

## TIMELINE STUDY OF GRP-NDFP PEACE NEGOTIATIONS FROM 31 AUGUST 1992 TO 31 MARCH 2006

Based on the Timeline Study Prepared by the Philippine Peace Center

DATES	EVENTS	TIME INVOLVED
<b>1992</b>		
31 Aug - 1 Sep 1992	Beginning of Preliminary Talks: Signing of <i>The Hague Joint Declaration</i>	2 days
2 Sep 1992 - 9 Jun 1994	GRP forms National Unification Commission with Haydee Yorac as Head; Yorac insists that talks between the GRP and NDFP be held in the Philippines delaying the resumption of preliminary talks for nearly two years	21 months & 7 days
<b>1994</b>		
10 - 14 Jun 1994	Breukelen Talks: <i>Breukelen Joint Statement</i>	5 days
15 Jun - 9 Oct 1994	(Normal Recess)	3 months & 24 days
10-14 Oct 1994	De Bilt Talks: GRP Panel Chair Howard Dee declares collapse of the talks after rejecting the draft of a <i>Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees</i> (JASIG) prepared by a small working committee appointed by both Parties	5 days
15 Oct - 15 Nov 1994	GRP declaration of collapse of the talks	1 month
16 Nov 1994 - 21 Feb 1995	Fax exchanges of draft on JASIG after GRP lifted its declaration of collapse in November	3 months & 5 days
<b>1995</b>		
22-26 Feb 1995	Nieuwegein Talks: Signing of <i>JASIG &amp; Agreement on Ground Rules</i>	5 days
27 Feb - 25 Jun 1995	Fax exchanges of draft on <i>Joint Agreement on the Formation, Sequence and Operationalization of the Reciprocal Working Committees</i> (RWC Agreement); NDFP Consultant Sotero Llamas is arrested on 17 May 1995	3 months & 28 days
26-27 Jun 1995	Opening of Formal Talks, Brussels, Belgium: Signing of <i>RWC Agreement</i>	2 days
28 Jun 1995 -18 Jun 1996	GRP President Fidel Ramos suspends talks after refusing to release NDFP Consultant Llamas who is covered by the JASIG	11 months & 20 days
<b>1996</b>		
19-26 Jun 1996	Formal Talks resume in The Hague, The Netherlands: GRP releases Llamas on 21 June 1996; Initialing of the Preamble of the <i>Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law</i> (CARHRIHL) and signing of <i>Additional Implementing Rules Pertaining to the Documents of Identification in the JASIG</i>	8 days
27 Jun - 20 Nov 1996	(Normal Recess)	4 months & 23 days
21 Nov 1996 - 1 Feb 1997	GRP declares indefinite recess after denying the abduction and detention of NDFP Consultant Danilo Borjal	2 months & 10 days
<b>1997</b>		
2-8 Feb 1997	Informal talks for securing the release of Borjal; Initialing of <i>Supplemental Agreement to the RWC Agreement</i>	7 days
9 Feb - 17 Mar 1997	(Normal Recess)	1 month & 8 days
18-23 Mar 1997	Resumption of Formal Talks in The Hague, The Netherlands: Negotiations on the CARHRIHL and drafting of two small agreements on <i>additional implementing rules on the JASIG</i> and on <i>socio-economic projects of private development organizations and institutes</i>	6 days
24 Mar - 17 Apr 1997	(Normal Recess)	24 days
18-22 Apr 1997	Formal Talks in Breukelen, The Netherlands: GRP Panel presents "two options"	5 days
23 Apr - 30 Jul 1997	GRP Panel Chair Howard Dee declares indefinite recess after NDFP rejected the "two options" as violations of <i>The Hague Joint Declaration</i> and the RWC Agreement	3 months & 7 days
31 Jul - 5 Aug 1997	Informal Talks in Utrecht, The Netherlands: Initialing of Common Tentative Draft of CARHRIHL	6 days
6 Aug -10 Nov 1997	Talks on indefinite recess after GRP cabinet cluster E on internal security rejects common tentative draft of CARHRIHL; GRP Panel submits two reformulated drafts which the NDFP rejects	3 months & 4 days
11 Nov 1997 - 5 Jan 1998	GRP Panel Chair Dee suspends peace talks after the NPA captures two prisoners of war (POWs) in Rizal Province	1 month & 24 days
<b>1998</b>		
6-10 Jan 1998	Formal Talks in The Hague, The Netherlands, on CARHRIHL	5 days
11-27 Jan 1998	(Normal Recess)	17 days
28-31 Jan 1998	Formal Talks: The Hague, The Netherlands, on CARHRIHL	4 days

