

Country/entity Philippines
Mindanao

Region Asia and Pacific

Agreement name Joint Statement - 5th GRP-MILF Exploratory Talks (February 20 2004)

Date 20 Feb 2004

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	Silvester C. Afable, Jr., GRP Panel Chair; Mohagher Iqbal, MILF Panel Chair
Third parties	-
Description	Agreement informing on the 5th Round of GRP-MILF Exploratory Talks, in which it was decided to resume formal peace talks in April, 2004, with the facilitation of the Malaysian Government. It was also agreed upon that the Terms of Reference (ToR) for the International Monitoring Team (IMT) would be finalized by the Malaysian Government, and that both Parties would further the rehabilitation and development efforts of the conflict-affected areas.

Agreement document [PH_040220_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	<p>Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Socio-economic development</p> <p>[...] Both Panels agreed to the mechanism to extend capacity-building programs for the people in conflict-affected areas through the Bangsamoro Development Agency (BDA), the development arm of the MILF. TO assist in the rehabilitation and development of conflict-affected areas, the Malaysian Government has committed a similar program for the BDA under its Malaysian Technical Cooperation Program.</p> <p>Likewise, the Panels will work closely with the World Bank and the multi-donor community in implementing the joint needs assessment phase of the Multi-Donor Trust Fund intended for the rehabilitation and development of the conflict-affected areas. In this regard, the BDA shall represent the MILF. A similar request will be made to the Islamic Development Bank (IDB).</p>
National economic plan	<p>[...] Both Panels agreed to the mechanism to extend capacity-building programs for the people in conflict-affected areas through the Bangsamoro Development Agency (BDA), the development arm of the MILF. TO assist in the rehabilitation and development of conflict-affected areas, the Malaysian Government has committed a similar program for the BDA under its Malaysian Technical Cooperation Program.</p> <p>Likewise, the Panels will work closely with the World Bank and the multi-donor community in implementing the joint needs assessment phase of the Multi-Donor Trust Fund intended for the rehabilitation and development of the conflict-affected areas. In this regard, the BDA shall represent the MILF. A similar request will be made to the Islamic Development Bank (IDB).</p>
Natural resources	No specific mention.
International funds	[...] Likewise, the Panels will work closely with the World Bank and the multi-donor community in implementing the joint needs assessment phase of the Multi-Donor Trust Fund intended for the rehabilitation and development of the conflict-affected areas. In this regard, the BDA shall represent the MILF. A similar request will be made to the Islamic Development Bank (IDB).
Business	No specific mention.
Taxation	No specific mention.
Banks	<p>Socio-economic reconstruction→Banks→International finance</p> <p>[...] Likewise, the Panels will work closely with the World Bank and the multi-donor community in implementing the joint needs assessment phase of the Multi-Donor Trust Fund intended for the rehabilitation and development of the conflict-affected areas. In this regard, the BDA shall represent the MILF. A similar request will be made to the Islamic Development Bank (IDB).</p>

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→General commitments
[...] The GRP and MILF Panels resolved all outstanding issues in the way of the formal talks and expressed confidence that the prospects for lasting peace were firm. They commended the work of the Coordinating Committee on the Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH) of both Parties in stabilizing the situation on the group and nurturing the climate of peace.

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 [...] The Panels agreed to consolidate their respective proposed Terms of Reference (TOR) for the International Monitoring Team (IMT), and requested the Malaysian Government to send the advance survey team in Southern Philippines soonest possible. An itinerary for the team was adopted. Both Panels agreed for the Malaysian Government to finalize the TOR in consultation with the Panels and undertake the task of setting up the IMT in Southern Philippines.
