

<b>Country/entity</b>	Philippines Mindanao
<b>Region</b>	Asia and Pacific
<b>Agreement name</b>	Joint Statement - 5th GRP-MILF Exploratory Talks (February 20 2004)
<b>Date</b>	20 Feb 2004
<b>Agreement status</b>	Multiparty signed/agreed
<b>Interim arrangement</b>	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

<b>Stage</b>	Pre-negotiation/process
<b>Conflict nature</b>	Government/territory
<b>Peace process</b>	Philippines - Mindanao process
<b>Parties</b>	Silvester C. Afable, Jr., GRP Panel Chair; Mohagher Iqbal, MILF Panel Chair
<b>Third parties</b>	-
<b>Description</b>	Agreement informing on the 5th Round of GRP-MILF Exploratory Talks, in which it was decided to resume formal peace talks in April, 2004, with the facilitation of the Malaysian Government. It was also agreed upon that the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the International Monitoring Team (IMT) would be finalized by the Malaysian Government, and that both Parties would further the rehabilitation and development efforts of the conflict-affected areas.

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**Agreement document** [PH\\_040220\\_Joint 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.

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**Gender**

**Women, girls and gender** No specific mention.

**Men and boys** No specific mention.

**LGBTI** No specific mention.

**Family** No specific mention.

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**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.

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**Governance**

**Political institutions (new or reformed)** No specific mention.

**Elections** No specific mention.

<b>Electoral commission</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Political parties reform</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Civil society</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Traditional/religious leaders</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Public administration</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Constitution</b>	No specific mention.

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#### **Power sharing**

<b>Political power sharing</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Territorial power sharing</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Economic power sharing</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Military power sharing</b>	No specific mention.

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#### **Human rights and equality**

<b>Human rights/RoL general</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Bill of rights/similar</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Treaty incorporation</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Civil and political rights</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Socio-economic rights</b>	No specific mention.

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## **Rights related issues**

<b>Citizenship</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Democracy</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Detention procedures</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Media and communication</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Mobility/access</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Protection measures</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Other</b>	No specific mention.

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## **Rights institutions**

<b>NHRI</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Regional or international human rights institutions</b>	No specific mention.

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## **Justice sector reform**

<b>Criminal justice and emergency law</b>	No specific mention.
<b>State of emergency provisions</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Judiciary and courts</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Prisons and detention</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Traditional Laws</b>	No specific mention.

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## Socio-economic reconstruction

<b>Development or socio-economic reconstruction</b>	<p>Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Socio-economic development</p> <p>[...] Both Panels agreed to the mechanism to extend capacity-building programs for the people in conflict-affected areas through the Bangsamoro Development Agency (BDA), the development arm of the MILF. TO assist in the rehabilitation and development of conflict-affected areas, the Malaysian Government has committed a similar program for the BDA under its Malaysian Technical Cooperation Program.</p> <p>Likewise, the Panels will work closely with the World Bank and the multi-donor community in implementing the joint needs assessment phase of the Multi-Donor Trust Fund intended for the rehabilitation and development of the conflict-affected areas. In this regard, the BDA shall represent the MILF. A similar request will be made to the Islamic Development Bank (IDB).</p>
<b>National economic plan</b>	<p>[...] Both Panels agreed to the mechanism to extend capacity-building programs for the people in conflict-affected areas through the Bangsamoro Development Agency (BDA), the development arm of the MILF. TO assist in the rehabilitation and development of conflict-affected areas, the Malaysian Government has committed a similar program for the BDA under its Malaysian Technical Cooperation Program.</p> <p>Likewise, the Panels will work closely with the World Bank and the multi-donor community in implementing the joint needs assessment phase of the Multi-Donor Trust Fund intended for the rehabilitation and development of the conflict-affected areas. In this regard, the BDA shall represent the MILF. A similar request will be made to the Islamic Development Bank (IDB).</p>
<b>Natural resources</b>	No specific mention.
<b>International funds</b>	[...] Likewise, the Panels will work closely with the World Bank and the multi-donor community in implementing the joint needs assessment phase of the Multi-Donor Trust Fund intended for the rehabilitation and development of the conflict-affected areas. In this regard, the BDA shall represent the MILF. A similar request will be made to the Islamic Development Bank (IDB).
<b>Business</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Taxation</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Banks</b>	<p>Socio-economic reconstruction→Banks→International finance</p> <p>[...] Likewise, the Panels will work closely with the World Bank and the multi-donor community in implementing the joint needs assessment phase of the Multi-Donor Trust Fund intended for the rehabilitation and development of the conflict-affected areas. In this regard, the BDA shall represent the MILF. A similar request will be made to the Islamic Development Bank (IDB).</p>

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## **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.

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## **Security sector**

**Security  
Guarantees** No specific mention.

**Ceasefire** Security sector→Ceasefire→General commitments  
[...] The GRP and MILF Panels resolved all outstanding issues in the way of the formal talks and expressed confidence that the prospects for lasting peace were firm. They commended the work of the Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH) of both Parties in stabilizing the situation on the group and nurturing the climate of peace.

**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.

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**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.

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**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.

<b>Enforcement mechanism</b>	[...] The Panels agreed to consolidate their respective proposed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the International Monitoring Team (IMT), and requested the Malaysian Government to send the advance survey team in Southern Philippines soonest possible. An itinerary for the team was adopted. Both Panels agreed for the Malaysian Government to finalize the TOR in consultation with the Panels and undertake the task of setting up the IMT in Southern Philippines.
<b>Related cases</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Source</b>	GRP-MILF Peace Process: Compilation of Signed Agreements & other related Documents (1997-2010); (MILF Peace Panel/Asia Foundation, 2010), p. 135.

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