1 Feb - 15 Mar 1998	(Normal Recess)	1 month & 14 days
16 Mar 1998	Signing of CARHRIHL in The Hague, The Netherlands, by the two panels and exchange of drafts on comprehensive agreement on socio-economic reforms. Two short agreements are also signed: the <i>Additional Implementing Rules of the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG) Pertaining to the Security of Personnel and Consultations in Furtherance of the Peace Negotiations</i> and the <i>Joint Agreement in Support of Socio-Economic Projects of Private Development Organizations and Institutes</i>	1 day
17 Mar - 26 Oct 1998	(Indefinite recess to await results of GRP presidential elections) Approval of CARHRIHL by NDFP Chairperson Mariano Orosa (April 10, 1998) and GRP President Joseph Estrada (August 7, 1998)	7 months & 9 days
27-29 Oct 1998	Informal Talks: GRP delegation headed by Senator Franklin Drilon insists on renegotiating two articles in the CARHRIHL and demands that the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) tasked to monitor the implementation of the CARHRIHL be put under the Office of the President; NDFP rejects both proposals	3 days
30 Oct 1998 - 23 Feb 1999	GRP declares indefinite recess	3 months & 23 days
<b>1999</b>		
24 Feb - 30 May 1999	GRP President Estrada suspends peace talks after the NPA captures 4 POWs, including Brig. General Victor Obillo. Despite the release of the 4 POWs, GRP continues with its suspension of the formal talks	3 months & 6 days
31 May 1999 - 4 Mar 2001	GRP President Estrada formally terminates the peace negotiations with written notice of termination of the JASIG	21 months & 4 days
<b>2001</b>		
5-9 Mar 2001	Informal Talks in The Hague, The Netherlands, to discuss the resumption of formal talks; signing of <i>Joint Statement to Resume Peace Negotiations</i> on 9 March 2001	5 days
10 Mar - 26 Apr 2001	(Normal Recess)	1 month and 16 days
27-30 Apr 2001	Resumption of Formal Talks in Oslo, signing of the <i>Oslo Joint Communique</i> on 30 April 2001	4 days
1 May - 9 Jun 2001	(Normal Recess)	1 month & 8 days
10-13 Jun 2001	Second Round of Formal Talks in Oslo, Norway; GRP declares recess of Formal Talks on 13 June in protest over the death of Col. Rodolfo Aguinaldo, a notorious human rights violator during the Marcos martial law regime	4 days
14 Jun - 1 Sep 2001	GRP suspends Formal Talks	2 months & 17 days
2-3 Sep 2001	Informal Talks: GRP sends two emissaries to The Hague, The Netherlands, to meet with NDFP for two days in the presence of RNG officials Agreement is reached to resume Formal Talks in later part of September	2 days
4-20 Sep 2001	(Normal Recess) 17 days	
21-22 Sep 2001	GRP downgrades Third Round of Formal Talks in Oslo to Informal Talks upon instructions of its cabinet oversight committee on internal security	2 days
23 Sep - 11 Nov 2001	Formal Talks on indefinite recess while GRP reviews its policies on the GRP-NDFP peace negotiations	1 month & 18 days
12-14 Nov 2001	Informal Talks in Utrecht, The Netherlands, between members of the GRP and NDFP negotiating panels to explore possibilities of resuming the formal talks and forming the JMC as provided for in the CARHRIHL	3 days
15-29 Nov 2001	Continuing indefinite recess of the Formal Talks by the GRP	15 days
30 Nov - 2 Dec 2001	Informal Talks: GRP delegation headed by Speaker Jose de Venecia presents 3-page Final Peace Agreement. After two days of marathon negotiations both Parties agree on a <i>Joint Document of Understanding to Accelerate the Peace Negotiations</i> to be signed in the presence of newly-elected Norwegian Prime Minister Kyell Magne Bondevik in Oslo. GRP informs NDFP of its decision not to sign the document right before the meeting with the Norwegian Prime Minister on 2 December 2001	3 days
3 Dec 2001 - 8 Jan 2002	Continuing indefinite recess of the Formal Talks by the GRP	1 month & 5 days
<b>2002</b>		
9-10 Jan 2002	Informal Talks in Utrecht, The Netherlands, between members of the GRP and NDFP negotiating panels; GRP proposes a single final peace agreement as a culmination of a series of backchannel or informal talks; NDFP rejects proposal as a violation of <i>The Hague Joint Declaration</i> and the RWC agreement, but will refer the GRP proposal to the NDFP National Executive Committee	2 days
11 Jan - 15 Mar 2002	Continuing indefinite recess of the Formal Talks by the GRP	2 months & 4 days
16 Mar 2002 - 18 Feb 2003	GRP altogether suspends Formal Talks; announces preference for backchannel or informal talks to arrive at a settlement within the	

