

# There's More to the Philippines:

## Building Resilience for Peace in Mindanao Through Water



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# There's More to the Philippines...

“It should be clear that there's more to the Philippines than Manila, more to its politics and society than upper-class Catholicism, and more to its security concerns than partnering with the United States to push back against the PRC [People's Republic of China] in the South China Sea. There's Mindanao, there's Moros, there's separatism, there's issues of justice that have been papered over by the Manila establishment to present a neat neo-liberal narrative that complements the U.S. pivot to Asia. And there's Duterte.”

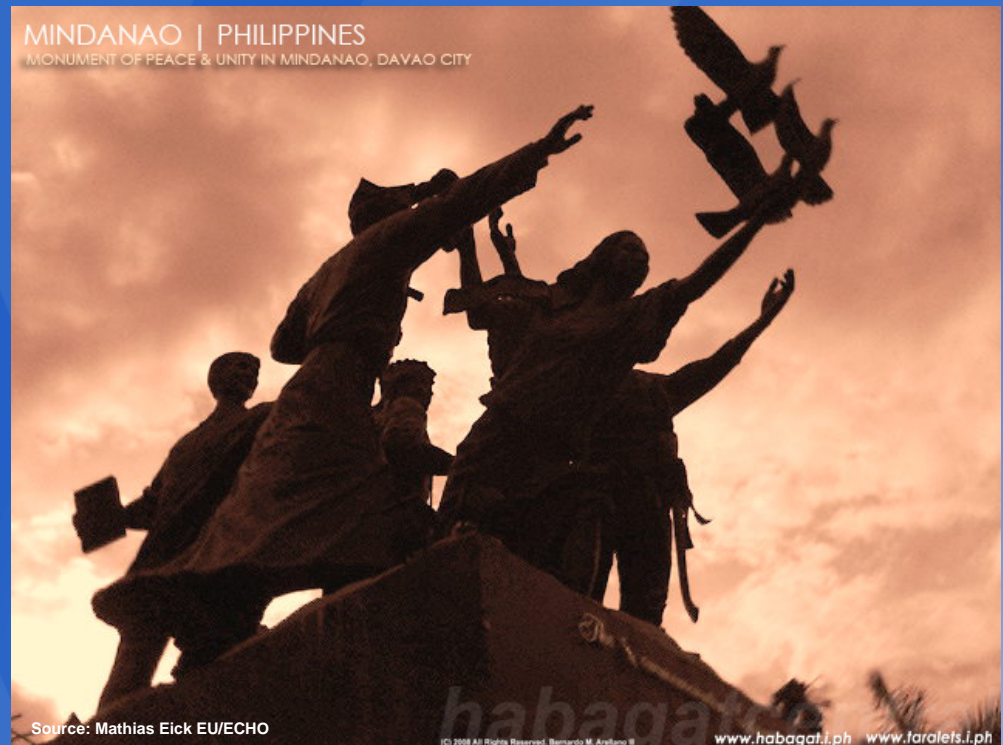
Peter Lee at <http://chinamatters.blogspot.com/2016/05/mindanao-duterte-and-real-history-of.html>

# A Piece of the Peace Dividend in the Philippines: Water and Security Dynamics

1. Mindanao,  
Moros, Morality

2. So what?

3. What does it  
mean for us?



# More than Manila...



Source: [bing.com/maps](https://www.bing.com/maps)



# It's Mindanao...



Mindanao is 1 of 3 island groups, with Luzon and Visayas, that make up the Philippines

