

Country/entity	Philippines Mindanao
Region	Asia and Pacific
Agreement name	Implementing Administrative Guidelines of the GRP-MILF Agreement on the General Cessation of Hostilities
Date	12 Sep 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	Implementation/renegotiation
Conflict nature	Government/territory
Peace process	Philippines - Mindanao process
Parties	MGen. Joselin B. Nazareno, AFP, GRP Sub-Committee on Cessation of Hostilities Chairman Atty. Omar B. Umpar, MILF Legal Counsel and MILF Sub-Committee on Cessation of Hostilities Acting Chairman
Third parties	Amb. Fortunato U. Abat, GRP Peace Panel Chairman [Witness] Ghazali Jaafar, MILF Peace Panel Chairman [Witness]
Description	Provided for creation by the GRP and MILF of Coordinating Committees on Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH) to implement the administrative guidelines; of a joint Independent Fact-finding Committee (IFFC) to make inquiries on matters referred to it for appropriate action and of a GRP-MILF Coordination Committees Secretariat by the Coordinating Committees. Outlined composition and functions of the CCCH, the IFFC and the Coordination Committees Secretariat as well as administrative and support arrangements and conduct of public information concerning cessation of hostilities. Also listed areas of coverage of the cessation of hostilities.

Agreement document [PH_970912_Implementing Administrative Guidelines of GRP-MILF Agreement.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 3, Rule IV: Composition and Functions of the Independent Fact-finding Committee (IFFC)
Section 2 - Notre Dame University Peace Center and Maguindanaon Professional and Employees Association (MAPEA) representatives shall act as Chairman and Vice Chairman, respectively, of the IFFC.

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 Rights related issues→Media and communication→Media roles
Rule VIII: Conduct of Public Information Concerning Cessation of Hostilities
Section 1 - The GRP and MILF shall undertake its dissemination to their respective forces of the cessation of hostilities to ensure that all units, elements and individuals, as well as the general public, are fully informed of the effectivity of the cessation of the hostilities and conditions thereof to be observed by both sides.

Section 2 - Dissemination shall utilize all means of communications, such as print media (leaflets, posters, newspapers/magazines, brochures, flyers), radio, television, and face to face communication.

Section 3 - Media relations shall be covered by rules to be prescribed separately by the GRP and MILF Panels.

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, Rule I: Terms of References

The GRP-MILF Agreement on the General Cessation of Hostilities (AGCH) signed on July 18, 1997 sets the terms of reference of these Implementing Guidelines and Ground Rules and the structure to implement these rules.

Page 1, Rule II: Coordinating Committees and other Bodies

Section 1 - The GRP and MILF shall each create a monitoring body to be known as the “Coordinating Committees on Cessation of Hostilities” (CCCH) to implement this Administrative Guidelines.

Page 1, Rule III: Composition, Meetings, Powers and Functions of the Coordinating Committees on Cessation of Hostilities

Section 1 - The Coordinating Committees on Cessation of Hostilities shall be initially composed of six (6) members each from the GRP and MILF, namely: GRP MILF

- a. M/Gen. Joselin B. Nazareno a. Sultan Saipoden Tomawis
- b. C/Supt. Franco M. Calida, PNP b. Badawi Hashim
- c. Capt. Rolando T. Garcia, PN c. Dan Dimakenal
- d. Col. José G. Corales, PA d. Jerry Abubakar
- e. Lt. Col. Rudy R. So, PA e. Abu Mujahid Pahlawan
- f. Col. Manuel B. Ibanez, Jr., JAGS f. MILF Legal Counsel

Page 2, Rule III: Composition, Meetings, Powers and Functions of the Coordinating Committees on Cessation of Hostilities

Section 2 - The GRP and the MILF may change their respective memberships in the CCCH upon the recommendation of their respective Chairman and endorsed by the CCCH to the GRPMILF Peace Panels for approval and issuance of appropriate designation by their respective Panel Chairman.

Section 3 - The GRP and the MILF Coordinating Committees shall hold a regular coordinating meeting once a month to discuss matters relative to the implementation of these Administrative Guidelines. A special coordinating meeting may be called as the need arises.

Section 4 - The Coordinating Committees on Cessation of Hostilities shall have the following powers and functions:

- a. Supervise and monitor the implementation of the Guidelines and Ground Rules of the GRP-MILF Agreement on General Cessation of Hostilities.
- b. Conduct inquiry, prepare report and recommend appropriate action on matters pertaining to alleged violations/infractions of the provisions of these implementing guidelines and ground rules of the GRP-MILF AGCH. [...]
- c. Conduct visits and inspections in areas where the cessation of hostilities is in effect.
- d. Establish and organize field offices in areas where the need for them arises.
- e. Recommend changes in these Implementing Guidelines and Ground Rules as the Committee deems necessary for the approval of the GRP and MILF Panels.
- f. Render regular reports to the GRP and the MILF Peace Panels. Special reports may be rendered as necessary.

Page 3, Rule IV: Composition and Functions of the Independent Fact-finding Committee (IFFC)

Section 1 - The Independent Fact-finding Committee (IFFC) shall be composed of members from the Interim Cease-fire Monitoring Committee (ICMC) which shall be deemed terminated upon the creation and convening of the IFFC.

Section 3 - Additional membership to the IFFC may be made upon joint approval by the

Police	No specific mention.
Armed forces	No specific mention.
DDR	No specific mention.
Intelligence services	No specific mention.
Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	Page 4, Rule V: Areas of Coverage of the Cessation of Hostilities The cessation of hostilities shall be in effect in the provinces, cities, and other places in Mindanao, Sulu, and Palawan. To ensure proper coordination, the location of MILF camps/positions shall be verified and determined jointly and agreed upon by the both Coordinating Committees on Cessation of Hostilities.
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 As Agreement in its entirety provides for the establishment of the Coordinating Committees on Cessation of Hostilities, see Ceasefire for mechanism.
