

2017 **ConflictAlert** REPORT HIGHLIGHTS



THE WORLD BANK



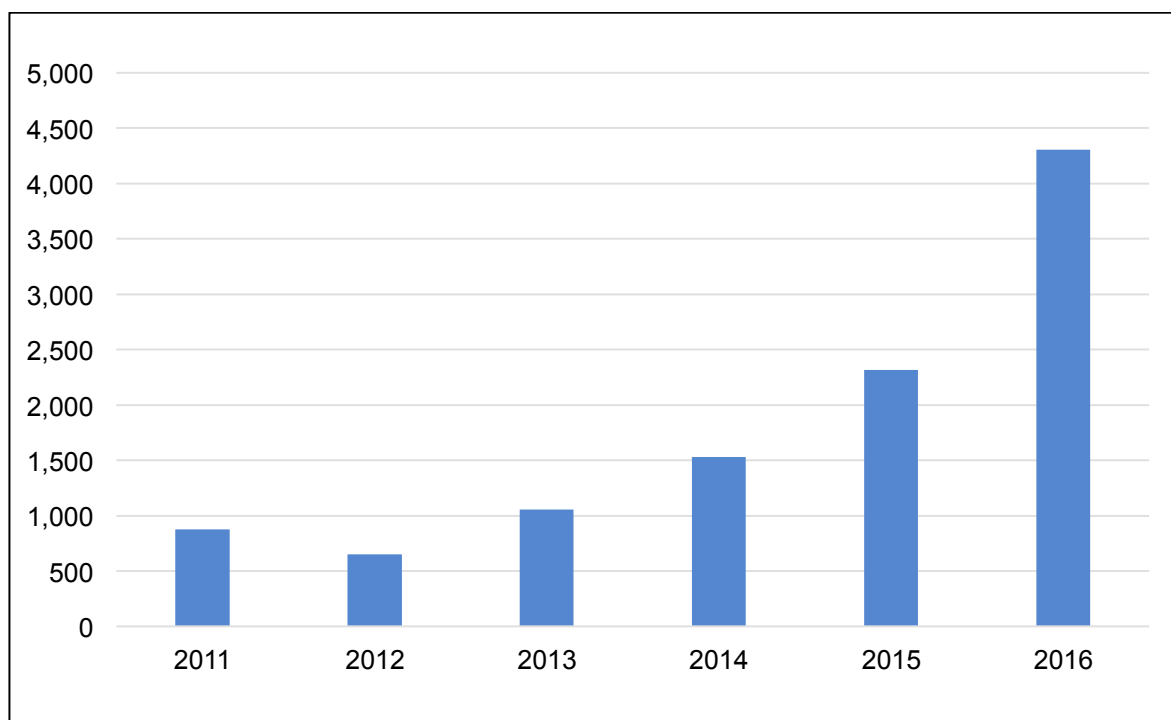
Surge in drug-related and extremist violence shapes Mindanao conflict in 2016

Violent conflict surged to unprecedented levels in Muslim Mindanao in 2016 as the Duterte government launched a war on illegal drugs and guns and newly emerging violence from extremist groups escalated. Violent conflict incidents reported by the police or news media spiked by 86% (to a total of 4,304 recorded incidents) from the previous year.¹ Each of the five provinces comprising the region posted a triple- or double-digit rise. (Table 1 and Figure 1).

