

Country/entity Philippines

Region Asia and Pacific

Agreement name Joint Statement to Resume Formal Talks in the GRP-NDFP Peace Negotiations

Date 13 Jan 2004

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
Peace process	Philippines-NDF process
Parties	SILVESTRE H. BELLO III, GRP Panel Chairman LUIS G. JALANDONI, NDFP Panel Chairman
Third parties	-
Description	In this agreement the Philippines (GRP) and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) agree to resume the formal talks in their peace negotiations and complete the formation of the Joint Monitoring Committee. The agreement commits to resolve the outstanding issue of the "terrorist" listing of the CPP/NPA and the NDFP Chief Political Consultant, in consonance of previous agreements and undertake measure for the release of all the prisoners and detainees whose release was recommended by the GRP in 2001. Furthermore, the GRP shall undertake appropriate legal measures for indemnification of victims of human rights violations and provide reparation. The agreement forms a pre-negotiating agreement, with confidence-building measures, for the resumption of talks.

Agreement document [PH_040113_Joint Statement to resume talks.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 Page 1,
2. To resolve the outstanding issue of the "terrorist" listing of the CPP/NPA and the NDFP Chief Political Consultant, effective measures shall be undertaken in consonance with The Hague Joint Declaration, the JASIG, the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CAR-HR/IHL) and other bilateral agreements. The panelists, consultants, staffers, and other duly-authorized participants of said negotiations shall thereby be fully protected by the pertinent provisions of The Hague Joint Declaration, the JASIG, and the CAR-HR/IHL as well as the Amado V, Hernandez doctrine on political offense.

Page 1, Article 6. The GRP shall undertake confidence-building measures as follows:

6.1 The GRP shall undertake measures for the release of all the prisoners and detainees whose release was recommended by the GRP in 2001 and shall take appropriate action on the updated list submitted by KARAPATAN and other human rights organizations.

6.2 The GRP shall undertake appropriate legal measures in support of the claims for indemnification of the victims of human rights violations of the Marcos dictatorship, including a proposal to Congress to pass a law appropriating the minimum amount of at least P8 billion from the approximately \$680 million recovered from the Marcos ill-gotten wealth for the indemnification of the bona fide victims of human rights violations of the Marcos dictatorship. The two Panels shall discuss and agree during the formal talks on specific and effective measures to protect the rights of the successful plaintiffs in the Marcos human rights litigation and expedite payment of compensation to them on a best effort basis.

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 No specific mention.

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	No specific mention.
Ceasefire	No specific mention.
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	Page 1, 2. To resolve the outstanding issue of the "terrorist" listing of the CPP/NPA and the NDFP Chief Political Consultant, effective measures shall be undertaken in consonance with The Hague Joint Declaration, the JASIG, the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law (CAR-HR/IHL) and other bilateral agreements. The panelists, consultants, staffers, and other duly-authorized participants of said negotiations shall thereby be fully protected by the pertinent provisions of The Hague Joint Declaration, the JASIG, and the CAR-HR/IHL as well as the Amado V, Hernandez doctrine on political offense.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general	No specific mention.
Amnesty/pardon	No specific mention.
Courts	No specific mention.
Mechanism	No specific mention.
Prisoner release	Page 1, Article 6. The GRP shall undertake confidence-building measures as follows: 6.1 The GRP shall undertake measures for the release of all the prisoners and detainees whose release was recommended by the GRP in 2001 and shall take appropriate action on the updated list submitted by KARAPATAN and other human rights organizations.
Vetting	No specific mention.
Victims	Page 1, Article 6. The GRP shall undertake confidence-building measures as follows: ... 6.2 The GRP shall undertake appropriate legal measures in support of the claims for indemnification of the victims of human rights violations of the Marcos dictatorship, including a proposal to Congress to pass a law appropriating the minimum amount of at least P8 billion from the approximately \$680 million recovered from the Marcos ill-gotten wealth for the indemnification of the bona fide victims of human rights violations of the Marcos dictatorship. The two Panels shall discuss and agree during the formal talks on specific and effective measures to protect the rights of the successful plaintiffs in the Marcos human rights litigation and expedite payment of compensation to them on a best effort basis.

Missing persons No specific mention.

Reparations Transitional justice→Reparations→Material reparations
Page 1, Article 6.
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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 The GRP-NDFP Peace Negotiations: Major Written Agreements & Outstanding Issues, pp. 56-57.
