

<b>Country/entity</b>	Philippines Mindanao
<b>Region</b>	Asia and Pacific
<b>Agreement name</b>	Protocol on the Implementation of the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Independent Decommissioning Body (IDB)
<b>Date</b>	29 Jan 2015
<b>Agreement status</b>	Multiparty signed/agreed
<b>Interim arrangement</b>	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

<b>Stage</b>	Implementation/renegotiation
<b>Conflict nature</b>	Government/territory
<b>Peace process</b>	Philippines - Mindanao process
<b>Parties</b>	For the GPH: Professor Miriam Coronel-Ferrer, GPH Panel Chair; For the MILF: Mohagher Iqbal, MILF Panel Chair
<b>Third parties</b>	Signed in the presence of: H.E. Haydar Berk, IDB Chair; Tengku Dato' Ab Ghafar Tengku Mohamed, Malaysian Facilitator
<b>Description</b>	The agreement provides the functions, composition, and processes, which are to be completed in 4 phases, for implementing the Terms of Reference for the Independent Decommissioning Body (IDB) for the decommissioning and normalization of the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces.

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**Agreement document** [PH\\_150129\\_Protocol Implementation for ToR of IDB.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

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#### 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.

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## Gender

**Women, girls and gender** Page 2, II. Definitions: MILF Combatants. For purposes of these implementing guidelines, refers to both regular and guerrilla members of the Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces (BIAF). To ensure that the socio-economic initiatives and the decommissioning process will be gender-sensitive and inclusive, the term shall include Women Auxiliary forces.

Page 8, V. The Process, 2. Assembly and Processing Area (APA)  
2.5. Registration and verification of MILF weapons and combatants at APA - All MILF combatants will include the following information: name, age, sex, rank, responsibilities within the unit/formation, date of entry into service and will provide the basis for a complete list of personnel. [...]

**Men and boys** No specific mention.

**LGBTI** No specific mention.

**Family** Page 1, II. Definitions  
Socio-economic development - refers to programs and other initiatives for the MILF combatants, their families and communities in accordance with the Annex on Normalization.

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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.

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## **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.

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## **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.

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## **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.

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**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→Media roles  
Page 9, VII. Communication Plan - The IDB shall formulate a communication plan on the decommissioning process.

**Mobility/access** Page 5, V. The Process, Phase 3  
b. Joint Normalization Committee - Joint Peace and Security Committee (JNC - JPSC) shall facilitate the movements of such MILF forces to the assembly areas.

Page 6, V. The Process, Phase 4  
b. Joint Normalization Committee - Joint Peace and Security committee (JNC-JPSC) shall facilitate the movements of such MILF forces to the APAs.

Page 6, V. The Process, 1. Movement and Concentration of Forces  
For this purpose, comprehensive plans, timelines and routes for the movement and concentration of forces shall be provided by MILF to the IDB. The GPH shall give information to the IDB on the comprehensive plans and timeline for the redeployment of the AFP. The movement of all MILF combatants and weapons to the APAs shall be carried out in consultation with the IDB and in coordination with the ceasefire mechanisms. The Parties shall undertake measures to promote and guarantee free movement and create and environment free of fear and intimidation.

Page 6, V. The Process, 2. Assembly and Processing Area (APA)  
2.1. In accordance with the commitment referred to in the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro (FAB) and relevant documents (see References), MILF combatants and their weapons shall, in a sequence agreed upon between the MILF and the IDB, be confined within designated APA sites for registration, verification and decommissioning of forces and weapons. The APA shall be based on comprehensive planing and preparation before implementation. The GPH shall provide services to the combatants in the APA. To ensure implementation there shall be good communication and available supplies and logistics. The IDB shall have access to any and all APA sites for the purposes of verification and monitoring. To ensure the safety of both monitors and MILF forces, no improvised explosive devices or crude bombs shall be brought inside the APA sites.

**Protection measures** No specific mention.

**Other** No specific mention.

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### **Rights institutions**

**NHRI** No specific mention.

**Regional or international human rights institutions** No specific mention.

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### **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.

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**Socio-economic reconstruction**

**Development or socio-economic reconstruction**

Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Socio-economic development

Page 1, II. Definitions

Socio-economic development - refers to programs and other initiatives for the MILF combatants, their families and communities in accordance with the Annex on Normalization.

