

Country/entity	Philippines Mindanao
Region	Asia and Pacific
Agreement name	Joint Communique
Date	23 Feb 2000
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	Lt. Gen. Edgardo E. Batenga, AFP (Ret.), GRP Peace Panel Chairman; Dr. Emily M. Marohombsar, GRP Peace Panel Member; Aleem Abdulaziz Mimbantas, MILF Peace Panel Chairman and Vice Chairman for Internal Affairs; Mr. Mohagher Iqbal, MILF Peace Panel Member and Vice Chairman for Information
Third parties	Witnessed by: Atty. Alberto A. Bernardo, GRP Technical Committee Member; BGen. Antonio Q. Romero (Ret.), GRP Panel Executive Director; Cpt. Vicente G. Batac, PA, DND Representative; Atty. Alan L. Flores, MILF Technical Committee Member; Mr. Eid Kabalu, MILF CCCH Chairman; Mr. Rudy Radiamoda, MILF Peace Panel Adviser
Description	Joint Communique by the GRP and MILF Peace Panels informing on their commitment to implement the Ceasefire Agreement by strengthening the organizational capabilities of the CCCH, IFC, and QRT in order to ensure effective implementation of the cessation of hostilities. Additionally, both Parties recognize the aspiration of all the people in Mindanao, and reaffirm their commitment to the resumption of the second round of formal talks to take place on March 1-2, 2000.

Agreement document [PH_000223_Joint Communique.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 Page 1, Recognizing that there will be lasting peace in Mindanao when there is mutual trust, justice, freedom and tolerance for the identity, culture and aspirations of all the people in Mindanao, both parties have reaffirmed their sincerity to pursue peace to bring an end to the armed conflict in Mindanao. Further, both parties commit and resolutely continue the negotiation until a negotiated political settlement is reached.

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

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Ceasefire

Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision

Page 1, Recognizing that there will be lasting peace in Mindanao when there is mutual trust, justice, freedom and tolerance for the identity, culture and aspirations of all the people in Mindanao, both parties have reaffirmed their sincerity to pursue peace to bring an end to the armed conflict in Mindanao. Further, both parties commit and resolutely continue the negotiation until a negotiated political settlement is reached.

Page 1, 1. Parties agree for the earnest cessation of hostilities in the following areas, namely: Carmen, Cotabato Province; Sharif Aguak, Datu Piang, Talayan, Kabuntalan and Ampatuan, Maguindanao Province; and, Isulan, Sultan Kudarat Province, effective February 28, 2000, six o'clock in the afternoon in accordance with the Agreement on General Cessation of Hostilities of July 18, 1997;

Page 1, 2. Parties agree that their Coordinating Committees on the Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH) shall earnestly oversee the smooth, sincere, effective and successful implementation of the cessation of hostilities.

Page 2, 3. Parties reiterate to strengthen the organizational capabilities of the CCCH, IFFC, and QRT for them to be effective in the tasks assigned by the Peace Panels.

Page 2, 4. That finally, parties agree to give meaning and impetus to the Agreement dated October 6, 1999.

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

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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. 84-85.
