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>Withdrawal of foreign forces</b> | No specific mention. |
| <b>Corruption</b>                   | No specific mention. |
| <b>Crime/organised crime</b>        | No specific mention. |
| <b>Drugs</b>                        | No specific mention. |
| <b>Terrorism</b>                    | No specific mention. |

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## **Transitional justice**

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <b>Transitional justice general</b> | No specific mention.   |
| <b>Amnesty/pardon</b>               | No specific mention.   |
| <b>Courts</b>                       | No specific mention.   |
| <b>Mechanism</b>                    | No specific mention.   |
| <b>Prisoner release</b>             | No specific mention.   |
| <b>Vetting</b>                      | No specific mention.   |
| <b>Victims</b>                      | No specific mention.   |
| <b>Missing persons</b>              | No specific mention.   |
| <b>Reparations</b>                  | No specific mention.   |
| <b>Reconciliation</b>               | <p>Page 1, Whereas:</p> <p>... The Government of Guatemala reiterates that the incorporation of URNG in the political and legal life of the country, under conditions of security and dignity, is in the national interest, given that it is directly related to the objective of reconciliation and the consolidation of a democratic system open to all, and to the contribution of all Guatemalans in building a prosperous country, a just and equitable socio-economic system and a multicultural, multiethnic and multilingual nation,</p> |

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**Implementation**

**UN signatory**            FOR THE UNITED NATIONS: (Signed) Jean ARNAULT, Moderator;

**Other international signatory**    No specific mention.

**Referendum for agreement**        No specific mention.

**International  
mission/force/  
similar**

Page 2, A. Ceasefire

Deployment of the verification mechanism

5. From D-10 to D-day the United Nations shall deploy its personnel and equipment in order to verify the ceasefire at the sites determined by the parties in the annexes to this Agreement.

Page 2, A. Ceasefire

Verification sites

6. For purposes of verification, during the period of the ceasefire, representatives of the United Nations shall be present in the military units of the Guatemalan armed forces designated in annex C and at the URNG assembly points specified in annex A to this Agreement.

Page 2, B. Separation of forces

Concepts

8. Redeployment of Guatemalan armed forces units: withdrawal means the establishment of spaces in which there is no Guatemalan armed forces presence of any kind. These spaces are to ensure safety and logistical support for URNG in order to facilitate verification by the United Nations.

Page 3, B. Separation of forces

Security zone

11. A security zone having a radius of 6 kilometres shall be established around each assembly point in which no units of the Guatemalan armed forces, Volunteer Civil Defence Committees (CVDC) or members of URNG may be present.

12. Only United Nations verification units may have access to these zones. Police activities may be carried out subject to coordination with the United Nations verification authority.

Page 3, B. Separation of forces

Coordination zone

13. A coordination zone extending a further 6 kilometres shall be established around each security zone. Movement by military units of the Guatemalan armed forces and CVDCs must be coordinated in advance with the United Nations verification authority.

Page 3, B. Separation of forces

Information concerning troops and weapons

15. URNG shall provide the United Nations with detailed information on the number of troops, lists of names, inventories of weapons, explosives and mines, and all other necessary information concerning the existence of minefields, munitions and other military equipment, both in their possession and in storage. The Guatemalan armed forces shall likewise provide updated information on the number of troops in the units to be redeployed which are identified in annex C. Both parties shall transmit this information to the verification authority no later than D+15.

16. The parties agree to transmit to the verification authority within the time agreed with both of them any additional information required by the authority.

Page 4, B. Separation of forces

Start of redeployment

19. The Parties shall communicate to the United Nations verification authority no later than D-10 the full programme for the moves of their respective forces (composition, route to be taken, when the move is to begin and any other information needed to complete the verification). Page 19 of 20

Page 4, B. Separation of forces

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>Enforcement mechanism</b> | UN verification provided for throughout  |
| <b>Related cases</b>         | No specific mention.   |
| <b>Source</b>                | United States Institute of Peace (1998) Peace Agreements: Guatemala - Peace Agreements Digital Collection. Available at: <a href="https://www.usip.org/publications/1998/11/peace-agreements-guatemala">https://www.usip.org/publications/1998/11/peace-agreements-guatemala</a> (Accessed 14 October 2020). |

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