

Country/entity	Philippines Mindanao
Region	Asia and Pacific
Agreement name	Joint Press Statement
Date	25 Mar 1997
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/territory
Peace process	Philippines - Mindanao process
Parties	Mgen. Joselin B. Nazareno, AFP, GRP Sub-Committee on Cessation of Hostilities Chairman Prof. Moner N. Bajunaid, MILF Technical Committee Chairman
Third parties	-
Description	This Joint Press Statement provides an overall description of Resolution No. 1 Composition of the Interim Ceasefire Monitoring Committee and Assigned Tasks and Functions, which was agreed upon on 25/03/1997 by the Technical Committee of the GRP and the MILF. The description informs of the composition and the functions of the Interim Ceasefire Monitoring Committee.

Agreement document [PH_970325_Joint Press Release.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 Page 1, [...] It was agreed by both Sub-committees that the composition of the Interim ceasefire Monitoring Committee shall be as follows:
1. Representative of the Notre Dame University (NDU)
2. Representative of Maguindanao Professionals and Employees Associations (MAPEA), Inc.
3. Representative of Protestant Layers League of the Philippines (PLL)
4. Representative of Cotabato City Media Multi-Purpose Cooperative (CCMMPC)

It was agreed further that the NDU representative shall act as Chairman of the Interim Ceasefire Monitoring Committee, with the MAPEA representative as Vice Chairman.

Traditional/religious leaders Page 1, [...] It was agreed by both Sub-committees that the composition of the Interim ceasefire Monitoring Committee shall be as follows:
3. Representative of Protestant Layers League of the Philippines (PLL)

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 Rights related issues→Media and communication→Other
Page 1, [...] It was agreed by both Sub-committees that the composition of the Interim ceasefire Monitoring Committee shall be as follows:
4. Representative of Cotabato City Media Multi-Purpose Cooperative (CCMMPC)

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

Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision

Page 1, A Joint meeting of the Sub-Committees on Cessation of Hostilities of the Government of the Republic of the Philippines (GRP) and the Morol Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) was held at the Da'wah Center, Crossing Simuay, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao on March 23-25, 1997.

In this joint meeting, the two Sub-Committees have agreed to convene the Interim ceasefire Monitoring Committee (ICMC) as previously agreed in the second meeting of the Technical Committee of the GRP and the MILF on February 25-27, 1997.

It was agreed by both Sub-committees that the composition of the Interim ceasefire Monitoring Committee shall be as follows:

1. Representative of the Notre Dame University (NDU)
2. Representative of Maguindanao Professionals and Employees Associations (MAPEA), Inc.
3. Representative of Protestant Layers League of the Philippines (PLLPP)
4. Representative of Cotabato City Media Multi-Purpose Cooperative (CCMMPC)

Page 1, [...] The Interim Ceasefire Monitoring Committee shall function under the following terms:

a) Conduct fact-finding inquiries on matters referred to it by the GRP and MILF Sub-Committees on Cessation of Hostilities pertaining to alleged violations/infractions of the provisions of the Interim Ceasefire Agreement entered into by both Sub-Committees on January 27, 1997. Referrals shall be made after the other party is duly informed of the matter submitted for inquiry, and the same is not resolved by the Sub-Committees thereof.

b) Issue appropriate letters of invitation to persons whose declarations/statements may shed light on matters under consideration by the Interim Ceasefire Monitoring Committee.

c) Coordinate with other offices and/or organizations as may be necessary in the exercise of its functions/tasks.

d) Prepare and submit reports duly supported by appropriate evidence on matters which may be referred to it by the GRP and the MILF Sub-Committees on Cessation of Hostilities.

e) Conduct its inquiries and submit reports to the GRP and the MILF Sub-Committees on Cessation of Hostilities with utmost dispatch.

f) All reports and proceedings of the Interim ceasefire Monitoring Committee shall be considered classified. [...]

Page 2, The Interim Ceasefire Monitoring Committee shall function under the following terms:

g) Additional membership to the Interim Ceasefire Monitoring Committee maybe made upon joint approval by the GRP and the MILF Sub-Committees on Cessation of Hostilities.

h) The Interim Ceasefire Monitoring Committee shall adopt such internal procedures as maybe appropriate to enable it to expeditiously perform its tasks and submit the same to the GRP and MILF Sub-Committees on Cessation of Hostilities for its joint notation and approval.

i) The Interim Ceasefire Monitoring Committee maybe employ the expertise of certain

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.

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 GRP-MILF Peace Process: Compilation of Signed Agreements & other related Documents (1997-2010); (MILF Peace Panel/Asia Foundation, 2010), pp. 14-15.
