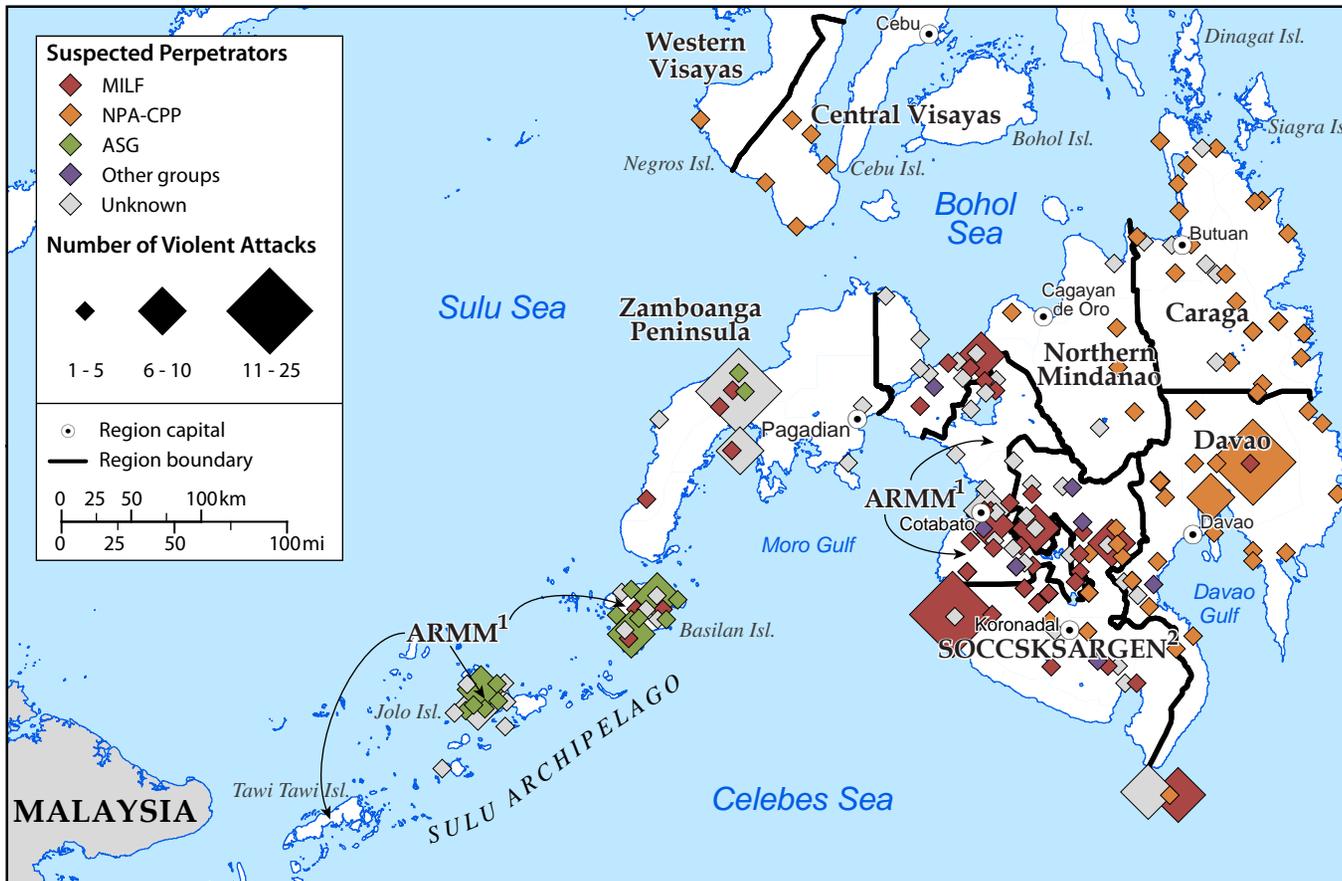


Conflicts Without Borders: Mindanao, Philippines Reported Conflict Incidents (July 2008 - June 2010)



Three major groups operate in discrete geographic regions across Mindanao:

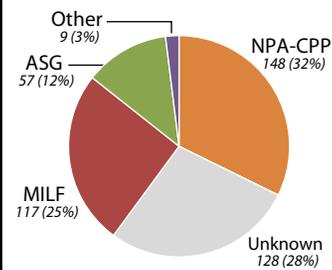
- Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) in central-to-western areas;
- New People's Army - Communist Party of the Philippines (NPA-CPP) in eastern to-central areas; and,
- Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) in western areas.

