

Country/entity	Philippines Mindanao
Region	Asia and Pacific
Agreement name	Guidelines for Mutual Understanding between the Coordinating Committees on the Cessation of Hostilities of the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front for Ceasefire -Related Functions During the May 13, 2019 National and Local Elections
Date	7 May 2019
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	Ceasefire/related
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Philippines - Mindanao process
Parties	For the GPH CCCH: BGEN CIRILO THOMAS P DONATO JR AFP Chairman GPH-CCCH For the MILF BCCH: HON BUTCH P. MALANG Chairman MILF-CCCH
Third parties	Witness and conforme: MGEN DATO' YA COB BIN HJ SAMIRAN Head of Mission, International Monitoring Team - M14
Description	Agreement to safeguard previous agreements and the GPH-MILF peace process in general during the election period of 07 May 2019 to 19 May 2019

Agreement document [PH_199597_Guidelines for Mutual Understanding between the Coordinating Committees on the Cessation of Hostilities of the Government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front for Ceasefire Related Functions.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 Groups→Refugees/displaced persons→Substantive
Page 5, IV Mutual Understanding and Guidelines
14. The GPH CCCH and the MILF CCCH jointly shall find ways to provide assistance to the MILF members and families who are temporarily displaced as the guidelines are being implemented. Moreover, the MILF through Its CCCH shall provide necessary data/information on the affected MILF members and families.

Social class No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender No specific mention.

Men and boys No specific mention.

LGBTI No specific mention.

Family Page 5, IV Mutual Understanding and Guidelines
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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.

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed) No specific mention.

Elections Page 3, IV Mutual Understanding and Guidelines
5. In case election paraphernalia are scheduled to be deployed, movement shall be done before the delivery of election paraphernalia to the COMELEC-designated areas in the province at least a week prior to the elections and distribution of these election paraphernalia to various polling precincts a day prior to the election (13 May 2019) until the completion of the Election and withdrawal of all paraphernalia, equipment.

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 No specific mention.

Mobility/access Page 3, IV Mutual Understanding and Guidelines
4. Hitherto, the GPH CCCH and MILF CCCH shall ensure and warrant, and the IMT shall coordinate and monitor the unhindered movements and deployment of election personnel, equipment / paraphernalia, documents, voters, AFP PNP election security personnel, as deputized by the Commission on Elections (COMELEC), to and from all the Polling Centers situated within the MILF dominated areas.

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**

Page 3, IV Mutual Understanding and Guidelines

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Page 4, IV Mutual Understanding and Guidelines

7. The strength of the deputized PNP / AFP election security personnel to be deployed in the MILF dominated areas shall be coordinated so as not to create unnecessary alarm and apprehension to the MILF forces and civilian communities that might jeopardize the ceasefire and the peace process.

Page 4, IV Mutual Understanding and Guidelines

9. The main routes, water and land usually used by the MILF troops during movements and activities shall be left opened. Provided, however, that MILF movements are properly coordinated earlier with the GPH CCCH and the existing ceasefire mechanisms.

10. The MILF shall refrain from consolidating its forces for any purpose/s including peace gatherings from the time the election paraphernalia are deployed until the Election has been completed except at Camp Darapanan in Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao and Camp Bushra in Lanao del Sur.

Ceasefire

Security sector→Ceasefire→General commitments

Page 2,

IV Mutual Understanding and Guidelines

1. The Government of the Republic of the Philippines - Moro Islamic Liberation Front Coordinating Committees on the the Cessation of Hostilities (GPH CCCH MILF COCH) in cooperation with the International Monitoring team (IMT) Mindanao 14 shall undertake heightened special ceasefire-related functions in order to safeguard the GPA - MILF Ceasefire and peace process.

Page 2-3,

IV Mutual Understanding and Guidelines

2. This undertaking is purely a GPH - MILF ceasefire and peace process- related function and not Philippine elections-related function. Any activities undertaken during this period is not to be interpreted as MILF's inconsistency to its standing policy not to take part or meddle in whatever capacity in the government electoral processes.