# Muslim Mindanao

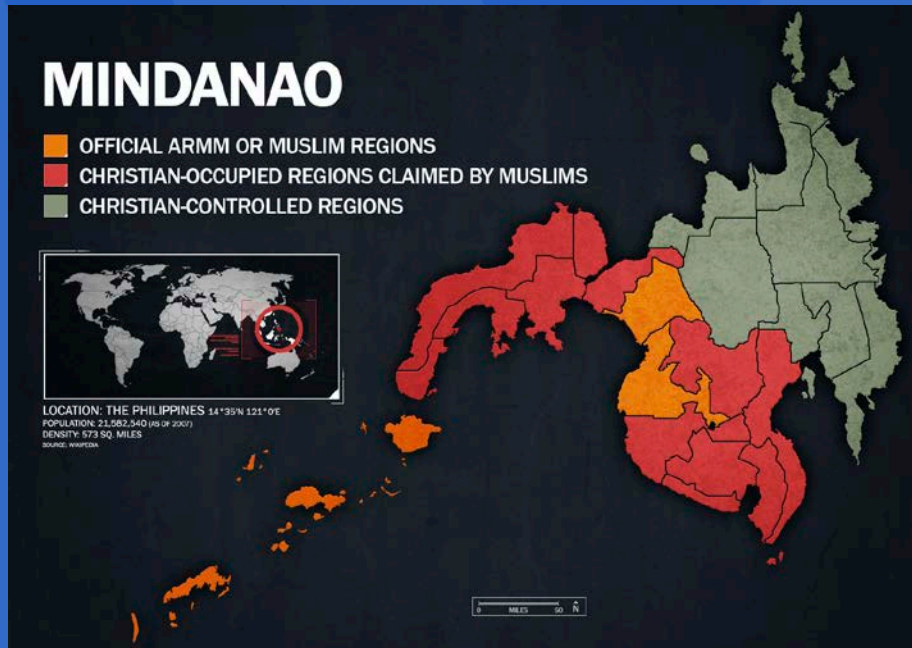


Source: [bing.com/maps](http://bing.com/maps)

- Mindanao consists of the island of Mindanao and smaller outlying islands
- These include Maguindanao, Basilan, Lanao del Sur, Sulu and Tawi Tawi, the five predominantly Muslim provinces that make up the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM)



# It's a Mindanao Thing...



- Location
- Autonomy
- Water resources
- Economic isolation
- Political weight
- Changing climate and environmental conditions
- Geopolitics

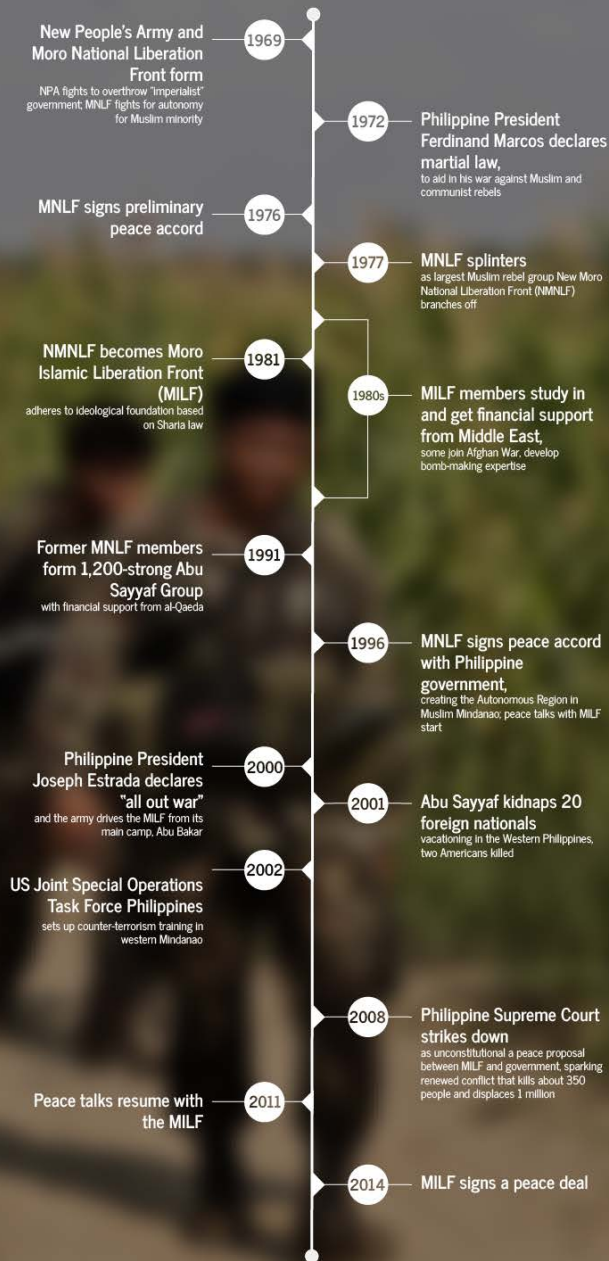
Source: <https://www.jihadwatch.org/2015/07/christians-in-the-philippines-fear-creation-of-muslim-sub-state-sharia-law>