	framework of the GRP Constitution. On 9 August 2002, US State Secretary Colin Powell announces the inclusion of the CPP/NPA in the US list of "foreign terrorist organizations" and on 12 August 2002, the US Treasury Department announces financial sanctions on the CPP/NPA and Professor Jose Ma. Sison. On 14 August, 2002, GRP Pres. Macapagal-Arroyo adopts nine-point guidelines in dealing with the CPP-NPA, welcoming the US listing and opting for a military solution to the armed conflict in the Philippines. On 30 January 2003, GRP transmits by fax its draft 29-page "Final Peace Agreement" to NDFP	11 months & 2 days
<b>2003</b>		
19 Feb 2003	Informal talks in Utrecht, The Netherlands, between a GRP delegation and members of the NDFP negotiating panel: GRP declares indefinite recess after impasse is reached on whether or not GRP violated bilateral agreements in campaigning for the inclusion of the NPA and Prof. Sison in the US and EU "terrorist listing"	1 day
20 Feb - 25 Jun 2003	GRP suspension of Formal Talks	4 months & 5 days
26-28 Jun 2003	Informal talks in The Hague, The Netherlands between a GRP delegation headed by Speaker de Venecia and members of the NDFP negotiating panel to explore possibilities for resuming the formal talks	3 days
29 Jun - 8 Oct 2003	GRP suspension of Formal Talks	3 months & 9 days
9-11 Oct 2003	Informal talks in Oslo, Norway, hosted by the RNG formally acting as Third Party Facilitator: among others, discussions on guidelines for the JMC and on possible assistance of a Swiss NGO, Center for Humanitarian Dialogue (CHD), on behalf of RNG	3 days
12 Oct - 19 Nov 2003	GRP suspension of Formal Talks	1 month & 7 days
20-22 Nov 2003	Informal talks in Oslo, Norway: draft joint statement for the resumption of Formal Talks is agreed upon	3 days
23 Nov 2003 - 9 Feb 2004	Recess in preparation for resumption of Formal Talks	2 months & 16 days
<b>2004</b>		
10-14 Feb 2004	Resumption of Formal Talks in Oslo, Norway; signing of the <i>Oslo Joint Statement</i> where, among others, both sides have agreed to take effective measures to resolve the issue of "terrorist listing"	5 days
15 Feb - 29 Mar 2004	(Normal Recess)	1 month & 14 days
30 Mar - 2 Apr 2004	Second round of Formal Talks in Oslo, Norway; signing of the <i>Second Oslo Joint Statement</i> and formal convening of the JMC	4 days
3 Apr - 21 Jun 2004	(Normal Recess)	2 months & 18 days
15 Apr 2004	Joint Secretariat (JS) of the JMC is formally convened at the compound of the CBCP in Intramuros, Manila after the second meeting of the JMC in Manila	
4 Jun 2004	Inauguration of the offices of the JS in the Philippines	
22-25 Jun 2004	Third round of Formal Talks in Oslo, Norway: No joint statement is issued but two small agreements are signed: <i>Partial Supplemental Guidelines for the Joint Monitoring Committee</i> and <i>Memorandum of Understanding between the GRP and NDFP and the RNG, the Third Party Facilitator</i>	4 days
26 Jun - 9 Aug 2004	(Normal Recess)	1 month & 13 days
10 Aug - 15 Dec 2004	NDFP postpones scheduled fourth round of Formal Talks in August to give GRP time to comply with agreements, especially the Oslo agreements; US retains CPP, NPA and Prof. Sison in list of "foreign terrorist organizations and individuals"	4 months & 5 days
16-17 Dec 2004	Informal Talks in Utrecht, The Netherlands to discuss the possibility of resuming Formal Talks: GRP proposes indefinite or prolonged ceasefire as a precondition to the resumption of Formal Talks	2 days
18 Dec 2004 - 22 Jun 2005	GRP declares suspension of Formal Talks	6 months & 4 days
<b>2005</b>		
23-26 Jun 2005	Dialogue between NDFP Panel and the Special Committee on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity of the GRP House of Representatives	4 days
27 Jun - 27 Aug 2005	Continuing GRP suspension of Formal Talks	2 months
28-30 Aug 2005	Informal talks in Oslo, Norway; GRP delegation informs the NDFP delegation that its only mandate is to negotiate a ceasefire and not to negotiate the resumption of formal talks; NDFP protests widespread and systematic violations of human rights and against impunity; NDFP presents the ten-point <i>Concise Agreement for an Immediate Just Peace</i> by the NDFP National Council	3 days
<b>2006</b>		
31 Aug 2005 - 31 Mar 2006	Virtual suspension of the peace negotiations by the GRP: In February 2006: GRP charges with rebellion NDFP Chief Political Consultant Prof. Sison, NDFP Panel Chair Luis Jalandoni, NDFP Panel members Fidel Agcaoili and Juliet Sison, NDFP Panel Consultants Vicente Ladlad, Rafael Baylasis, Randall Echanis, Rey Claro Casambre and	

