Implementing Administrative Guidelines of the GRP-MILF Agreement on the General Cessation of Hostilities

Rule I: Terms of Reference

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.

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.

Section 2
An independent fact-finding body shall be jointly created by the GRP and the MILF to make inquiries on matters referred to it for appropriate action.

Section 3
A coordinating body shall be jointly created by the Coordinating Committees to be known as the “GRP-MILF Coordinating Committees Secretariat”.

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
b. C/Supt. Franco M. Calida, PNP

c. Capt. Rolando T. Garcia, PN

MILF
a. Sultan Saipoden Tomawis
b. Badawi Hashim

c. Dan Dimakenal
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 GRP-MILF 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. Matters that will not be resolved by the CCCH may be referred to the IFFC.

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.
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 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.

Section 3
Additional membership to the IFFC may be made upon joint approval by the GRP and MILF Panels through their respective CCCH.

Section 4
The IFFC shall function under the following terms:
- Conduct fact-funding inquiries on matters referred to it by either Coordinating Committee, copy furnished the other Committee, on alleged violations/infractions of the provisions of these Implementing Guidelines and Ground Rules of the GRP-MILF AGCH.
- Issue appropriate letters of invitation to persons whose declarations/statements may shed light on matters under consideration by the IFFC.
- Coordinate with other offices and/or organizations as may be necessary in the exercise of its functions/tasks.
- Conduct inquiries and submit reports on the results of the inquiry supported by appropriate evidence to the CCCH with utmost dispatch. All reports and proceedings shall be considered classified. Only final reports and proceedings may be divulged to the public by either or both GRP and MILF Panels.
- Adopt such internal procedure as may be appropriate to enable it to expeditiously perform its tasks and submit the same to the CCCH for its notation and approval.
- Employ the expertise of certain impartial persons or organizations in the performance of its assigned tasks.
- Perform such other acts as may be jointly determined to be necessary by the CCCH for the accomplishment of its assigned tasks.

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.

Rule VI: Composition and Functions of the GRP-MILF Coordinating Committees Secretariat

Section 1
The GRP-MILF Coordinating Committees Secretariat shall be composed of three (3) members from each CCCH. The initial members shall be as follows:

GRP MILF
a. S/Supt. Esmael S. Daulog, PNP
b. Lt. Col. Rudy R. So, PA
b. Taher Salendab
c. Capt. Jaime D. Calunsag, PA
c. Jannati Mimbantas

Section 2
The GRP and MILF may change their respective memberships in the Coordinating Committees Secretariat as may be necessary.

Section 3
The GRP-MILF Coordinating Committees Secretariat shall have the following functions:
  a. Serve as the record custodian of the CCCH.
  b. Keep an inventory of all office equipment and other properties of the CCH.
  c. Provide for the logistical and administrative requirements of the Coordinating Committees for official purposes.
  d. Perform such other functions as may be directed by the GRP and the MILF.

Section 4
The principal office of the GRP-MILF Coordinating Committees Secretariat shall be located in Cotabato City or as may be determined by the GRP and MILF CCCH.
Rule VII: Administrative and Support Arrangements

Section 1
The principal office of the Coordinating Committees on Cessation of Hostilities shall be in Cotabato City or as may be determined by the GRP and MILF Panels.

Section 2
The GRP and the MILF CCCH shall for its respective office space, equipment and other offices. Other administrative and support requirements shall be provided by the GRP.

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.

Signed in the City of Cotabato this 12th day of September, Nineteen Hundred and Ninety Seven.

For the GRP
M/Gen. Joselin B. Nazareno, AFP
Chairman, GRP Sub-Committee on Cessation of Hostilities

For the MILF
Atty. Omar B. Umpar
MILF Legal Counsel and Acting Chairman, MILF Sub-Committee on Cessation of Hostilities

Attested by:
For the GRP
Amb. Fortunato U. Abat
Chairman, GRP Peace Panel

For the MILF
Ghazali Jaafar
Chairman, MILF Peace Panel