Page 3, IV Mutual Understanding and Guidelines

3. During the stipulated timeframe of the National and Local Elections, the IMT M-14 involvement shall only be to monitor the implementation of the Agreement on Peace between the GPH and the MILF of 22 June 2001 and its Implementing Guidelines on the Security Aspect of 7 August 2001: Implementing Guidelines on the Humanitarian, Rehabilitation and Development Aspects of 7 May 2002 (Tripoli Agreement); Agreement on the Civilian Protection Component (CPC) of the IMT of 27 October 2009; the adherence of the GPH and the MILF to the SOMO and SOMA of 23 July 2009 and 25 July 2009, respectively; The Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro (FAB) of 15 October 2012; and the Comprehensive Agreement of the Bangsamoro (CAB) of 27 March 2014. This undertaking is to safeguard the GPH-MILF ceasefire and support the ongoing peace process inherent to the IMT mandate.

Page 3, IV Mutual Understanding and Guidelines

4. Hitherto, the GPH CCCH and MILF CCCH shall ensure and warrant, and the IMT shall coordinate and monitor the unhindered movements and deployment of election personnel, equipment / paraphernalia, documents, voters, AFP PNP election security personnel, as deputized by the Commission on Elections (COMELEC), to and from all the Polling Centers situated within the MILF dominated areas.

Page 3, IV Mutual Understanding and Guidelines

5. In case election paraphernalia are scheduled to be deployed, movement shall be done before the delivery of election paraphernalia to the COMELEC-designated areas in the province at least a week prior to the elections and distribution of these election paraphernalia to various polling precincts a day prior to the election (13 May 2019) until the completion of the Election and withdrawal of all paraphernalia, equipment.

Page 3, IV Mutual Understanding and Guidelines

6. It is mutually agreed that security/personnel deployed within areas with presence of MILF be withdrawn immediately after the conduct of elections and withdrawal of Election paraphernalia and personnel.

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Police

Page 3, IV Mutual Understanding and Guidelines

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Page 4, IV Mutual Understanding and Guidelines

8. The Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Post (JCMPs) in Bray. Kitango, Datu Saudi Ampatuan, Maguindanao; Barko-Barko in the tri-boundary of Tuluhan, Cotabato, DatuPaglas, Maguindanao and Columbio, Sultan Kudarat; Brgy. Nanagun, Lumbayanague, Lanao del Sur; Brgy. Daliao. Maasim, Sarangani; Munai, Lanao del Norte; and Brgy. Linuan, Al-Barka, Basilan Province; Brgy. Sapakan, Rajah Buayan & Ampatuan, both of Maguindanao; composed of personnel from the GPH CCCH, the MILF CCCH, the AFP and PNP with the IMT's assistance and the Local Monitoring Teams in Lanao del Sur, Lanao del Norte, Cotabato. Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani Province, and South Cotabato, Maguindanao and Basilan; and the IMT Team Site 1 in Cotabato City, IMT Team Site 2 in Illigan City; IMT Team Site 3 in Zamboanga City and IMT Team Site 4 in General Santos City shall be designated as the monitoring and quick response team (QRT) of the JCCCH and IMT for this endeavor. Additional JCMPs could be set up in other areas, when necessary.

Armed forces

Page 3, IV Mutual Understanding and Guidelines

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DDR

No specific mention.

Intelligence services

No specific mention.

**Parastatal/rebel
and opposition
group forces**

Page 2-3,
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Page 4, IV Mutual Understanding and Guidelines
11. The MILF armed elements should not go near polling centers and precincts, avoid display of firearms and uniforms along routes leading to the areas where electoral activities are ongoing.

Page 5, IV Mutual Understanding and Guidelines
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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 Witness and conforme:
MGEN DATO' YA COB BIN HJ SAMIRAN
Head of Mission, International Monitoring Team - M14

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar

Page 1-2, I References

8. Instructions from the respective principals of the GPH –CCCH and MILF CCCH anchored on the goodwill and confidence building of the GPH – MILF Peace Process with the participation of the Malaysia-led International Monitoring Team (MT), as appropriate.

Page 3, IV Mutual Understanding and Guidelines

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Page 5, IV Mutual Understanding and Guidelines

13. In case of any reported untoward incident, the deputized PNP/AFP election security personnel shall take appropriate action in coordination with the GPH CCCH the MILF CCCH, the GPH AHJAG, the MILF AHJAG and the IMT M14 or vice versa as the case maybe.

Enforcement mechanism

Page 5, IV Mutual Understanding and Guidelines

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Related cases No specific mention.

Source Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity
<https://peace.gov.ph/2019/05/guidelines-for-mutual-understanding-between-the-coordinating-committees-on-the-cessation-of-hostilities-of-the-government-of-the-philippines-and-the-moro-islamic-liberation-front-for-ceasefire-relat/>
