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Country/ entity	Philippines Mindanao
Region	Asia and Pacific Asia and Pacific
Agreement name	Implementing Operational Guidelines of the GRP-MILF Agreement on the General Cessation of Hostilities
Date	14 Nov 1997
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/ conflict level	Intrastate/intrastate conflict (Philippine Insurgencies (1968 -))
Stage	Ceasefire/related
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Philippines - Mindanao process
Parties	MGen. Joselin B. Nazareno, AFP, GRP Sub-Committee on Cessation of Hostilities Chairman; Atty. Omar B. Umpar, MILF Sub-Committee on Cessation of Hostilities Acting Chairman and MILF Legal Counsel

Third parties Witnesses for GRP:
C/Supt. Franco M. Calida, PNP, GRP SCCH Member;
Capt. Rolando T. Garcia, PNP, GRP SCCH Member;
Col. Manual B. Ibanez Jr., AFP, GRP SCCH Member;
Col. Jose G. Corales, AFP, GRP SCCH Member;
Lt. Col. Rudy So, AFP, GRP SCCH Member;
MGen. Oswaldo Villanueva (Ret.), GRP-SPAG Executive Director;

Witnesses for MILF:
Saipoden Tomawis, MILF SCCH Member;
Badawi Hashim, MILF SCCH Member;
Usman Mangkabong, MILF SCCH Member;
Jaapa J. Ujajan, MILF SCCH Member;
Elias Macarandas, MILF SCCH Member;
Abdulmanaf Mantawil, MILF Secretariat Chairman;

Attested by:
Lt. Gen. Orlando V. Soriano (Ret.), GRP Panel Chairman;
Aleem Abdulazis Mimbantas, MILF Panel Chairman

Description Listed prohibited hostile and provocative acts, and actions exempted from cessation of hostilities. Also outlined ground rules and provided for observation of cessation of hostilities and conduct of inquiry by the GRP-MILF Coordination Committees on Cessation of Hostilities (CCHC) and action to be taken by the GRP and MILF if their forces violate the guidelines and ground rules. Other provisions dealt with security of the GRP and MILF Panels and CCCH members and relationships between the CCCH and the GRP and MILF forces.

Agreement document [PH_971114_Implementing Operational Guidelines of GRP-MILF Agreement.pdf](#)  | [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

Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Life

Page 1, Article I Definition of Terms

3. The following are considered prohibited hostile acts:

3.a. Terroristic acts such as kidnapping, hijacking, piracy, arson, bombings, grenade throwing, liquidations/assassinations, unjustified arrest, torture, unreasonable search and seizure, summary execution, as well as burning of houses, places of worship and educational institutions, destruction of properties, and abuse of civilians.

Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Torture

Page 1, Article I Definition of Terms

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Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Liberty and security of person

Page 1, Article 1 Definition of Terms

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Page 2, Article I Definition of Terms

4.e. Other acts that endanger the safety and security of the people and their properties; and/or that which contribute to the deterioration of peace and order, such as blatant display of firearms.

Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Humane treatment in detention

Page 1, Article I Definition of Terms

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Human rights and equality→Civil and political rights→Fair trial

Page 1, Article I Definition of Terms

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Socio-economic rights

Human rights and equality→Socio-economic rights→Property
Page 1, Article I Definition of Terms

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Page 2, Article I Definition of Terms

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Human rights and equality→Socio-economic rights→Education
Page 1, Article I Definition of Terms

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Human rights and equality→Socio-economic rights→Cultural life
Page 1, Article I Definition of Terms

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Rights related issues

Citizenship No specific mention.

Democracy No specific mention.

Detention procedures No specific mention.

Media and communication Rights related issues→Media and communication→Media roles
Page 2, Article I Definition of Terms
4.d. Public pronouncements that will tend to undermine the sincerity or credibility of either party in implementing the cessation of hostilities.

Page 2, Article II Actions Exempted from Cessation of Hostilities
[...] These actions include, but are not limited to, the following:
2. Defensive or protective actions of the GRP and MILF to ensure the security of its forces, facilities, installations, equipment and lines of communications, and the safety and tranquility of the civil government and the population.

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, Article I Definition of Terms

1. GRP Forces - as referred to in the GRP-MILF Agreement on the General Cessation of Hostilities signed in Cagayan de Oro City on July 18, 1997.

Page 1, Article I Definition of Terms

2. MILF Forces - as referred to in the GRP-MILF Agreement on the General Cessation of Hostilities signed in Cagayan de Oro City on July 18, 1997.

Page 1, Article I Definition of Terms

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3.b. Aggressive action such as attacks, raids, abuscades, landminings, and offensive military actions such as shelling, reconnoitering, and unjustified massing of troop.

3.c Establishment of checkpoints except those necessary for the GRP's enforcement and maintenance of peace and order, and, for the defense and security of the MILF in their identified areas, as jointly determined by the GRP and MILF.

Page 1, Article I Definition of Terms

4. The following are considered prohibited provocative acts:

4.a. Display of MILF flag in non-identified MILF areas.

4.c. Massive Deployment and/or movement of GRP and MILF forces which are not normal administrative functions and activities.

