



PRESS STATEMENT:

REAFFIRMATION OF COMMITMENT TO THE PEACE PROCESS AND CEASEFIRE BETWEEN THE MORO ISLAMIC LIBERATION FRONT (MILF) AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES (GPH)

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) Central Committee having met on October 22, 2011 in Camp Darapanan, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao mindful of the primacy of the peace process between the Government of the Philippines (GPH) and MILF, the pursuit of enduring peace, justice, unity and progress of all peoples, and the recent unfortunate and unwarranted incidents of confrontations between the forces of both the MILF and Government in the province of Basilan hereby state the following:

The MILF reaffirms its commitment to the ongoing GPH – MILF peace process and negotiations under the auspices of the Government of Malaysia being the Third Party Facilitator with the ultimate objective of mustering a negotiated political solution to the age-old conflict in Mindanao and the legitimate aspiration and struggle of the Bangsamoro people for meaningful self-governance and right to self-determination.

Believes without doubt that the peace talks between the government and MILF since 1997 is the most civilized, democratic and best solution to resolve this problem.

Cites the preponderance and indispensability of the increasing support and cooperation of the civil society organizations, international community and aid agencies in the progress as well as success of the GPH – MILF Peace Process.

Highly regards the sincerity and political will being manifested by His Excellency President Benigno Simeon "Noynoy" Aquino III toward forging a comprehensive, just, enduring and honorable negotiated political solution to the problem in Mindanao and the Bangsamoro issue with the MILF representing the Bangsamoro people.

The Central Committee of the MILF under the leadership of Chairman Al Haj Murad Ebrahim hails President Aquino for standing firm for the continuity and successful conclusion of the GPH – MILF Peace Process amidst the calls for an all-out war against the MILF and the Bangsamoro people following the recent unfortunate and unwarranted confrontation between the government and MILF forces in AlBarka, Basilan on October 18, 2011.

Shares the stance of the President in dismissing an all-out war policy which emphasizes the fact that military campaign shall only worsen the multifaceted problems in the country and Mindanao, thus, bear no significant space and contribution in resolving the Bangsamoro issue.

Moro Islamic Liberation Front
(MILF)

Central Committee



اللجنة المركزية
(ج.ت.م.ا)
اللجنة المركزية

Calls on the local and national government leaders and officials from the various structures to embolden their support and cooperation to the initiatives and efforts of President Aquino in the peace process and negotiations with the MILF, particularly in the rejection of the call for an all-out war. Moreover, the MILF calls on all the Bangsamoro people from the cross-sectors of society to strengthen and sustain their support in order to thrive over the challenges and difficulties prevalent and unfolding in the peace process with the Government of the Philippines.

Stresses that the bloody armed confrontations between the government and MILF forces in Albarka, Basilan due to shortcomings in the observance of the ceasefire accord, and had rendered casualties on both sides and severely affected innocent civilians were unwarranted, unfortunate and should not have happened in the first place.

Seeks to resolve the incidents in Basilan and Payao, Zamboanga Sibugay through the established ceasefire mechanisms such as the GPH - MILF Coordinating Committees on the Cessation of Hostilities (CCCH), GPH - MILF Adhoc Joint Action Group (AHJAG), Local Monitoring Teams (LMTs), and the International Monitoring Team (IMT). Anent, an immediate investigations on the cases at hand must be conducted to be led IMT in order to ferret out the truth and come up with appropriate recommendations and exact the courses of action to be undertaken within the context and parameters of the peace process.

Urges the ceasefire mechanisms to assert their mandate so as to uphold and promote the primacy of the peace process, negotiations, and the ceasefire between the GPH and MILF.

Assures the commitment and compliance of all the forces and members of the MILF both from its military and political arms to the authority and dispositions of the CCCH, AHJAG, LMT and IMT.

Finally, the MILF conveys its deepest condolences and sympathy to the bereaved families of the officers and soldiers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the martyred fighters Bangsamoro Islamic Armed Forces (BIAF) - MILF.

Issued this 24th Day of October, 2011 at Camp Darapanan, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao.



GHAZALI JAAFAR

Vice Chairman for Political Affairs
MILF Central Committee

Cc:

Office of the Chairman, MILF CC
Office of the Vice Chairman for Military Affairs
All members of MILF CC
Chief of Staff, BIAF - MILF
All Concerned