Page 1, II. Definitions

Decommissioning is the process of putting the weapons of the MILF beyond use and the process of allowing a smooth transition for the MILF combatants to productive civilian life which shall be parallel and commensurate with the redeployment of AFP and dismantling of Private Armed Groups (PAGs) and other aspects of the peace agreements.

Page 3, IV. The IDB

[...] The IDB will:

6. Coordinate with the Joint Normalization Committee (JNC) on the other aspects of normalization.

Page 4, V. The Process, Phase 1

c. The Institute of Bangsmaoro Studies (IBS) shall undertake the needs assessment survey for the members of the BIAF as basis for financial assistance and sustainable socio-economic programs for the decommissioned BIAF members and their communities.

Page 5, V. The Process, Phase 1

d. Consolidation of previous needs and skills assessment of MILF forces and communities.

Page 5, V. The Process, Phase 2

d. The IBS shall conduct additional needs and skills assessment for the MILF forces and their communities.

e. The JNC shall conduct on-site verification of the implementation and delivery of the socio-economic programs extended by the GPH and other donors for the decommissioned MILF forces and their communities.

f. The IDB shall program the next 35% of the verified, validated and registered MILF forces and weapons for Phase 3 after the assessment and evaluation of the implementation of the normalization processes.

Page 6, V. The Process, Phase 3,

d. The JNC shall conduct on-site verification of the implementation and delivery of the sustainable socio-economic programs extended by the GPH and other donors for the decommissioned MILF forces and their communities.

Page 6, V. The Process, Phase 4

c. The remaining stage of decommissioning shall take place after the evaluation of the panels with the participation of the Third Party Monitoring Team (TPMT) and Facilitator that all the commitments of the parties have been completed.

e. The JNC shall conduct on-site verification of the implementation and delivery of the socio-economic programs extended by the GPH and other donors for the decommissioned BIAF members and their communities.

Page 8, V. The Process, 2. Assembly and Processing Area (APA)

2.5. Registration and verification of MILF weapons and combatants at APA - [...] As part of this registration, all MILF combatants will be issued an identity card. This identity card may be used to access programs for decommissioned MILF members

**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.

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**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 9, Page 8, V. The Process, 2. Assembly and Processing Area (APA)  
2.6. [...] the IDB shall periodically review the security requirements of the temporary storage area on the basis of a shared security threat or when appropriate the transfer to a more permanent storage area. The IDB shall monitor these commitments with a full-time presence at the secured arms storage area.

### **Ceasefire**

Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision

Page 1, II. Definitions

Redeployment is the repositioning of units and troops of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), including weapons, ammunitions, equipment and installations in accordance with the Framework Agreement on the Bangsamoro, the Annex on Normalization and its Attachment (Program for normalization in the Bangsamoro).

Page 1, II. Definitions

Decommissioning is the process of putting the weapons of the MILF beyond use and the process of allowing a smooth transition for the MILF combatants to productive civilian life which shall be parallel and commensurate with the redeployment of AFP and dismantling of Private Armed Groups (PAGs) and other aspects of the peace agreements.

Page 6, V. The Process, 1. Movement and Concentration of Forces

[...] The movement of all MILF combatants and weapons to the APAs shall be carried out in consultation with the IDB and in coordination with the ceasefire mechanisms. The Parties shall undertake measures to promote and guarantee free movement and create an environment free of fear and intimidation.

### **Police**

No specific mention.

### **Armed forces**

Page 6, V. The Process, 1. Movement and Concentration of Forces

For this purpose, comprehensive plans, timelines and routes for the movement and concentration of forces shall be provided by MILF to the IDB. The GPH shall give information to the IDB on the comprehensive plans and timeline for the redeployment of the AFP. The movement of all MILF combatants and weapons to the APAs shall be carried out in consultation with the IDB and in coordination with the ceasefire mechanisms. The Parties shall undertake measures to promote and guarantee free movement and create an environment free of fear and intimidation.

## DDR

Security sector→DDR→DDR programmes

Page 1, II. Definitions

Assembly and Processing Area (APA) - a designated and a clearly defined geographical area identified by the IDB for purposes of assembly, inventory, registration, verification, and validation of MILF combatants and weapons scheduled for decommissioning.

Page 1, II. Definitions

Socio-economic development - refers to programs and other initiatives for the MILF combatants, their families and communities in accordance with the Annex on Normalization.

