

Country/entity	Philippines Mindanao
Region	Asia and Pacific
Agreement name	Aide Memoire: Highlights of the Special Meeting of the GRP and MILF Peace Panels
Date	27 Apr 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	Alma R. Evangelista, GRP Technical Committee Chairperson; Sheikh Moner M. Bajunaid, MILF Technical Committee Chairman
Third parties	Noted by: Lt. Gen Edgardo E. Batenga, AFP (Ret.), GRP Peace Panel Chairman; Vice Chairman Ghazali Jaafar, MILF Peace Panel Acting Chairman
Description	Agreement informing on the Special Meeting between GRP and MILF Peace Panels to review and assess the status of their ongoing peace negotiations. During, it was agreed that the GRP shall prepare a paper on the proposed political package, to which the MILF would then review and prepare a position paper on. It was also agreed that efforts towards normalization in Mindanao would include the CCCH to review and submit recommendations to the Technical Committees on matters relating to proposals that the GRP and MILF units remain in current positions, the PNP take over security measures along the Narciso Ramos Highway, and that the CCCH delineate the perimeters of the MILF Camp Abubakar. The Parties also scheduled future meetings of the Peace Panels, Technical Committees, and Technical Working Groups (TWGs), concluding with an understanding that future press statements/releases, in the interest of the peace process and the cessation of hostilities, be positive in nature.

Agreement document [PH_000427_Aide Memoire.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 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 Rights related issues→Media and communication→Media roles
Page 2, 3. [...] On the Issuance of Press Releases -- It was agreed that in the interest of moving the peace process forward, and to avoid the possible agitation of ground forces, both GRP and MILF should make efforts to be positive in issuing public statements and press releases.

Mobility/access Page 1, 2.c. Towards normalizing the situation along the Narciso Ramos Highway, both Chairmen agreed to task the CCCH to study the following proposal and submit its recommendations to the GRP-MILF Technical Committees for review prior to discussion/ approval/disapproval at the Panel level:
2.c.1. for the PNP to take over ensuring security and law and order at the highway
2.c.2. for GRP and MILF unites to remain in their current positions
2.c.3. for Joint CCCH to submit its paper on the matter on or before 15 May 2000.

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 Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Socio-economic development
Page 1, 2. On Efforts Towards Normalization of the Situation in Mindanao, with Specific Reference to Central Mindanao:
a. Both Panel Chairman agreed on the need to work towards normalization of the situation in Mindanao, specifically Central Mindanao, for the sake of the people and the peace process.
b. It was also agreed that there is a need to pursue the ongoing peace process between the GRP and MILF in order to achieve stability and development in Mindanao.

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, 2.c. Towards normalizing the situation along the Narciso Ramos Highway, both Chairmen agreed to task the CCCH to study the following proposal and submit its recommendations to the GRP-MILF Technical Committees for review prior to discussion/ approval/disapproval at the Panel level:
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2.c.2. for GRP and MILF unites to remain in their current positions
2.c.3. for Joint CCCH to submit its paper on the matter on or before 15 May 2000.

Page 1, 2.d. Towards defusing current tensions in the vicinity of Camp Abubakar, the CCCH shall also be tasked to delineate the limits/perimeter of the camp, in line with the letter and spirit of the Agreement on the General Cessation of Hostilities. A report on this matter shall likewise be submitted to the Technical Committees on or before 15 May 2000.

Page 2, 2. [...] It is understood that police and military actions and administrative activities shall continue to be undertaken by the GRP throughout Mindanao, with continuing coordination between the GRP and MILF forces to avoid confrontational situations on the ground.

Page 2, 2.e. Towards likewise normalizing the situation and defusing tensions in Lanao del Norte, the CCCH is also tasked to prepare its recommendations on the matter for submission to the Technical Committees also on or before 15 May 2000.

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Police

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Armed forces

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2.c.2. for GRP and MILF units to remain in their current positions

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DDR

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Intelligence services

No specific mention.

Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	<p>Page 1, 2.c. Towards normalizing the situation along the Narciso Ramos Highway, both Chairmen agreed to task the CCCH to study the following proposal and submit its recommendations to the GRP-MILF Technical Committees for review prior to discussion/ approval/disapproval at the Panel level: [...]</p> <p>2.c.2. for GRP and MILF unites to remain in their current positions</p> <p>Page 1, 2.d. Towards defusing current tensions in the vicinity of Camp Abubakar, the CCCH shall also be tasked to delineate the limits/perimeter of the camp, in line with the letter and spirit of the Agreement on the General Cessation of Hostilities. [...]</p> <p>Page 2, 2. [...] It is understood that police and military actions and administrative activities shall continue to be undertaken by the GRP throughout Mindanao, with continuing coordination between the GRP and MILF forces to avoid confrontational situations on the ground.</p> <p>Page 2, 3. [...] On the Issuance of Press Releases -- It was agreed that in the interest of moving the peace process forward, and to avoid the possible agitation of ground forces, both GRP and MILF should make efforts to be positive in issuing public statements and press releases.</p>
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), p. 92-93.
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