

Country/entity	Philippines Mindanao
Region	Asia and Pacific
Agreement name	Meranao Peace Declaration
Date	31 Dec 2017
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes

Agreement/conflict level Intrastate/local 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	Framework/substantive - partial
Conflict nature	Inter-group
Peace process	Philippines-Mindanao: Local Processes
Parties	Sultans, Datus, Baes
Third parties	-
Description	The Sultans, Datus, and Baes of the Meranao petition the Government in the wake of IS retreat from their area.

Agreement document [PH_171231_Meranao_Peace_Declaration_EN.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

Agreement document (original language) [PH_171231_Meranao Peace Declaration_FIL.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#)

Local agreement properties

Process type Isolated example

Rationale This agreement is part of the same gathering of local leaders as the Historic Iligan Royal Declaration of 19/12/2017. In fact, the participants completed the signing of the Historic Iligan Royal Declaration on 29/12/2017, in the same hotel as the one where this document is signed. Thus, while there are two documents from the meeting, they form an isolated example.

Is there a documented link to a national peace process? No

Link to national process: articulated rationale There is no indication that these talks were part of the negotiations between the main sides in the Mindanao conflict.

Name of Locale Marawi City

Nature of Locale City

GPS Lat/Long (DD) 8.010890, 124.297906

Participant type Domestic religious organisation/leader or other elder

Mediator, facilitator or similar No mention of mediator or similar

Local issues

Ritual/prayer and process (including use of scripture)

Page 1:

In the name of Allah, Most Gracious, Most Merciful. We beseech to Allah (S.W.T.), our Lord and Creator that we will prevail and our right will be restored after we were deprived of it due to the upheaval that the Meranao people have experienced specifically those residents of the Islamic City of Marawi that evacuated to different places in the 2 (two) Ranao and Particularly those who evacuated in the neighboring places in peripheral areas of the Philippines.

Page 2:

We pray to Allah (S.W.T.), Most Merciful and Most Gracious that He will increase the efforts of leaders who are in the government of the Philippines and grant them unity to give justice to the evacuees and action be taken as well as our prayer be granted.

Grievance List

Page 1:

The armed conflict in the city of Marawi on May 23, 2017 had severely affected the Meranao people that reside in the city and those living in Lanao territory and to the people wherein they found safe haven. It likewise affected the places in the Philippines wherein Meranao evacuees temporarily stayed. Huge amount of money, blood and armaments were used. The conflict between the Maute-Islamic State (IS) militants and the forces of the government has hurt them for their family members died and have not given justice and it caused division between the Meranao people and those others that reside in Marawi.

Page 2:

Our first stand and prayer that one of the remedies for our grievances is the creation of law that our land be given back to us without the issue of military land reservation. We want the immediate return of our people in the ground zero and the law on reparation be implemented to pay our destroyed houses and lost properties. Our homes should not be flattened to the ground for that is the place where our people have converged, where our Islamic faith is established and where our traditional value systems have been molded. Secondly, we want the sultans, ulama and imams who are concerned and have the efforts for their people have given a role for establishment of peace. The TFBM should have given primacy for the traditional leaders and ulama for their role for the development that should be implemented in Marawi City so that their societal role will be recognized and they can also extend assistance to those living within the four confederation of Lanao. We should also want to repair of our damaged masjid and madrasahs due to the conflict and we also want that the name Islamic City of Marawi will not be replaced. Thirdly, every family staying at the ground zero should be given assistance by the government for their livelihood activities. During the time they left Marawi City due to the conflict and look for place to stay on the other safer place, they have never brought things for themselves. Those living in other places who have also lost their properties due to the conflict be given assistance by the government. Their children who are studying should be given educational assistance and scholarship. The orphaned children whose parents died during the conflict be accorded necessary assistance. Fourth stand and request to the government of the Philippines, a third party be created to assess and report the damaged houses and properties in Marawi City and validly count the number of dead people in the city not included in ISIS group so that the government can give justice to their death in the assistance to their family. Fifth, the evacuees staying at the temporary shelters and evacuation centers should be

**Cattle rustling/
banditry** No specific mention.

Social cover No specific mention.