Approximately 39% of incidents were armed conflicts, 23% were by IEDs, and 13% were kidnappings.

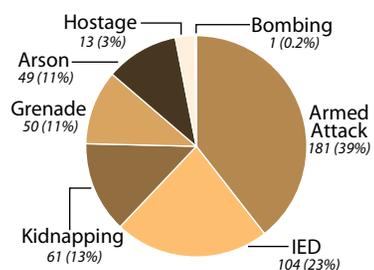
Armed attacks accounted for 85% of all deaths and IED attacks accounted for 44% of all injuries and 9% of all deaths.

1. Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao
 2. South Cotabato, Cotabato, Sultan Kudarat, Sarangani and General Santos City

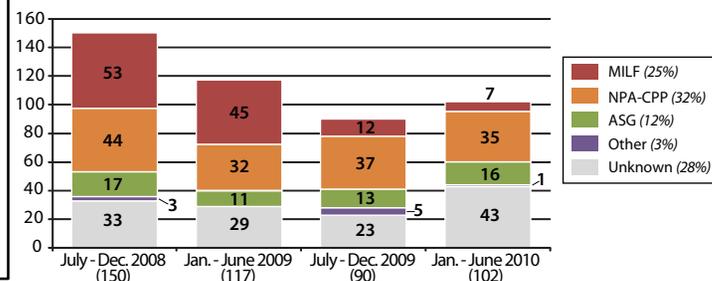
Incidents by Group



Incidents by Type



Incidents Over Time

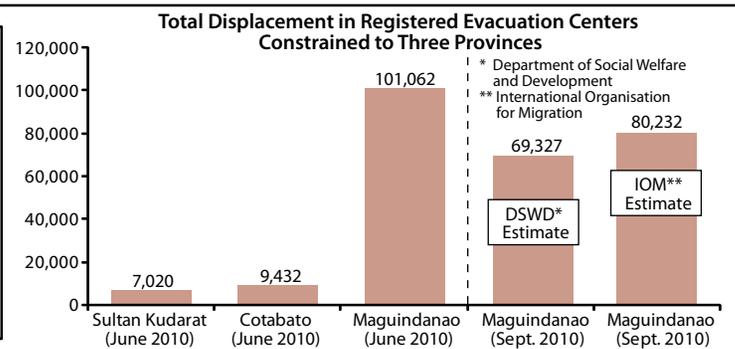
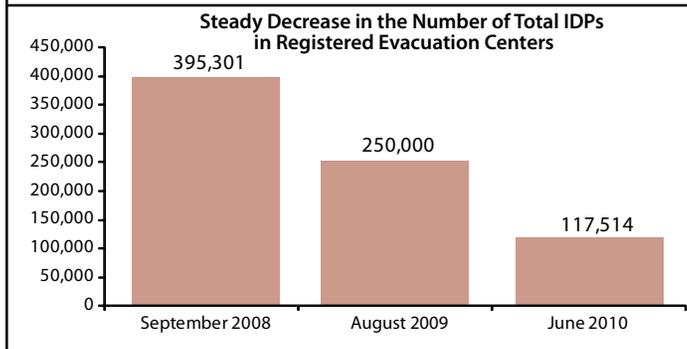
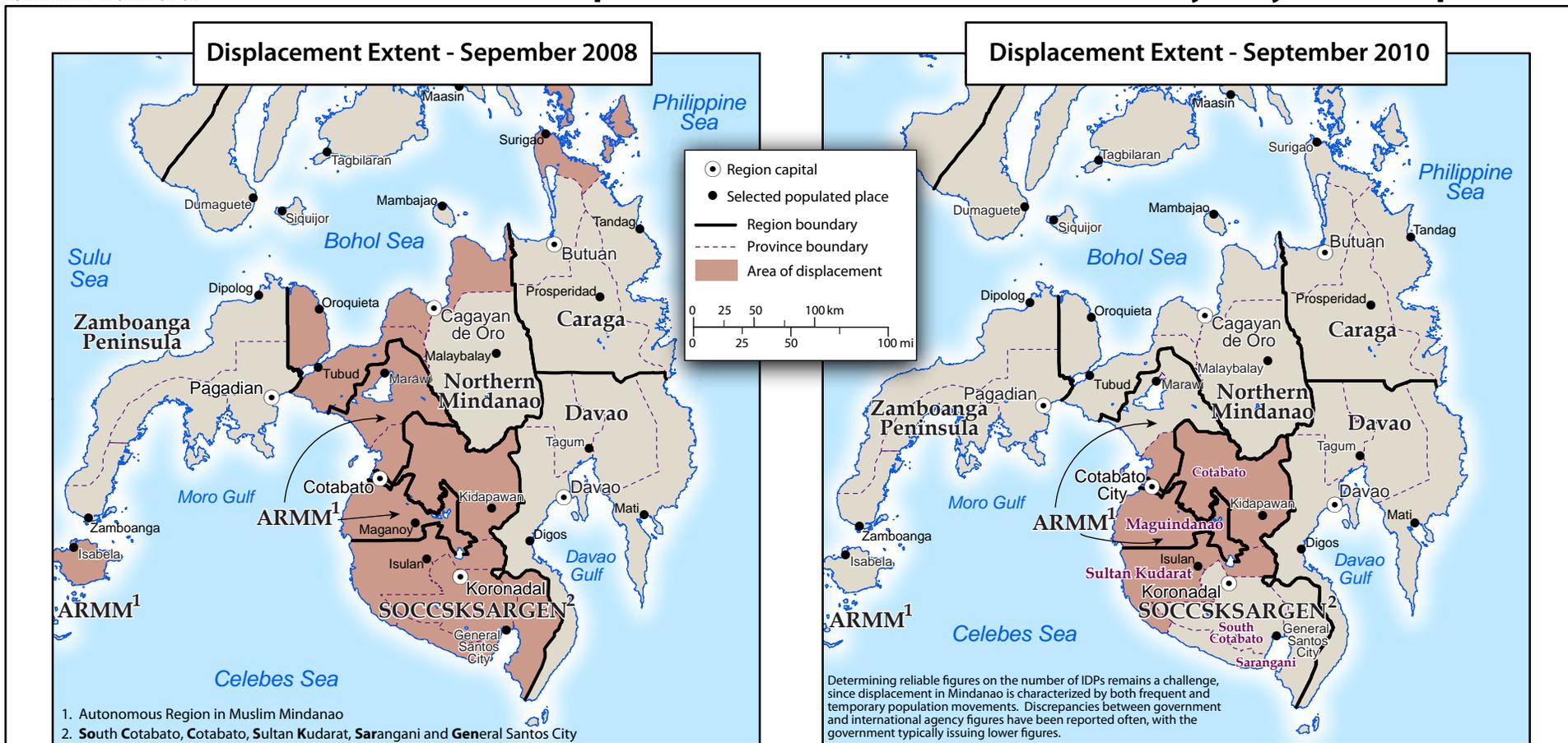


Names and boundary representation are not necessarily authoritative.

