

Country/entity	Philippines Mindanao
Region	Asia and Pacific
Agreement name	Interim Cessation of Hostilities in Buldon, Maguindanao
Date	27 Jan 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	M/Gen. Joselin B. Nazareno, AFP, GRP Committee on Cessation of Hostilities Chairman Atty. Lanang Ali, MILF Committee on Cessation of Hostilities Chairman
Third parties	-
Description	Provincial Governor of Maguindanao to provide assistance to insure the return to office of the Mayor of Buldon, and to assist government agencies in relief and rehabilitation of evacuees and the re-opening of schools in the affected areas. Agreed that the GRP and MILF forces would maintain 'as is, where is' positions within the area of conflict prior to discussions on the matter, and that Philippine National Police (PNP) would continue its mandated role to enforce all laws and maintain peace and order. MILF agreed to move and not establish check points, roadblocks etc. along the roads networks from Parang to Buildon and the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and MILF agreed to refrain from provocative actions. Provided for the withdrawal of all AFP forces at the option of the AFP based on its evaluation of the peace and order situation.

Agreement document	PH_970127_Interim Cessation of Hostilities in Buldon.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	No specific mention.
Religious groups	No specific mention.
Indigenous people	No specific mention.
Other groups	No specific mention.

Refugees/displaced persons Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Substantive
Page 1, 7. The Provincial Government of Maguindanao, within its mandate, will assist the concerned government agencies in the relief and rehabilitation of evacuees, and the reopening of schools in the affected areas.

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 Page 1, 4. The MILF will remove and shall not establish checkpoints, detachments, roadblocks, and other similar points along the road networks from Parang to Buldon, Maguindanao.

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, Preamble
Whereas, the attainment and preservation of peace and order is a universal concern and aspiration of all individuals;

Page 1, Preamble
[...] Whereas the return to normalcy in the Municipality of Buldon is a general concern of the GRP, MILF and all sectors as it will insure the delivery of vital resources and services and complement efforts towards the attainment of peace in the area;

Page 1, 7. The Provincial Government of Maguindanao, within its mandate, will assist the concerned government agencies in the relief and rehabilitation of evacuees, and the reopening of schools in the affected areas.

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
Now, therefore, the Technical Committee on Cessation of Hostilities of the GRP and the MILF hereby covenant and agree;

Page 1, 2. The GRP and the MILF forces will maintain “as is, where is” positions within the area of conflict in Buldon, Maguindanao, prior to further discussions on the matter on February 9, 1997.

Page 1, 3. The PNP elements in the Municipality of Buldon, Maguindanao, assisted by local CAFGU elements, shall continue its mandated role to enforce all laws and maintain peace and order within the area.

Page 1, 5. The AFP and MILF will refrain from making provocative actions against each other such as sniping, strafing, mortar shelling and deployment of additional troops.

See Army and Rebel/Opposition Group Reconfiguration.

Police Page 1, 3. The PNP elements in the Municipality of Buldon, Maguindanao, assisted by local CAFGU elements, shall continue its mandated role to enforce all laws and maintain peace and order within the area.

Armed forces Page 1, 2. The GRP and the MILF forces will maintain “as is, where is” positions within the area of conflict in Buldon, Maguindanao, prior to further discussions on the matter on February 9, 1997.

Page 1, 5. The AFP and MILF will refrain from making provocative actions against each other such as sniping, strafing, mortar shelling and deployment of additional troops.

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Page 1, 6. All AFP forces deployed in Buldon, Maguindanao from January 1, 1997 up to the present will be withdrawn from the area at the option of the AFP based on its evaluation of the peace and order situation.

DDR No specific mention.

Intelligence services	No specific mention.
Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	<p>Page 1, 2. The GRP and the MILF forces will maintain “as is, where is” positions within the area of conflict in Buldon, Maguindanao, prior to further discussions on the matter on February 9, 1997.</p> <p>Page 1, 4. The MILF will remove and shall not establish checkpoints, detachments, roadblocks, and other similar points along the road networks from Parang to Buldon, Maguindanao.</p> <p>Page 1, 5. The AFP and MILF will refrain from making provocative actions against each other such as sniping, strafing, mortar shelling and deployment of additional troops.</p>
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 GRP-MILF Peace Process: Compilation of Signed Agreements & other related Documents (1997-2010); (MILF Peace Panel/Asia Foundation, 2010), pp. 5-6.
