The Challenge for Peace in Mindanao: Counter-Insurgency Policies of the Estrada and Arroyo Governments for Southern Philippines

By Catherine Denise R. Jayme

Abstract

For many years the Muslim communities on the island of Mindanao in the Philippines have been economically, socially and politically marginalized. During the term of President Joseph Estrada (1998-2001), he waged an all-out war against the MILF. In my study, I sought to present and analyze the counter-insurgency and peace policies of both President Estrada and current President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. I then summarized some of the recommendations from religious and civic leaders, the UNDP, non-governmental organizations and government agencies. The framework of the recommendations I presented was based on the UNDP’s five Options for a Win-Win Solution. In conclusion, I offered six principles that underlie the efforts in resolving conflicts that involve ethnic or religious diversity.