

**INTERIM IMPLEMENTING GUIDELINES
ON THE JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ OF 6 MAY 2002**

I TERMS OF REFERENCE

- A. Agreement for General Cessation of Hostilities dated July 18, 1997, including its Implementing Administrative Guidelines dated September 12, 1997 and Implementing Operational Guidelines dated November 14, 1997.
- B. Agreement on Peace between the GRP and the MILF signed on 22 June 2001 in Tripoli, Libya
- C. Implementing Guidelines on the Security Aspect of the GRP-MILF Tripoli Agreement on Peace of 2001 signed on 07 August 2001 in Putrajaya, Malaysia
- D. Joint Communiqué between the GRP and the MILF signed on 06 May 2002 in Cyberjaya, Malaysia

II OBJECTIVE/PURPOSE

This set of guidelines is adopted to implement the provisions of the Joint Communiqué dated May 6, 2002 between the Government of the Republic of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front relative to the isolation and interdiction of all criminal syndicates/kidnap for ransom groups and other criminal groups including the so called "Lost Commands" operating in Mindanao.

III SCOPE

These Interim Implementing Guidelines apply only to operations against criminal syndicates/kidnap-for-ransom groups, lost commands and other criminal elements within MILF areas/communities.

IV DEFINITION OF TERMS

- A. *Lost Commands* – groups which are not under the command and control of the BIAF and the AFP/PNP as verified by the Ad Hoc Joint Action Group (AHJAG).

Page 1 of 4

- B. *Criminal Syndicates/Kidnap-for-Ransom Groups* – refer to a group or aggragation of persons who engage in criminal activities as verified by AHJAG.
- C. *Criminal Elements*– within the purview of AHJAG, refers to a leader/member of a criminal syndicate or kidnap for ransom group as distinguished from common criminals
- D. *Isolation* – refers to the act of dissociating/segregating criminal elements from the general public as a mode to monitor and counter their criminal activities.
- E. *Interdiction* – refers to the act of apprehending criminal elements as defined in paragraphs A and B and turning them over to the AHJAG.
- F. *Order of Battle* – refers to the list of wanted persons prepared by the AFP/PNP as verified by the AHJAG.
- G. *MILF Areas/Communities* – refer to the places in Mindanao identified by the GRP and MILF Peace Panels where the MILF elements are situated.

ORGANIZATION/COMPOSITION OF THE AHJAG

- A. The Ad Hoc Joint Action Group shall be composed of eight (8) members, four (4) from the GRP and four (4) from the MILF agreed upon and named by the panels.
- B. The AHJAG shall have under it Teams that will cover corresponding areas in Mindanao, as follows:
- AHJAG Team 1: Provinces of Maguindanao, North Cotabato, Bukidnon, and all cities located therein;
 - AHJAG Team 2: Provinces of Lanao del Sur, Lanao del Norte, and all cities located therein;
 - AHJAG Team 3: Provinces of Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga Sibugay, and all cities located therein;
 - AHJAG Team 4: Provinces of Sultan Kudarat, South Cotabato, Sarangani, and all cities located therein; and
 - AHJAG Team 5: Provinces of Davao del Norte, Davao del Sur, Davao Oriental, Compostela Valley, and all cities located therein.

Page 2 of 4

- C. An AHJAG Team as organized shall be composed of at least four (4) members, two from the GRP and two from the MILF, to be augmented by support staff from both sides.
- D. The AHJAG teams shall be composed of field level members and operators who can immerse on the ground for the performance of their mission, and shall readily be available at short notice.

VI MECHANICS OF IMPLEMENTATION

- 1. The AFP/PNP shall convey to the MILF through the AHJAG the Order of Battle as defined in Paragraph IV, E containing the names and identities of the criminal elements as provided in Paragraph 3 of the Joint Communiqué of 6 May 2002.
- 2. The MILF through the AHJAG shall validate and subsequently act on the information as contained in the Order of Battle.
- 3. The MILF further shall provide information, as available, on other suspected criminal elements in their areas/communities that come to their attention.
- 4. The AHJAG shall coordinate with the AFP/PNP and MILF/BIAF to effect the apprehension and arrest of the suspected criminal elements.
- 5. To avoid unnecessary armed confrontations, the displacement of communities and damage to properties, the Tactical Operations Center (TOC) or Tactical Command Post (TCP) of the government operating forces and with the MILF forces in the area shall work and coordinate closely with the AHJAG and vice versa.
- 6. Except for operations against high priority targets, a list of which shall be provided by the GRP Panel to the MILF Panel, the AHJAG shall inform the GRP and the MILF CCCH at least 24 hours prior to the conduct of the AFP/PNP operations in order to allow sufficient time for the evacuation of civilians and to avoid armed confrontation between the GRP and MILF forces.
- 7. In hot pursuit operations in MILF areas/communities, the AFP/PNP commander shall coordinate with the AHJAG. Pursuit operations by the AFP/PNP against criminal elements shall not exceed seventy-two (72) hours and can be extended upon consultation with the AHJAG. Paramilitary/irregular forces shall not be allowed to engage in hot pursuit.

8. An after-operation report shall be immediately submitted by the AHJAG to the GRP and MILF Panels, copy furnished both CCCHs.
9. The MILF shall block the entry of suspected criminal elements into MILF areas/communities based on the Order of Battle and other information jointly verified by the AHJAG. Arrested/ apprehended personalities shall be turned-over to the AHJAG.

VII GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTING UNIT

1. In the process of implementing its functions, the implementing units of the GRP-MILF, shall ensure the safety of the life of the civilians and the protection of their properties.
2. The AHJAG shall closely coordinate and work in tandem with the Joint CCCH.
3. Unresolved matters within the AHJAG shall be elevated to the GRP-MILF Peace Panels for disposition.

VII EFFECTIVITY

These Interim Implementing Guidelines shall take effect immediately upon signing and shall remain in effect for a period of six (6) months, subject to review and confirmation by both Panels.

Done on the 21st day of December 2004, at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

For the GRP

For the MILF


SEC. SILVESTER C. AFABLE, JR.
Chairman, GRP Peace Panel


MOHAGHER M. IQBAL
Chairman, MILF Peace Panel