

IN THE NAME OF GOD  
THE BENEFICENT, THE MERCIFUL

**AGREEMENT FOR GENERAL CESSION OF HOSTILITIES**

**KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS :**

**WHEREAS**, peace talks are now being undertaken between representative of the Government of the Philippines (GRP) and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF);

**WHEREAS**, while an informal ceasefire has been observed between the GRP and the MILF, with the end in view of finding a just and lasting solution to the centuries old problem of the Bangsamoro and native inhabitants of Mindanao, it becomes necessary that peace and order be assured;

**WHEREAS**, in view of the foregoing, it becomes imperative for the GRP and the MILF to enter into an agreement for general cessation of hostilities and to agree to continue the formal peace talks;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, the GRP and the MILF, through their undersigned authorised representatives, agree, as they hereby agreed on the following:

1. To commit the armed forces of the GRP and the MILF to a General Cessation of Hostilities;
2. To direct their respective Sub-Committee on Cessation of Hostilities to meet on 30 July 1997, and on such dates thereafter, but not to exceed two (2) months, to draw and finalise the guidelines and ground rules for the implementation of this Agreement; and
3. To resume and proceed with the formal peace talks in a venue to be mutually agreed upon between the GRP and the MILF Panels.

This Agreement shall take effect on the 21st day of July 1997.

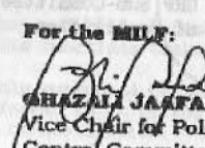
**SO AGREED.**

**DONE** in the City of Cagayan de Oro, Philippines, this 18th day of July 1997.

For the GRP:

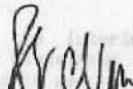
  
**AMADO FORTUNATO IL. ABAT**  
Chairman, GRP Panel

For the MILF:

  
**GHAZALI JASFAR**  
Vice Chair for Political Affairs  
Central Committee, MILF  
Chairman, MILF Panel

ATTESTED:

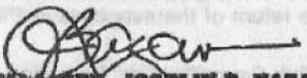
  
**RUBEN D. TORRES**  
Executive Secretary

  
**SEC. RENATO S. DE VILLA**  
Dept. of National Defense

**GRP and MILF Agreement on  
General Cessation of Hostilities**

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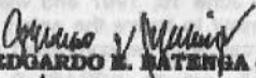
**WITNESSES:**

For the GRP:  Major General JOSELIN B. NAZARENO

Chairman, Sub-Committee on Cessation of Hostilities

For the MILF:  MOHAGHER IQBAL

Member, Central Committee  
MILF

 LT. GEN EDGARDO E. BATENGA (RET)  
Member, Technical Committee

 ASSTC. JOVENAL P. NAZAGA  
Chairman, Technical Committee on  
Agenda Setting

 ATTY. GRACE M. TAN  
Director, Office of the President

 ATTY. ALBERTO A. BERNARDO  
Executive Director, NPUDC

 SAMMY AL MANSOUR  
Deputy Chief of Staff, BIAF  
MILF

 OMAR HASAN  
Member, Central Committee  
MILF

 ABDURMANAF MANTAWIL  
Chairman, Secretariat  
MILF, Technical Committee

 ATTY. OMAR B. UMPAR  
MILF Legal Counselor