# There's Moros...



Source: Gil Nartea and PhilANSA, <https://youthpeacenetwork.wordpress.com/2015/01/30/10-things-why-should-we-pursue-the-bangsamoro-peace-talks>





# There's Morality (Justice)...



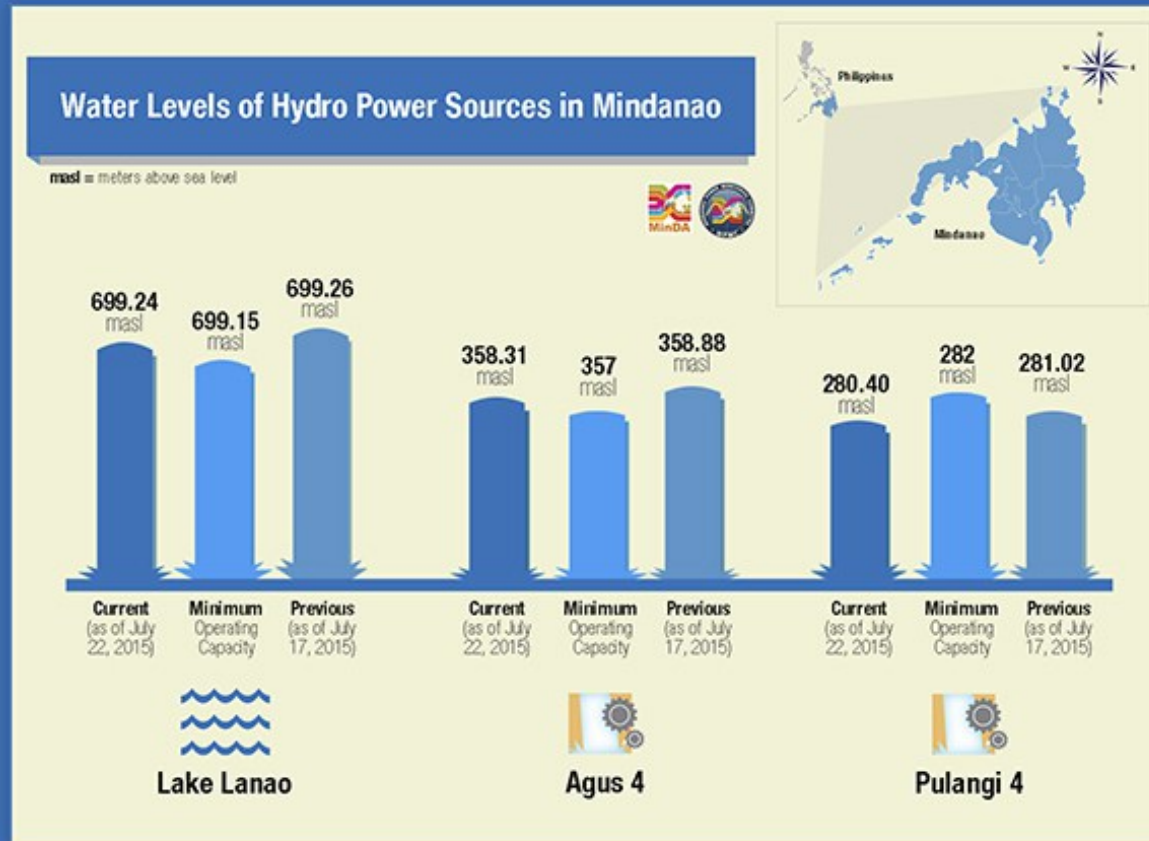
Source: <http://www.irinnews.org/photo/20081212/young-boy-milf-fatigues-salutes-passing-convoy-sprawling-rebel-camp-near-mindanao>



