

In the Name of Allah
The Most Beneficent, The Most Merciful

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

Article I: Definition of Terms

1. GRP Forces – as referred to in the GRP-MILF Agreement on the General Cessation of Hostilities signed in Cagayan de Oro City on July 18, 1997.
2. MILF Forces – as referred to in the GRP-MILF Agreement on the General Cessation of Hostilities signed in Cagayan de Oro City on July 18, 1997.
3. The following are considered prohibited hostile acts:
 - a. Terroristic acts such as kidnapping, hijacking, piracy, sabotage, arson, bombings, grenade throwing, robberies, liquidations/assassinations, unjustified arrest, torture, unreasonable search and seizure, summary execution, as well as burning of houses, places of worship and educational institutions, destruction of properties, and abuse of civilians.
 - b. Aggressive action such as attacks, raids, ambushes, landminings, and offensive military actions such as shelling, reconnoitering, and unjustified massing of troops.
 - c. Establishment of checkpoints except those necessary for the GRP's enforcement and maintenance of peace and order; and, for the defense and security of the MILF in their identified areas, as jointly determined by the GRP and MILF.
4. The following are considered prohibited provocative acts:
 - a. Display of MILF flag in non-identified MILF areas.
 - b. Providing sanctuary or assistance to criminal or lawless elements.
 - c. Massive deployment and/or movement of GRP and MILF forces which are not normal administrative functions and activities.

- d. Public pronouncements that will tend to undermine the sincerity or credibility of either party in implementing the cessation of hostilities.
- e. Other acts that endanger the safety and security of the people and their properties; and/or that which contribute to the deterioration of peace and order, such as blatant display of firearms.

Article II: Actions Exempted from Cessation of Hostilities

Police and military actions and administrative/logistic activities shall continue to be undertaken by the GRP throughout Mindanao and the entire country. In the pursuit thereof, confrontational situations between the GRP and the MILF forces shall be avoided by prior coordination with the latter. These actions include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Peacekeeping and police actions such as preventive patrols, investigations, arrest, searches and seizures undertaken by the Government against criminality, especially against piracy, robbery, kidnapping, cattle rustling, murder and other criminal acts.
2. Defensive or protective actions of the GRP and MILF to ensure the security of its forces, facilities, installations, equipment and lines of communications, and the safety and tranquility of the civil government and the population.

Article III: Ground Rules

1. The GRP and MILF shall desist from committing any prohibited hostile and provocative acts, as described in these Implementing Guidelines and Ground Rules.
2. Movement of MILF forces outside their identified areas, as jointly determined by the GRP and MILF CCCH, shall be coordinated by concerned MILF commanders to the GRP forces' commanders for clearance prior to said movements.
3. Forces not identified by the GRP and MILF CCCH shall be deemed not covered by these Implementing Guidelines and Ground Rules.
4. Observation of cessation of hostilities and conduct of inquiry by the GRP-MILF Coordinating Committees on Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH).

a. The CCCH shall promptly, *motu proprio* or as directed by the GRP-MILF Peace Panels, conduct inquiry on alleged violations of cessation of hostilities pursuant to these Implementing Guidelines and Ground Rules.

b. The CCCH shall inform immediately the commanders of GRP and MILF forces whose units or members are alleged to be violating these Implementing Guidelines and Ground Rules. It shall be the responsibility of the GRP and MILF to take immediate and necessary actions to stop any violation and punish respective forces which violate these Implementing Guidelines and Ground Rules.

c. The CCCH report of inquiry shall be submitted directly to the GRP-MILF Peace Panels, with copies furnished to the GRP and MILF Commanders concerned.

d. The CCCH will coordinate its visits, inspections, and inquiries with GRP and MILF officials concerned. The CCH shall be provided information, data or evidence needed for their conduct of inquiry.

5. Disposition of violations of cessation of hostilities.

The GRP and the MILF will make appropriate actions on their respective forces who violate these Implementing Guidelines and Ground Rules.

6. Security of the GRP and MILF Panels and CCCH Members.

a. The GRP and the MILF shall be responsible for the security of the Members of the CCCH especially in the performance of the latter's functions. Members of the GRP and MILF Panels and CCCH, however, will be allowed to have armed security. The number of security personnel and firearms shall be mutually agreed upon.

b. Authority to carry firearms by the armed security shall be issued by the GRP and the MILF Commanders on the ground to be confirmed by the GRP-MILF CCCH. Area of coverage will be the area of effectivity as mentioned. In Rule V of the Implementing Administrative Guidelines of the GRP-MILF AGCH to include areas while in transit performing official duties as MILF Panel armed security.

Article IV: Relationships

1. Coordinating Committees on the General Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH) of the GRP and MILF forces. The GRP Members of the Coordinating Committees on Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH) shall coordinate directly or through the Chain of Command or authority of the GRP agencies concerned in matters pertaining to the implementation and enforcement of the Implementing Guidelines and Ground Rules of the GRP-MILF AGCH. In like manner, the MILF Members of the CCCH shall coordinate with MILF units directly or through their own channels of command. Lateral coordination between/among the GRP-MILF CCCH members is encouraged.

2. Coordinating Committees on Cessation of Hostilities to GRP-MILF Peace Panels.

a. The Coordinating Committees on Cessation of Hostilities is an advisory body to the GRP-MILF Peace Panels on the matter of implementation of these Implementing Guidelines and Ground Rules.

b. Unresolved matters within the Coordinating Committee on Cessation of Hostilities shall be elevated to the GRP-MILF Peace Panels for disposition.

Signed in the City of Marawi this 14th day of November 1997.

For the GRP:

Major General Joselin B. Nazareno, AFP
Chairman, GRP Sub-Committee on Cessation of Hostilities

For the MILF:

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