

Country/entity	Philippines Mindanao
Region	Asia and Pacific
Agreement name	Joint Press Statement
Date	7 Feb 1998
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	Pre-negotiation/process
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Philippines - Mindanao process
Parties	Asec. Jovenal F. Lazaga, GRP SCAS Chairman; MGen. Joselin B. Nazareno, GRP SCCH; Shiekh Moner Bajunaid, MILF SCAS Chairman; Atty. Omar B. Umpar, MILF SCCH Chairman
Third parties	-
Description	Joint Press Statement informing on the third GRP-MILF Technical Committee meeting on February 4-6, 1998, in which the Parties agreed that in order to maintain the momentum in the quest for peace, the GRP will reposition forces five (5) kilometers away from the Banganan River in the Buldon, Maguindanao area and the MILF will not occupy the newly deserted area, in addition the GRP will suspend all logging operations in the area. In order to effectively implement the Agreement on the General Cessation of Hostilities, the Parties agreed to the operationalization of the monitoring office of the GRP-MILF CCCH and its sub-offices, the expansion of the IFFC, and the formation of a Quick Response Team (QRT) to be chaired by the IFFC.

Agreement document	PH_980207_Joint Press Statement.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 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.
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Socio-economic rights	No specific mention.
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Rights related issues

Citizenship	No specific mention.
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Democracy	No specific mention.
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Detention procedures	No specific mention.
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Media and communication	No specific mention.
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Mobility/access	No specific mention.
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Protection measures	No specific mention.
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Other	No specific mention.
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Rights institutions

NHRI	No specific mention.
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Regional or international human rights institutions	No specific mention.
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Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law	No specific mention.
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State of emergency provisions	No specific mention.
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Judiciary and courts	No specific mention.
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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 Page 1, 2. The GRP shall immediately exert its utmost efforts to resolve the watershed issue involving Upper Minabay-Bagangan-Ambal River in Buldon, Maguindanao. In Consultation with concerned parties and coordinating with appropriate government agencies, the GRP shall cause the proposed immediate suspension of logging operations of the Cotabato Timber Company, Inc. and other logging concessionaires in the area until final resolution of the conflict in the Bagangan-Ambal area.

International funds No specific mention.

Business Page 1, 2. The GRP shall immediately exert its utmost efforts to resolve the watershed issue involving Upper Minabay-Bagangan-Ambal River in Buldon, Maguindanao. In Consultation with concerned parties and coordinating with appropriate government agencies, the GRP shall cause the proposed immediate suspension of logging operations of the Cotabato Timber Company, Inc. and other logging concessionaires in the area until final resolution of the conflict in the Bagangan-Ambal area.

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** Page 1, 2. The GRP shall immediately exert its utmost efforts to resolve the watershed issue involving Upper Minabay-Bagangan-Ambal River in Buldon, Maguindanao. In Consultation with concerned parties and coordinating with appropriate government agencies, the GRP shall cause the proposed immediate suspension of logging operations of the Cotabato Timber Company, Inc. and other logging concessionaires in the area until final resolution of the conflict in the Bagangan-Ambal area.

Security sector

Security Guarantees

No specific mention.

Ceasefire

Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision

Page 1, The third GRP-MILF Technical Committee meeting was held on February 4-6, 1998 at Samporna Hall, Marawi Resort Hotel, Marawi City to resume the peace negotiations pursuant to the Agreement on the General Cessation of Hostilities signed by the GRP and MILF Peace Panels on July 18, 1997.

Page 1, 1. To keep the momentum in the quest for peace by the GRP and MILF, and to defuse the tension created by unfortunate incidents in the recent past, it is agreed that the GRP shall immediately commence to reposition its forces in Buldon, Magundanao, at least five kilometers away from Banganan River to be completed not later than February 20, 1998; provided that the MILF shall not occupy vacated areas to this end, the GRP and the MILF hereby reaffirm to strictly adhere to the Implementing Operational Guidelines of the GRP and MILF Agreement on Operational Guidelines of the GRP and MILF Agreement on the General Cessation of Hostilities signed on 14 November 1997.

Page 1, 3. In order to effectively observe and implement the Terms and Conditions of the Agreement on the General Cessation of Hostilities, the GRP and MILF Technical Committees agreed on the following:

3.A. Operationalization of the monitoring office of the GRP-MILF Coordinating Committees on Cessation of Hostilities, in Cotabato City and Sub-Offices in Marawi City and other areas to be determined later;

Page 2, 3.C. Formation of a Quick-Response Team (QRT) composed of representatives from the GRP, MILF and the Independent Fact-Finding Committee to immediately address alleged violations of the Agreement on the General Cessation of Hostilities; provided, that the QRT is chaired by the IFFC.

Police

No specific mention.

Armed forces

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DDR

No specific mention.

Intelligence services

No specific mention.

Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	Page 1, 1. To keep the momentum in the quest for peace by the GRP and MILF, and to defuse the tension created by unfortunate incidents in the recent past, it is agreed that the GRP shall immediately commence to reposition its forces in Buldon, Magundanao, at least five kilometers away from Banganan River to be completed not later than February 20, 1998; provided that the MILF shall not occupy vacated areas to this end, the GRP and the MILF hereby reaffirm to strictly adhere to the Implementing Operational Guidelines of the GRP and MILF Agreement on Operational Guidelines of the GRP and MILF Agreement on the General Cessation of Hostilities signed on 14 November 1997.
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. 36-37.