# Drought and Urban Water Security



# Energy Production, Water Insecurity and Land Tenure







# Displacement and Water Scarcity



Source: <http://www.cdrc-phil.com/tropical-storm-among-swept-regions-i-ii-iii-and-car/> Citizens' disaster response center



Source: Mathias Eick EU/ECHO

# And then there's Duterte...



"We will survive, without the assistance of America, maybe a lesser quality of life, but as I said, we will survive" - Intelligence Community Assessment." *Global Water Security*, February, 2012.

- Absence of the rule of law
- Lingering effects of dictatorship
- Exacerbating socio-economic factors
- Geophysical changes



**So What?**



# MINDANAO'S CONFLICT

## IN NUMBERS

**47** YEARS  
of conflict

**4 million**

**PEOPLE  
DISPLACED**  
due to violence since  
2000

**21**

**KIDNAPPED**  
foreign nationals since  
September 2015

**2**

**"MOST WANTED"**  
Abu Sayyaf senior leaders in the  
US Rewards for Justice Program;  
Isnilon Hapilon (\$5 million),  
Radullan Sahiron (\$1 million)

**2**

**ON THE US  
TERRORIST LIST:**  
Abu Sayyaf Group and  
New People's Army



**11,000 fighters**  
currently in the Moro Islamic Liberation Front



**150,000+ people killed**  
during Muslim and communist insurgencies

RESEARCHER: Simone Orendain SOURCES: Office of the Peace Advisor on the Peace Process; Armed Forces of the Philippines, Philippine National Police; Internal Displacement Monitoring Center; World Bank; Center for Strategic and International Studies; Philippine Institute for Peace, Violence and Terrorism Research; Asia Foundation; US State Department

# Local Effects/Impacts

## PATHS OF INFLUENCE: MINDANAO

### LOCAL EFFECTS

SOCIETAL CONTEXT	ECOLOGICAL CHANGE	EFFECT ON HUMAN SYSTEMS	HUMAN RESPONSES	FEEDBACK MECHANISM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>History of violent conflicts: Marcos dictatorship; natural resource conflicts; ethnic tensions</li> <li>Absent rule of law</li> <li>Lack of tenure and indigenous rights</li> <li>Economic isolation of Mindanao</li> <li>Demographic pressures</li> <li>Climate change</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Persistent drought</li> <li>Spreading deforestation and soil erosion</li> <li>More frequent and severe storms, winds &amp; flooding</li> <li>Increased water contamination</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Weakened rural livelihoods</li> <li>Rising food insecurity</li> <li>Humanitarian crises &amp; displacement of vulnerable peoples</li> <li>Destroyed &amp; degraded infrastructure</li> <li>More frequent black/brown outs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Intensified conflicts over natural resources: land, water, forests, minerals</li> <li>Sharper ethnic tensions</li> <li>Increased drive for political autonomy</li> <li>Strengthened insurgent movements</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased pressure on natural resources</li> <li>Persistent conflicts to control natural resources</li> <li>Erosion of formal political systems</li> </ul>

# Where Does that Leave Us?

# Implications for U.S. Strategic Interests

- Development: U.S. geostrategic interests in the region: South China Sea and disputed Spratly Islands
- Defense: In 2014 the United States and the Philippines signed the Enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement allowing the United States to rotate troops into the Philippines
- Diplomacy: Since 2001 Mindanao has been part of a “second front in the war on terror” with the U.S. Joint Special Operations Task Force Philippines combatting the Islamist groups Jemaah Islamiyah and Abu Sayyaf



# Future Directions

## Water, Security and Strategic Interests

- Using water programs as points of entry to invest in peacebuilding and climate resilience
- Building trust among the key stakeholders including local actors, the national government, and international aid groups
- Linking defense, diplomacy, and development efforts tied to water management programs