Sources: USG; National Counterterrorism Center

Conflicts Without Borders: Mindanao, Philippines

Reduced Displacement Amidst Continued Insecurity (July 2008 - Sept. 2010)



Names and boundary representation are not necessarily authoritative.
 UNCLASSIFIED

Sources: USG, International Organization for Migration, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre, Government of Philippines (GOP) National Disaster Coordinating Council, GOP Department of Social Welfare and Development

Conflicts Without Borders: Mindanao, Philippines Armed Groups and Recent Chronology (September 2010)

Armed Groups

- ◆ **MILF** – The Moro Islamic Liberation Front split from the Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) in 1977. MILF claims to represent the interests of the 5% of the population that is Muslim, known as the Bangsamoro people. The now 12,000 strong MILF was formed due to the MNLF's reluctance to launch an insurgency against the Armed Forces of the Philippines when the Government of the Philippines (GOP) rejected MNLF's demand for an independent Moro Islamic state and sent troops to maintain order.
- ◆ **NPA-CPP** – The New People's Army (NPA) is the military wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP). Founded in 1969 with the aim of overthrowing the Philippines government through guerrilla warfare, the NPA strongly opposes the U.S. military presence in the Philippines.
- ◆ **ASG** – The Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) is a small Muslim terrorist group that split from MNLF in the early 1990s. The group's stated goal is to promote an independent Islamic state in western Mindanao and the Sulu Archipelago. ASG is composed of several semi-autonomous factions with several hundred active fighters and about 1,000 supporters.

Other Perpetrators

- ◆ **Al-Khobar** – Allegedly composed of former Muslim rebels, the group is reportedly linked to the MILF, although MILF denies any involvement in the group's activities.
- ◆ **Ampatuan** – The Ampatuan family is a Muslim family who allied themselves with President Ferdinand Marcos in the 1970s. In 2008, President Arroyo legalized informal private armies being kept by families like the Ampatuans, who maintain an armed militia of 2,000 men.
- ◆ **Bag-ong Ilaga** – The Bag-ong Ilaga is a Christian vigilante group opposing the MILF, MNLF, and other groups that it deems as "terrorists". It is a continuation of the Ilaga Christian vigilante group which last operated in the 1970s.
- ◆ **BNLA** – The Bangsamoro National Liberation Army is allied with the MNLF and claimed responsibility for two separate roadside bombings on Jolo Island that killed four US military personnel in September 2009 and September 2010.
- ◆ **MNLF** – The Moro National Liberation Front emerged in the early 1970s and sought an independent Islamic nation in the Filipino islands with sizeable Muslim populations.

Recent Chronology of Conflict and Displacement

2008

In August, the MILF broke a ceasefire and the ensuing violence between the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) and the MILF led to significant displacement in portions of western Mindanao. By September, up to one million were affected, with 400,000 internally displaced persons (IDPs), including over 100,000 living in more than 160 evacuation centers, according to the GOP National Disaster Coordinating Council.

2009

Between August 2008 and July 2009, estimated 760,000 people were affected by the conflict and about 400 combatants and civilians were killed or died due to illness in IDP camps.

In July, the GOP and the MILF agreed to a ceasefire and both sides agreed to facilitate the return of tens of thousands of IDPs and the removal of unexploded ordnance. Over 250,000 people remained displaced, with over 100,000 living in 147 evacuation centers in the provinces of Maguindanao, North Cotabato, and Sultan Kudarat.

2010

In May, Benigno Aquino was elected President and vowed to secure a peace deal with the MILF. Peace talks resumed and the MILF vowed to provide security for returning IDPs.

Registered displacement

- In June, approximately 117,514 IDPs were living in 67 evacuation centers or relocation sites, while others were staying with relatives and friends, according to the GOP Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD).
- As of October, in Maguindanao Province, the International Organization for Migration estimates there are 80,232 IDPs in evacuation centers, 5,475 home-based IDPs, 9,863 IDPs moved to resettlement areas, and 16,475 IDPs relocated. According to GOP estimates, there are 69,327 IDPs in 52 evacuation centers, 11,490 IDPs relocated, and 4,545 IDPs are reintegrated into new areas.

Unregistered displacement

- Inter-clan feuds (*rido*) triggered by land disputes, election-related violence, and economic rivalries contribute to a rising number of displaced people throughout the year, although they are not considered IDPs by the DSWD. Approximately, 70 percent of the population own guns in Mindanao.
- As of October, there are an additional 156,759 IDPs due to *rido* and 135,358 due to flashfloods, according to DSWD.

Insecurity and the impact of seasonal rains continue to impede the IDPs return.