

<b>Country/entity</b>	Papua New Guinea Bougainville
<b>Region</b>	Asia and Pacific
<b>Agreement name</b>	The Burnham Declaration by Bougainville Leaders on the Re-Establishment of a Process for Lasting Peace and Justice on Bougainville
<b>Date</b>	18 Jul 1997
<b>Agreement status</b>	Multiparty signed/agreed
<b>Interim arrangement</b>	Yes
<b>Agreement/conflict level</b>	Intrastate/intrastate conflict

#### **Bougainville Conflict (1987 - 1998)**

The conflict on Bougainville, an island under the jurisdiction of Papua New Guinea (PNG), began in 1987 as a dispute over compensation for the use of land by Bougainville Copper Ltd, a an Australian subsidiary. The underlying issue of independence soon emerged and the conflict escalated between the government of PNG and the native islanders, in turn spearheaded by the Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA). Until fighting ended in 1998, an estimated 20,000 died in the conflict. Several pre-negotiation agreements culminated in an agreement to a 'permanent and irrevocable' ceasefire, and a framework for normalizing the PNG-Bourgainville relationship, which included elections.

Close

Bougainville Conflict (1987 - 1998)

<b>Stage</b>	Pre-negotiation/process
<b>Conflict nature</b>	Government/territory
<b>Peace process</b>	Bougainville: peace process
<b>Parties</b>	Joseph Kabui, Leader of BIG/BRA; Gerard Sinato, Leader of BTG Delegation; Martin Miriori; Sam Kauona; John Momis MP; Sam Akoitaj;
<b>Third parties</b>	-
<b>Description</b>	Agreement to set up a process for negotiations between Bougainville leaders and PNG National Govt, including an agreed process for the declaration of a ceasefire and ending the war

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**Agreement document**

[PG\\_970718\\_Burnham Declaration.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** No specific mention.

**Men and boys** No specific mention.

**LGBTI** No specific mention.

**Family** No specific mention.

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## State definition

**Nature of state (general)** Page 2, 8. Political Process  
We undertake to ensure that the people of Bougainville, as a people, freely and democratically exercise their right to determine their political future.

**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** Page 2, 7. Lifting of Blockade and Removal of Restrictions  
We agree that there is a need for access throughout Bougainville to relevant donor organisations and other humanitarian agencies, including ICRC and UNICEF, for the implementation of health and education programs, and for the restoration of basic needs. We further undertake to pursue discussions with the Papua New Guinea Government to this end.

**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** Page 2, 8. Political Process  
We undertake to ensure that the people of Bougainville, as a people, freely and democratically exercise their right to determine their political future.

**Detention procedures** No specific mention.

**Media and communication** No specific mention.

**Mobility/access** Page 2, 7. Lifting of Blockade and Removal of Restrictions  
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**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** No specific mention.

**National economic plan** No specific mention.

**Natural resources** No specific mention.

**International funds** Page 2:

7. Lifting of Blockade and Removal of Restrictions

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**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.

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**Security sector**

<b>Security Guarantees</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Ceasefire</b>	<p>Security sector→Ceasefire→Ceasefire provision Page 1, 3. Ending the War As soon as the process referred to under Clause 9 below is established between Bougainville Leaders and the Government of Papua New Guinea, we will jointly bring about an end to the war on Bougainville.</p> <p>Page 1, 4. Declaration of Ceasefire In order to help create a peaceful environment for a neutral peacekeeping force to come and maintain peace on Bougainville, the Bougainville Leaders urge all parties under force of arms to agree to a declaration of a ceasefire, which shall take effect simultaneously with the arrival of the first contingent of the peacekeeping force on Bougainville.</p>
<b>Police</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Armed forces</b>	No specific mention.
<b>DDR</b>	<p>Security sector→DDR→Demilitarisation provisions Page 2, 6. Demilitarisation of Bougainville 6.1 The demilitarisation of Bougainville is an essential step in the peace process. We, therefore, call for the complete withdrawal of the Papua New Guinea Defence Force within a time frame to be agreed to between Bougainville Leaders and the Government of Papua New Guinea. 6.2 As part of this demilitarisation process, there shall also be the laying down of arms by all Bougainvilleans, currently under the force of arms over a period of time, which will be supervised by the Peacekeeping Force in conjunction with the Bougainville Transitional Government and the Bougainville Interim Government.</p>
<b>Intelligence services</b>	No specific mention.
<b>Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces</b>	No specific mention.
<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** 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** Page 1, 1. Unity and Reconciliation  
We recognise that the war on Bougainville has divided our people. In order to achieve lasting peace, we must reconcile with ourselves as leaders to ensure that there is unity and reconciliation among our people at all levels of the community.

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## **Implementation**

**UN signatory** No specific mention.

**Other international signatory** No specific mention.

**Referendum for agreement** No specific mention.

**International mission/force/similar**

Page 1, 5. A Neutral Peacekeeping Force

5.1 We, believe that a neutral Peacekeeping Force is essential to the peace process. We therefore, request that such a force be invited to Bougainville at the beginning of the process for a period of not more than three years under the auspices of the United Nations.

5.2 We desire also that before a 'Status of Forces' Agreement is agreed to by the State of Papua New Guinea and countries contributing to the Peacekeeping Force that the Bougainville Interim Government and the Bougainville Transitional Government be fully consulted, and be party to it.

**Enforcement mechanism**

No specific mention.

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