Page 2, Article 1 Definition of Terms

4.d. Public pronouncements that will tend to undermine the sincerity or credibility of either party in implementing the cessation of hostilities.

4.e. Other acts that endanger the safety and security of the people and their properties; and/or that which contribute to the deterioration of peace and order, such as blatant display of firearms.

Page 2, Article II Actions Exempted from Cessation of Hostilities

Police and military actions and administrative/logistic activities shall continue to be undertaken by the GRP throughout Mindanao and the entire country. In the pursuit thereof, confrontational situations between the GRP and MILF forces shall be avoided by prior coordination with the latter. These actions include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Peacekeeping and police actions such as preventive patrols, investigations, arrest, searches and seizures undertaken by the Government against criminality especially against piracy, robbery, kidnapping, cattle rustling, murder and other criminal acts.

2. Defensive or protective actions of the GRP and MILF to ensure the security of its forces, facilities, installations, equipment and lines of communications, and the safety and tranquility of the civil government and the population.

Page 2, Article III Ground Rules

1. The GRP and MILF shall be prohibited from committing any prohibited hostile and provocative acts, as described in this Implementing Guidelines and Ground

Police

Page 2, Article II Actions Exempted from Cessation of Hostilities

Police and military actions and administrative/logistic activities shall continue to be undertaken by the GRP throughout Mindanao and the entire country. In the pursuit thereof, confrontational situations between the GRP and MILF forces shall be avoided by prior coordination with the latter. These actions include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Peacekeeping and police actions such as preventive patrols, investigations, arrest, searches and seizures undertaken by the Government against criminality especially against piracy, robbery, kidnapping, cattle rustling, murder and other criminal acts.

Armed
forces

Page 1, Article I Definition of Terms

1. GRP Forces - as referred to in the GRP-MILF Agreement on the General Cessation of Hostilities signed in Cagayan de Oro City on July 18, 1997.

Page 1, Article I Definition of Terms

3. The following are considered prohibited hostile acts:

3.b. Aggressive action such as attacks, raids, abuscades, landminings, and offensive military actions such as shelling, reconnoitering, and unjustified massing of troop.

3.c Establishment of checkpoints except those necessary for the GRP's enforcement and maintenance of peace and order, and, for the defense and security of the MILF in their identified areas, as jointly determined by the GRP and MILF.

Page 1, Article I Definition of Terms

4. The following are considered prohibited provocative acts:

4.c. Massive Deployment and/or movement of GRP and MILF forces which are not normal administrative functions and activities.

Page 2, Article II Actions Exempted from Cessation of Hostilities

Police and military actions and administrative/logistic activities shall continue to be undertaken by the GRP throughout Mindanao and the entire country. In the pursuit therefor, confrontational situations between the GRP and MILF forces shall be avoided by prior coordination with the latter. These actions include, but are not limited to, the following:

2. Defensive or protective actions of the GRP and MILF to ensure the security of its forces, facilities, installations, equipment and lines of communications, and the safety and tranquility of the civil government and the population.

Page 2, Article III Ground Rules

1. The GRP and MILF shall desist from committing any prohibited hostile and provocative acts, as described in this Implementing Guidelines and Ground Rules.

Page 2, Article III Ground Rules

2. Movement of MILF forces outside their identified areas, as jointly determined by the GRP and MILF CCCH, shall be coordinated by concerned MILF commanders to the GRP forces' commanders for clearance prior to said movements.

Page 3, Article III Ground Rules

4.b. The CCCH shall inform immediately the commanders of GRP and MILF forces whose units or members are alleged to be violating this Implementing Guidelines and Ground Rules. It shall be the responsibility of the GRP and MILF to take immediate and necessary actions to stop any violation and punish respective forced who violate this Implementing Guidelines and Ground Rules.

4.c. The CCCH Report of inquiry shall be submitted directly to the GRP-MILF Peace Panels, with copies furnished to the GRP and MILF Commanders concerned.

Page 3, Article III Ground Rules

5. Disposition of violations of cessation of hostilities - The GRP and the MILF will take appropriate actions on their respective forces who violate this Implementing Guidelines and Ground Rules.

DDR No specific mention.

Intelligence services No specific mention.

Parastatal/
rebel and
opposition
group
forces

Page 2, Article III Ground Rules

3. Forces not identified by the GRP and MILF CCCH shall be deemed not covered by this Implementing Guidelines and Ground Rules.

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Page 1, Article I Definition of Terms

2. MILF Forces - as referred to in the GRP-MILF Agreement on the General Cessation of Hostilities signed in Cagayan de Oro City on July 18, 1997.

Page 1, Article I Definition of Terms

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Page 1, Article I Definition of Terms

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Withdrawal of foreign forces	No specific mention.
Corruption	No specific mention.
Crime/organised crime	Page 1, Article I Definition of Terms 4. The following are considered non-identified MILF areas 4.b. Providing sanctuary or assistance to criminal or lawless elements.
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 Entire agreement concerns establishing enforcement mechanisms for the GRP-MILF Agreement. See Ceasefire.

Related cases No specific mention.

Source <https://peacemaker.un.org/philippines-implementingguidelines97>
