

Country/entity	Philippines Mindanao
Region	Asia and Pacific
Agreement name	Joint Statement by the GRP-MILF Technical Committee
Date	18 Sep 1998
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	USec. Alma R. Evangelista, GRP Technical Committee Chairperson; MGen. Santos B. Gabison Jr., GRP Sub-Committee on Cessation of Hostilities Chairperson; Sheikh Moner Bejunaid, MILF Technical Committee Chairperson; Atty. Lanang Ali, MILF Sub-Committee on Cessation of Hostilities Chairperson
Third parties	-
Description	Joint Statement made by the Technical Committees, providing an overview of the 8th GRP-MILF Technical Committee meeting on 18/09/1998, in which the Committees discussed and agreed upon recommendations from the QRT relating to the situation in Upper Minabay, Buldon, Maguindanao, the repositioning of GRP forces, and administrative arrangements for the operationalization of the Coordinating Committee on Cessation of Hostilities. Additionally, the Technical Committees discussed listings of MILF camps and agreed that a future meeting between the Sub-Committees on Cessation of Hostilities would further discuss the matter.

Agreement document [PH_980918_Joint Statement.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 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 [...] Following are the salient points discussed and agreed at the meeting:
2. Adherence to the February 6, 1998 Agreement to Sustain the Quest for Peace, specifically with reference to the repositioning of government forces pursuant to the five kilometers distance from Banganan River in Upper Minabay as provided in the said Agreement. The five kilometer distance shall be determined and recommended by the QRT within ten (10) days from today. The QRT shall report the compliance with the Agreement on the repositioning to the GRP-MILF Sub-Committee on Cessation of Hostilities (SCCH) before its meeting on October 6, 1998. Likewise, the GRP will facilitate the movement of Cotabato Timber Company Incorporated (CTC) guards from Upper Minabay.

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
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[...] Following are the salient points discussed and agreed at the meeting:
3. Administrative arrangements for the operationalization of the Coordinating Committees on Cessation of Hostilities of both sides. At the meeting, the MILF Technical Committee submitted a listing of its major and other camps and agreed to provide the GRP with the parameters and criteria in determining the same. Pursuant to this, both sides agreed that their respective Sub-Committees on Cessation of Hostilities (SCCH) shall meet on October 6, 1998 for further discussion on the matter, at a venue to be determined later.

Police No specific mention.

Armed forces	[...] Following are the salient points discussed and agreed at the meeting: 2. Adherence to the February 6, 1998 Agreement to Sustain the Quest for Peace, specifically with reference to the repositioning of government forces pursuant to the five kilometers distance from Banganan River in Upper Minabay as provided in the said Agreement. The five kilometer distance shall be determined and recommended by the QRT within ten (10) days from today. The QRT shall report the compliance with the Agreement on the repositioning to the GRP-MILF Sub-Committee on Cessation of Hostilities (SCCH) before its meeting on October 6, 1998. Likewise, the GRP will facilitate the movement of Cotabato Timber Company Incorporated (CTC) guards from Upper Minabay.
DDR	No specific mention.
Intelligence services	No specific mention.
Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	[...] At the meeting, the MILF Technical Committee submitted a listing of its major and other camps and agreed to provide the GRP with the parameters and criteria in determining the same. Pursuant to this, both sides agreed that their respective Sub-Committees on Cessation of Hostilities (SCCH) shall meet on October 6, 1998 for further discussion on the matter, at a venue to be determined later.
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), p. 44.
