

Country/entity	Philippines Mindanao
Region	Asia and Pacific
Agreement name	Joint Statement
Date	17 Feb 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	Pre-negotiation/process
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Philippines - Mindanao process
Parties	FOR GRP: BGen. Jose Proceso T. Torrelavega, AFP, GRP CCCH Chairperson; FOR THE MILF: Sultan Saifudin Tomawis, MILF CCCH Chairperson; MEMBERS FOR GRP: S/ Supt. Jainal H. Jamasali, PNP; Lt. Alfredo D. Bunga, PA; Lt. Calixto A. Saquin, PA; Lt. Ricardo B. Torrevillas, PA; Maj. Policaprio Zacarias, PA; MEMBER FOR MILF: Badawi Hasim; Jerry Abubakar; Diego Silang; Abu Mujahid Pahlawan; Hadji Abdulkarim Mutia
Third parties	-
Description	Joint Statement by the GRP-MILF Coordinating Committees on Cessation of Hostilities that affirms that the Committees jointly commit to fully implementing the Agreement on the General Cessation of Hostilities, and to support the continuance of the peace negotiations. The Committees also agreed on the prioritization of the MILF camps for verification, in addition to the location of the Joint Secretariat Office and the establishment of sub-committees/work groups to undertake administrative arrangements, formulation guidelines for MILF camp verification, and agenda preparation and coordination for cessation of hostilities.

Agreement document [PH_990217_Joint Statement.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 Page 1, [...] Both Committees agreed that the Joint Secretariat will be established at the NDU Peace Center, Cotabato City, and that there shall be three (3) Sub-Committees/Work Groups to be created which shall tackle the following: [...]

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.
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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.
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, Pursuant to the Implementing Administrative Guidelines to the GRP-MILF Agreement on the General Cessation of Hostilities (AGCH), dated September 12, 1997, and the GRP-MILF Agreement "To Reaffirm the Pursuit of Peace", dated February 10, 1998, the GRP-MILF Coordinating Committees on Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH) jointly commit themselves to work for the total and full implementation of the AGCH.

Page 1, [...] Both Committees also commit themselves to fully support the continuance and success of the peace negotiations.

Page 1, [...] Likewise, said committees subscribe to formulate and institute pre-emptive and pro-active measures to ensure the observance of the AGCH and to fully support the Independent Fact Finding Committee (IFFC)/Quick Response Team (QRT) in their mandated task and functions.

Page 1, [...] Both Committees agreed that the Joint Secretariat will be established at the NDU Peace Center, Cotabato City, and that there shall be three (3) Sub-Committees/Work Groups to be created which shall tackle the following:

3. Cessation of hostilities and coordination and agenda preparation.

Page 2, These sub-committees shall submit within one (1) week their recommendations or proposals to the Joint CCCH en banc.

Page 2, [...] It was finally agreed that immediately after the finalization and adoption of the guidelines/procedures on the identification/verification of MILF camps/positions, the Joint CCCH shall commence actual inspection of the said areas.

Police

No specific mention.

Armed forces

No specific mention.

DDR

Security sector→DDR→Demilitarisation provisions

Page 1, [...] Likewise, said committees subscribe to formulate and institute pre-emptive and pro-active measures to ensure the observance of the AGCH and to fully support the Independent Fact Finding Committee (IFFC)/Quick Response Team (QRT) in their mandated task and functions. It was also agreed that the following are the priorities for verification pursuant to the Rule V of the Implementing Administrative Guidelines:

1. Camp Oman Ibn Al Khatab (Maguindanao)
2. Camp Badre (Maguindanao)
3. Camp Bilal (Lano del Norte)
4. Camp Rajahmuda (Cotabato/Maguindanao)
5. Camp Darapanan (Maguindanao)

Page 1, [...] Both Committees agreed that the Joint Secretariat will be established at the NDU Peace Center, Cotabato City, and that there shall be three (3) Sub-Committees/Work Groups to be created which shall tackle the following:

2. Formulation of Guidelines in the conduction of ocular inspections/verification of MILF Camps/Positions;
3. Cessation of hostilities and coordination and agenda preparation.

Page 2, [...] It was finally agreed that immediately after the finalization and adoption of the guidelines/procedures on the identification/verification of MILF camps/positions, the Joint CCCH shall commence actual inspection of the said areas.

Intelligence services

No specific mention.

Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces

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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. 55-56.
