

Country/entity	Philippines Mindanao
Region	Asia and Pacific
Agreement name	Rules and Procedures in the Administration of the Joint Secretariat of the Joint GRF-MILF Coordinating Committees on Cessation of Hostilities
Date	18 May 1999
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	For the GRP: B. Gen. José I T Torrelavega, AFP, GRP CCCH Chairman; S. Supt. Jainal I Jamasali, PNP Member; Ltc. Ricardo B. Torrevillas, PA Member; Maj. Policarpio Zacarias, PA Member; For the MILF: Sultan Saifoden Tomawis, MILF CCCH Chairman; Badawi “Boy” Hashim, Member; Gerry Abubakar, Member; Atty. Guinaid S. Paduman, Member
Third parties	-
Description	Agreement to implement Agreement to Reaffirm the Pursuit of Peace (Feb 10, 1999), creating offices of the Secretariat to the GRP-MILF Coordinating Committee on Cessation of Hostilities.

Agreement document [PH_990518_Rules and Procedures in Administration of Joint Secretariat.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 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**

Page 4, Article 5: Office of the Responsible Supply Officer

Section 4: Staffing

[...]

The CCCH, upon mutual agreement, may require and appoint similar and additional personnel necessary for the maintenance and/or security of the Principal and/or Field Coordinating Offices.

Ceasefire

Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision

Page 1, Untitled Preamble

In pursuance of the Agreement to Reaffirm the Pursuit of Peace dated and signed on 10 February 1999 at Da'wah Center, Crossing Simuay, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao that provided for the activation of the GRP-MILF Coordinating Committee on Cessation of Hostilities, and to ensure the smooth flow of activities in the implementation of the ACGH during the peace process, the following Offices of the Secretariat is hereby created, including the functions thereof, as follows: [...]

Page 1, Article 1: Joint Office of the Chairpersons

Section 1: There is hereby created a Joint Office of the Chairpersons composed of the Chairpersons of the Secretariat from each of the Committee.

Section 2: Each Committee shall designate one member of its Secretariat to be the Chairperson of its respective Secretariat.

Section 3: b. Ensure that instructions from the Committee are complied with expeditiously through the coordinative efforts of the members of the Secretariat.

d. Recommend to the CCCH the appointment of the following positions including clerks or drivers.

Page 1, Article 2: Joint Office of the Heads for Operations

Section 2: The Heads for Operations shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

2.2.a. Plan, coordinate for and orchestrate all external activities of the CCCH in the implementation of its plans and programs.

2.2.b. Maintain a file of all reports of the CCCH in connection with the conduct of its activities, including but not limited to, verification, visitation and/or investigations and any other similar reports as directed by the Committee.

Page 2, Article 3: Joint Offices of the Heads for Administration

Section 2

The Heads for Administration shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

3.2.a. Plan, prepare and coordinate for all internal activities of the CCCH including but not limited to, the preparation of meeting venue, sending of letters of invitation to the CCCH members and Secretariat, and other persons at the instruction of the Chairpersons or the CCCH itself.

3.2.c. Provide administrative as well as financial support in coordination with the RSO, if available, to the CCCH when directed and/or to the Secretariat when requested.

Page 3, Article 5: Office of the Responsible Supply Officer

Section 2: The Responsible Supply Officer shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

a. Plan, prepare and coordinate for the availability of logistical and/or financial support for the CCCH and/or the Secretariat.

b. Receive and maintain all government properties that may be made available to the CCCH and/or the Secretariat in accordance with existing government policies and regulations therefor.

Police

No specific mention.

Armed forces

No specific mention.

DDR	No specific mention.
Intelligence services	No specific mention.
Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	No specific mention.
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 INCORE, GRP-MILF Peace Process: Compilation of Signed Agreements & other related Documents (1997-2010); (MILF Peace Panel/Asia Foundation, 2010), pp. 57-61.
