

Country/entity	Philippines Mindanao
Region	Asia and Pacific
Agreement name	Rules and Procedures in the Determination and Verification of the Coverage of Cessation of Hostilities
Date	18 May 1999
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	B. Gen. José I T Torrelavega, AFP, GRP CCCH Chairman; S. Supt. Jainal I Jamasali, PNP Member; Ltc. Ricardo B. Torrevillas, PA Member; Maj. Policarpio Zacarias, PA Member; Sultan Saifoden Tomawis, MILF CCCH Chairman; Badawi “Boy” Hashim, Member; Gerry Abubakar, Member; Atty. Guinaid S. Paduman, Member
Third parties	-
Description	Agreed on general provisions for the identification and verification of MILF camps/positions including scheduling and the designation of an MILF Camp/Position Coordinator to initially identify camps/positions to be verified, to act as a guide of the verifying party, and to provide maps and demographic data. Prohibited ground movement of troops and surveillance devices or gadgets. Also outlined scope of verification, procedures for verification and post-verification activities. Joint CCCH to proceed with verification and identification of five camps as set forth in Joint Statement; verification of other camps/positions to be conducted upon agreement of the other parties.

Agreement document [PH_990518_Rules and Procedures for the Coverage of Cessation of Hostilities.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 No specific mention.

Mobility/access Page 2, Rule I
Section 4: Ground Movements of Troops Prohibited - Except in the performance of the mandated tasks of the GRP forces, there shall be no movement of troops of both parties during or immediately after the actual conduct of verification of the MILF Camp/Position.

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 3, Rule IV Post-Verification Activities
Section 3: A participatory process, which shall include the MILF, shall determine and prioritize special areas for development to be discussed by the formal GRP-MILF peace negotiating panels.

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 Land, property and environment→Land reform/rights→Land reform and management
Page 2, Rule II
Scope of Verification - Verification shall include the identification of the geographical and quantitative delineation, demographic, agricultural, economic, cultural and other related data pertaining to the MILF Camp/Position verified such as structures, buildings, facilities, institutions, agricultural lands, marshes, rivers, creeks, and similar features and/or constructions that may be found within the verified MILF Camp/Position.

Pastoralist/nomadism rights No specific mention.

Cultural heritage No specific mention.

Environment

Page 2, Rule II

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Water or riparian rights or access

Page 2, Rule II

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Security sector

**Security
Guarantees**

No specific mention.

Ceasefire

Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision

Page 1, Terms of Reference

1. Agreement on the General Cessation of Hostilities (AGCH) dated and signed on 18 July 1997 at Cagayan de Oro City.
2. Implementing Administrative Guidelines of the GRP-MILF Agreement on the General Cessation of Hostilities dated and signed on 12 September 1997 at Cotabato City.
4. Implementing Operational Guidelines of the GRP-MILF Agreement on the General Cessation of Hostilities dated and signed 14 November 1997 at Marawi City.
7. GRP-MILF Coordinating Committee on Cessation of Hostilities Joint Statement dated and signed on 17 February 1999 at the Notre Dame University, Cotabato City.

Page 1, Rule I

Section 1: Scheduling of Verification - Both parties shall mutually agree on the schedule as to when the GRP-MILF Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities shall verify an MILF Camp/Position. The Committee shall conduct the verification en banc, and shall schedule progressively and by priority the conduct of verification.

Page 1, Rule 1

Section 2: MILF Camp/Position Coordinator

There shall be an MILF Camp/Position Coordinator, to be designated by the MILF, shall initially identify the MILF Camp/Position to be verified; act as the guide of the verifying party; and provide the following, in coordination with the MILF Camp/Position Commander:

Page 2, Rule I

Section 2: MILF Camp/Position Coordinator [...]:

- I.2.a. Location Maps of the MILF Camp/Position which shall substantially depict structural data and information including but not limited to conventional political subdivisions.
- I.2.b. Demographic data of the MILF Camp/Position.
- I.2.c. Other pertinent documents, information and/or data deemed necessary by the GRP-MILF CCCH for purposes of evaluation and assessment.

Page 2, Rule I

Section 3: Identification of Personnel and Vehicles Involved in the Actual Conduct of Verifications -- All persons actually involved in the conduct of verification shall wear identification cards and/or other similar markings agreed upon by both parties. Vehicles used for the same activity shall likewise be marked for purposes of identification.

Page 2, Rule I

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Page 2, Rule III

Procedures for the Verification Proper

Section 1: Briefing by MILF Camps/Positions Coordinator After the GRP-MILF CCCH shall have entered the MILF Camp or Position, the MILF Camp/Position Coordinator, in the presence of the MILF Camp/Position Commander, shall brief the Committee on the salient features of the Camp/Position, the structures that may be found therein, their nature and purposes, and of the MILF armed components found in the same Camp/Position. He may include other items of information he deems necessary for the appreciation of the Committee.

Police No specific mention.

Armed forces Page 2, Rule I
Section 4: Ground Movements of Troops Prohibited - Except in the performance of the mandated tasks of the GRP forces, there shall be no movement of troops of both parties during or immediately after the actual conduct of verification of the MILF Camp/Position.

DDR

Security sector→DDR→Demilitarisation provisions

Page 1, Rule I General Provisions for the Identification and Verification of MILF Camps/Positions

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Page 2, Rule I

Section 5: Surveillance Devices/Gadgets Prohibited - During the conduct of verification of MILF Camp/Position, no surveillance devices and/or gadgets shall be allowed within the Camp/Position perimeter, except those equipment necessary for the documentation of said activity.

Page 2, Rule II

Scope of Verification - Verification shall include the identification of the geographical and quantitative delineation, demographic, agricultural, economic, cultural and other related data pertaining to the MILF Camp/Position verified such as structures, buildings, facilities, institutions, agricultural lands, marshes, rivers, creeks, and similar features and/or constructions that may be found within the verified MILF Camp/Position.

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**Intelligence
services**

No specific mention.

**Parastatal/rebel
and opposition
group forces**

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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 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 International Relations and Security Network, GRP-MILF Peace Process: Compilation of Signed Agreements & other related Documents (1997-2010); (MILF Peace Panel/Asia Foundation, 2010), pp. 62-65.