Page 1, II. Definitions

Secured Arms Storage Areas - are sites used for storage of weapons, munitions and explosives, or storage containers established in special perimeters, controlled and guarded by the responsible unit as agreed upon by both Parties and monitored by the IDB.

Page 1, II. Definitions

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Page 2, II. Definitions

The Independent Decommissioning Body (IDB) is the body tasked to oversee the decommissioning of the MILF weapons and forces, chaired by the expert from the Republic of Turkey with members made up of one expert each from the Kingdom of Norway and Burnei Darussalam, and four (4) local experts jointly nominated by the Parties. The IDB shall conduct verification, registration, validation and inventory of weapons and forces of the MILF.

Page 2, IV. The IDB

The Independent Decommissioning Body (IDB), tasked to oversee the process of decommissioning of the MILF forces and weapons, is composed of three (3) foreign experts from states that have been mutually agreed upon by the Panels and four (4) local experts that were nominated by the parties. [...]

Page 3, IV. The IDB

[...] The IDB will:

1. Conduct inventory, verification and validation of Bangsmaoro Islamic Armed Forces (BIAF) members, arms and weapons.
2. Develop and implement schedule of decommissioning of BIAF members.
3. Plan, design, and implement techniques and technologies for weapons collection or retrieval, transport and storage and putting weapons beyond use in accordance with the agreements of the Parties.
4. Ensure that all necessary steps and processes for decommissioning are complied with by the Parties;
5. Report on the progress of its work and submit its terminal report to the GPH and MILF Panels; and
6. Coordinate with the Joint Normalization Committee (JNC) on the other aspects of normalization.

Page 4, IV. The IDB

Page 12 of 16

2. IDB Verification and Monitoring Assistance Teams (IDB-VMAT) - The Independent Decommissioning Body Verification and Monitoring Assistance Teams (IDB-VMAT) shall

**Intelligence  
services**

No specific mention.

**Parastatal/rebel  
and opposition  
group forces**

Page 1, II. Definitions

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Page 3, IV. The IDB

[...] The IDB will:

1. Conduct inventory, verification and validation of Bangsmaoro Islamic Armed Forces (BIAF) members, arms and weapons.
2. Develop and implement schedule of decommissioning of BIAF members.

Page 4, V. The Process, Phase 1

- a. The MILF shall conduct internal validation and registration of its weapons and combatans.
- b. the MILF shall submit initial lists of validated and registered weapons and combatants to the IDB.
- c. The Institute of Bangsmaoro Studies (IBS) shall undertake the needs assessment survey for the members of the BIAF as basis for financial assistance and sustainable socio-economic programs for the decommissioned BIAF members and their communities.

Page 5, V. The Process, Phase 1

- d. Consolidation of previous needs and skills assessment of MILF forces and communities.
- e. Ceremonial turnover of 20 page 4 of 10 weapons and 55 high-powered firearms to the IDB.
- f. The IDB shall program the first 30% of the verified, validated and registered MILF forces

<b>Withdrawal of foreign forces</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Corruption</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Crime/organised crime</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Drugs</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Terrorism</b>	No specific mention.

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## **Transitional justice**

**Transitional justice general** No specific mention.

**Amnesty/pardon** Transitional justice→Amnesty/pardon→Amnesty/pardon proper  
Page 1, II. Definitions  
Amnesty and Pardon - are legal forms of confidence building measures which shall be immediately undertaken as agreed upon in the Annex on Normalization by the Government of the Philippines (GPH) towards the speedy resolution of cases of persons charged with or convicted of crimes or offenses connected to the armed conflict in Mindanao.

**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.

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## Implementation

**UN signatory** No specific mention.

**Other international signatory** Signed in the presence of: H.E. Haydar Berk, IDB Chair;  
Tengku Dato' Ab Ghafar Tengku Mohamed, Malaysian Facilitator

**Referendum for agreement** No specific mention.

**International mission/force/similar** No specific mention.

**Enforcement mechanism** Page 6, V. The Process, Phase 4  
c. The remaining stage of decommissioning shall take place after the evaluation of the panels with the participation of the Third Party Monitoring Team (TPMT) and Facilitator that all the commitments of the parties have been completed.

**Related cases** No specific mention.

**Source** <http://opapp.gov.ph/milf/signed-agreements>

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