

Country/entity	Philippines Mindanao
Region	Asia and Pacific
Agreement name	Joint Communique
Date	2 Mar 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; Bro. Mohagher Iqbal, MILF Peace Panel Acting Chairman
Third parties	Witnessed by: Edir. Alma R. Evangelista, GRP Technical Committee Chairperson; Sheikh Moner Bajunaid, MILF Technical Committee Chairman
Description	Agreement that informs on 2nd Round of Formal Peace Talks between the GRP and MILF Peace Panels, in which the Parties heard reports from the QRT, IFFC, and the CCCh on incidents in Maguindanao and the implementation of the cessation of hostilities. The Peace Panels agreed to cluster the nine Agenda Items, presented by MILF for discussion in the Formal Talks, into six aggrupations consisting of Ancestral domain, Destruction of Properties and Victims of War, Human Rights Issues, Social and Cultural Discrimination, Economic Inequities, and Exploitation of Natural Resources. Additionally, the Technical Committees were directed to discuss proposed organization and specific tasks of the Technical Working Groups on Agenda Items, a MILF Draft on Immunity and Security Guarantees, and a MILF Draft on the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and Humanitarian Laws. The Panels concluded to meet the following week, March 6-7, 2000, for the 3rd Round of Formal Peace Talks.

Agreement document [PH_000302_Joint Communiqué.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 Groups→Indigenous people→Rhetorical
Page 1, The GRP and MILF Peace Panels agreed to cluster the nine (9) Agenda Items presented by the MILF for discussion in the Formal Peace Talks into six (6) groupings, namely: [...] 2. Destruction of Properties and Victims of War / Displaced and Landless Bangsamoro

Other groups No specific mention.

Refugees/displaced persons Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Rhetorical
Page 1, The GRP and MILF Peace Panels agreed to cluster the nine (9) Agenda Items presented by the MILF for discussion in the Formal Peace Talks into six (6) groupings, namely: [...] 2. Destruction of Properties and Victims of War / Displaced and Landless Bangsamoro

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, The GRP and MILF Peace Panels agreed to cluster the nine (9) Agenda Items presented by the MILF for discussion in the Formal Peace Talks into six (6) groupings, namely:

3. Human Rights Issues
4. Social and Cultural Discrimination

Page 2, The Technical Committees of both Panels were directed to discuss the following, for submission to the Peace Panels:

4. MILF Draft on the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and Humanitarian Laws.

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 Page 1, The GRP and MILF Peace Panels agreed to cluster the nine (9) Agenda Items presented by the MILF for discussion in the Formal Peace Talks into six (6) aggrupations, namely:
1. Ancestral Domain / Agrarian Related Issues

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Socio-economic development
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2. Destruction of Properties and Victims of War / Displaced and Landless Bangsamoro
5. Economic Inequities and Widespread Poverty

National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources Page 1, The GRP and MILF Peace Panels agreed to cluster the nine (9) Agenda Items presented by the MILF for discussion in the Formal Peace Talks into six (6) aggrupations, namely: 6. Exploitation of Natural Resources

International funds No specific mention.

Business No specific mention.

Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights Land, property and environment→Land reform/rights→Property return and restitution
Page 1, The GRP and MILF Peace Panels agreed to cluster the nine (9) Agenda Items presented by the MILF for discussion in the Formal Peace Talks into six (6) groupings, namely:

2. Destruction of Properties and Victims of War / Displaced and Landless Bangsamoro
Land, property and environment→Land reform/rights→Other land rights

Page 1, The GRP and MILF Peace Panels agreed to cluster the nine (9) Agenda Items presented by the MILF for discussion in the Formal Peace Talks into six (6) groupings, namely:

1. Ancestral Domain / Agrarian Related Issues

**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 1, The Technical Committees of both Panels were directed to discuss the following, for submission to the Peace Panels:

4. MILF Draft on Immunity and Security Guarantees, and GRP counter-proposal; and

Ceasefire Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision
Page 1, During this meeting, both the QRT/IFFC and the CCCH presented their respective reports on the incidents in Carmen, Cotabato and Shariff Aguak, Datu Piang and Talayan, all in Maguindanao. The CCCH of the GRP and the MILF likewise presented their respective reports on the status of the implementation of the GRP-MILF Agreements on September 2, 1999 and January 12, 2000.

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	Page 1, The GRP and MILF Peace Panels agreed to cluster the nine (9) Agenda Items presented by the MILF for discussion in the Formal Peace Talks into six (6) groupings, namely: [...] 2. Destruction of Properties and Victims of War / Displaced and Landless Bangsamoro
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. 86-87.
