

Peace Agreement Access Tool PA-X <https://pax.peaceagreements.org/>

Country/ entity	Philippines Mindanao
Region	Asia and Pacific Asia and Pacific
Agreement name	Joint Press Statement
Date	2 Sep 1997
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes
Agreement/ conflict level	Intrastate/intrastate conflict (Philippine Insurgencies (1968 -))
Stage	Pre-negotiation/process
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Philippines - Mindanao process
Parties	Maj. Gen. 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	-
Description	Joint Press Statement to inform on the meeting held by the GRP and MILF Sub-Committee on Cessation of Hostilities on September 2, 1997, in which the Sub-Committee recognized the need to encourage and hasten the return of evacuees, thus provided for repositioning of GRP forces and reassuring that MILF elements in the areas may return, so long as they do not establish military outposts nor display firearms.

Agreement document [PH_970902_Joint Press Statement.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	<p>Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Rhetorical Preamble, Page 1 [...] Recognizing the need to further give meaning and substance to the General Cessation of Hostilities by hastening the return of the evacuees in Pikit, North Cotabato and Pagalungan, Maguindanao, the GRP-MILF Sub-Committees on Cessation of Hostilities agreed on the following:</p> <p>Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Substantive Page 1, 1. The GRP will gradually reposition its forces in Rajamuda and its environs to their original positions before June 16, 1997 and will continue to secure the Cotabato City -Davao City Highway to ensure the safety of travelers. The gradual repositioning of the GRP forces shall be completed within fifteen (15) days after the signing of this Agreement;</p> <p>2. The GRP and MILF shall encourage the return of evacuees to their respective residences. MILF elements who are residents of the are shall be allowed to return to their homes immediately, however, they will not establish military outposts/positions nor display firearms.</p>
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 No specific mention.

Ceasefire Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision

The GRP and MILF Sub-Committee on Cessation of Hostilities convened at the Notre Dame University in Cotabato City on September 2, 1997 to resume the peace negotiation pursuant to the Agreement on the General Cessation of Hostilities signed by the GRP and MILF Peace Panels on July 18, 1997 in Cagayan De Oro City.

Recognizing the need to further give meaning and substance to the General Cessation of Hostilities by hastening the return of the evacuees in Pikit, North Cotabato and Pagalungan, Maguindanao, the GRP-MILF Sub-Committees on Cessation of Hostilities agreed on the following:

1. The GRP will gradually reposition its forces in Rajamuda and its environs to their original positions before June 16, 1997 and will continue to secure the Cotabato City -Davao City Highway to ensure the safety of travelers. The gradual repositioning of the GRP forces shall be completed within fifteen (15) days after the signing of this Agreement;

Police 3. Law enforcement in the aforementioned areas shall be primarily undertaken by the GRP authorities, provided, however, that before the conduct thereof, prior coordination/consultation shall be made with the nearest MILF designated liaison in the area.

Armed forces	No specific mention.
DDR	Security sector→DDR→Demilitarisation provisions 2. The GRP and MILF shall encourage the return of evacuees to their respective residences. MILF elements who are residents of the are shall be allowed to return to their homes immediately, however, they will not establish military outposts/positions nor display firearms.
Intelligence services	No specific mention.
Parastatal/ rebel and opposition group forces	2. The GRP and MILF shall encourage the return of evacuees to their respective residences. MILF elements who are residents of the are shall be allowed to return to their homes immediately, however, they will not establish military outposts/positions nor display firearms.
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.
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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), p. 20.
