JOINT ACTION ON THE QRT REPORT

THE SIXTH GRP AND MILF TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETING WAS HELD ON APRIL 22-23, 1998 AT THE MARAWI RESORT HOTEL IN MARAWI CITY. THE GRP AND THE MILF PANELS ARE CHAIRED BY LTGEN JOSELIN NAZARENO AND ATTY LANANG SALI, RESPECTIVELY.


BOTH PARTIES REAFFIRMED THEIR CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO THE SPIRIT AND INTENT OF THE MARAWI AGREEMENT SIGNED ON FEBRUARY 6, 1998 AND TO CONTINUE THEIR CONFIDENCE BUILDING IN THEIR GENUINE QUEST FOR PEACE.


FOR THE GRP:

[Signature]
LTGEN JOSELIN D. NAZARENO
Chairman
GRP Technical Committee

FOR THE MILF:

[Signature]
ATTY LANANG SALI
Acting Chairman
MILF Technical Committee

IN THE NAME OF GOD
THE MOST BENEFICENT, THE MOST MERCIFUL

AGREEMENT
(Creating a Quick Response Team)

WHEREAS, the Quick Response Team (QRT) is conceptualized on account of the confrontations/conflicts on the ground between the elements of the GRP and the MILF despite the Agreement on the General Ceasefire of Hostilities (GCH) signed by the GRP and the MILF Panels on July 18, 1997 in Cagayan de Oro City.

WHEREAS, there is an urgent need to address these conflicts/conflicts immediately as they occur in order to avoid further exacerbation of the conflict that may cause displacement and destruction to both human lives and properties.

WHEREAS, under normal conditions and terms of the GCH, the Coordinating Committee on the Ceasefire of Hostilities (CCCH) is the body primarily tasked to settle and address these incidents and alleged violations of the Ceasefire Agreement between the GRP and the MILF. However, the CCCH is formally constituted and does observe due protocols and other formats required of any official body. As such, the CCCH is not capable of immediate response to conflicts/confrontations on the ground. The CCCH meets when conflicts/confrontations have reached a crisis level or after unnecessary casualties and destruction have been inflicted against each other and on the civilian populace.

WHEREAS, the Independent Fact Finding Committee (IFFC) cannot immediately respond to a crisis situation because its very nature is passive. It acts only on matters that the CCCH cannot mutually agree on. The IFFC enters the scene when there is no agreement in the CCCH on what actually happened on the ground. In short, the IFFC becomes involved when the conflict/confrontation has reached a level of mutual disagreement between the GRP and the MILF.

WHEREAS, the IFFC Chairman recommended the creation of the QRT to the GRP and the MILF Panels during the February 06, 1998 plenary meeting of the Technical Committee and the CCCH at MSU, Marawi City.

NOW, THEREFORE, the GRP and the MILF have agreed to create as they hereby create a QUICK RESPONSE TEAM which shall be hereinafter referred to as QRT composed of representatives from the GRP, MILF and the IFFC to immediately address alleged violations of the GCH. The QRT shall be chaired by the IFFC Chairman, or in his absence, by the IFFC Vice-Chairman.

The Operationalization of the QRT:

1. The Official Office and Address of the QRT is at the Notre Dame University Peace Education Center in Cotabato City. Sub-offices in other areas may be opened as the need arises.

2. The QRT shall be composed of the following:

2.1 GRP Representatives - three (3) permanent members from the Secretariat of the GRP CCCH, three (3) alternate members;

2.2 MILF Representatives - three (3) permanent members from the Secretariat of the MILF CCCH, three (3) alternate members;