threatens them with arrest; GRP turns the list of NDFP personnel and consultants accorded safety and immunity under the JASIG into a list of persons charged with rebellion and subject to warrantless arrest; Department of Justice attacks integrity of the JS by identifying its office as the address of those it has charged with rebellion; GRP's virtual termination of the peace talks

7 months

#### **CONCLUSIONS:**

1. After the collapse of the talks in January 1987 during the regime of GRP President Corazon Aquino, the GRP-NDFP peace negotiations began anew in earnest on 31 August 1992 when *The Hague Joint Declaration* was negotiated and signed on 1 September 1992. The Hague Joint Declaration is the framework document in the GRP-NDFP peace negotiations.
2. From 31 August 1992 to 31 March 2006, the GRP-NDFP peace negotiations run for 13 years and seven months. During this period, there were 32 interface meetings in formal and informal talks between the NDFP Negotiating Panel and its consultants and the GRP Negotiating Panel and GRP appointed emissaries and official delegations (including the dialogue with the Special Committee on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity of the GRP House of Representatives) . These meetings totaled a maximum of 122 days or the equivalent of four months.
3. During the 13 years and seven months, there were 15 periods of recess between Formal Talks that could be considered as normal in the sense that these were mutually agreed upon by both Parties. These recesses came to a total of two years, seven months and five days.
4. But there were also periods of unnecessary delay upon the instance of the GRP. For example, Haydee Yorac, chair of the GRP National Unification Commission, kept the preliminary talks from moving for 21 months and seven days with her insistence that the talks be held in the Philippines. Still another, the GRP cabinet cluster E on internal security kept the negotiations on the CARHRIHL at a standstill for three months and four days. Then, the Formal Talks went on recess for seven months and nine days during the 1998 GRP presidential elections. Finally, upon instructions of GRP President Macapagal-Arroyo, the GRP conducted a review of its policies on the GRP-NDFP peace negotiations that lasted for a total of four months and 43 days. Altogether these delays amounted to three years, one month and three days.
5. At the same time, in 13 years and seven months, the GRP declared indefinite recess three times (totalling 8 months and 41 days); suspended the talks six times (totalling 44 months and 74 days); collapsed the talks once (lasting for one month); and terminated the peace negotiations once (lasting for 21 months and 4 days). Altogether these unilateral moves by the GRP to recess, suspend, collapse and terminate the peace talks amounted to six years, six months and five days.
6. Since 31 August 2005, the GRP has virtually terminated the peace negotiations with its refusal to abide by previously signed agreements, insistence on indefinite ceasefire as a precondition for the resumption of formal talks, and for its systematic and widespread violations of human rights or state terrorism. This has lasted for seven months and is still ongoing.
7. In 13 years and seven months, the NDFP declared a postponement of the Formal Talks only once. This lasted for four months and five days. ■