Table 1. Reported violent conflict incidents in Muslim Mindanao by year

Year	Number of Incidents
2011	874
2012	649
2013	1,057
2014	1,528
2015	2,316
2016	4,304
Total	10,728

Figure 1. Reported violent conflict incidents in Muslim Mindanao by year



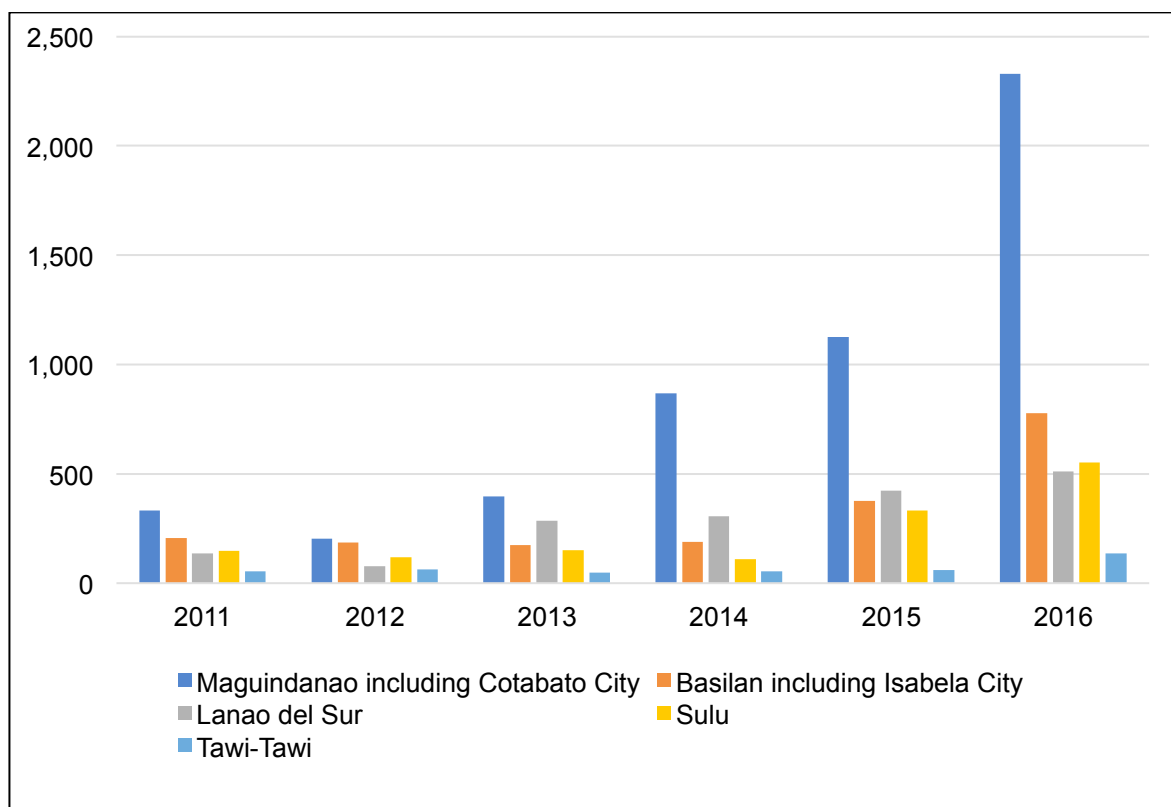
¹ All figures in this report are preliminary.

Tawi-Tawi registered a 125% increase in the number of reported violent conflict incidents in 2016 compared to the previous year. Meanwhile, Maguindanao (including Cotabato City) and Basilan (including Isabela City) respectively posted increases of 107% and 106% (*Table 2 and Figure 2*). Cotabato City is an independent component city of Region 12 or SOCCSKSARGEN but is located within Maguindanao province, while Isabela City is administratively part of Region 9 or the Zamboanga Peninsula but is geographically part of Basilan province.

Table 2. Reported violent conflict incidents in Muslim Mindanao by province and year

Province	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Maguindanao including Cotabato City	331	204	398	867	1,126	2,328	5,254
Basilan including Isabela City	205	185	175	190	377	778	1,910
Lanao del Sur	137	79	286	305	422	511	1,740
Sulu	147	119	150	111	331	552	1,410
Tawi-Tawi	54	62	48	55	60	135	414
Total	874	649	1,057	1,528	2,316	4,304	10,728

Figure 2. Reported violent conflict incidents in Muslim Mindanao by province and year

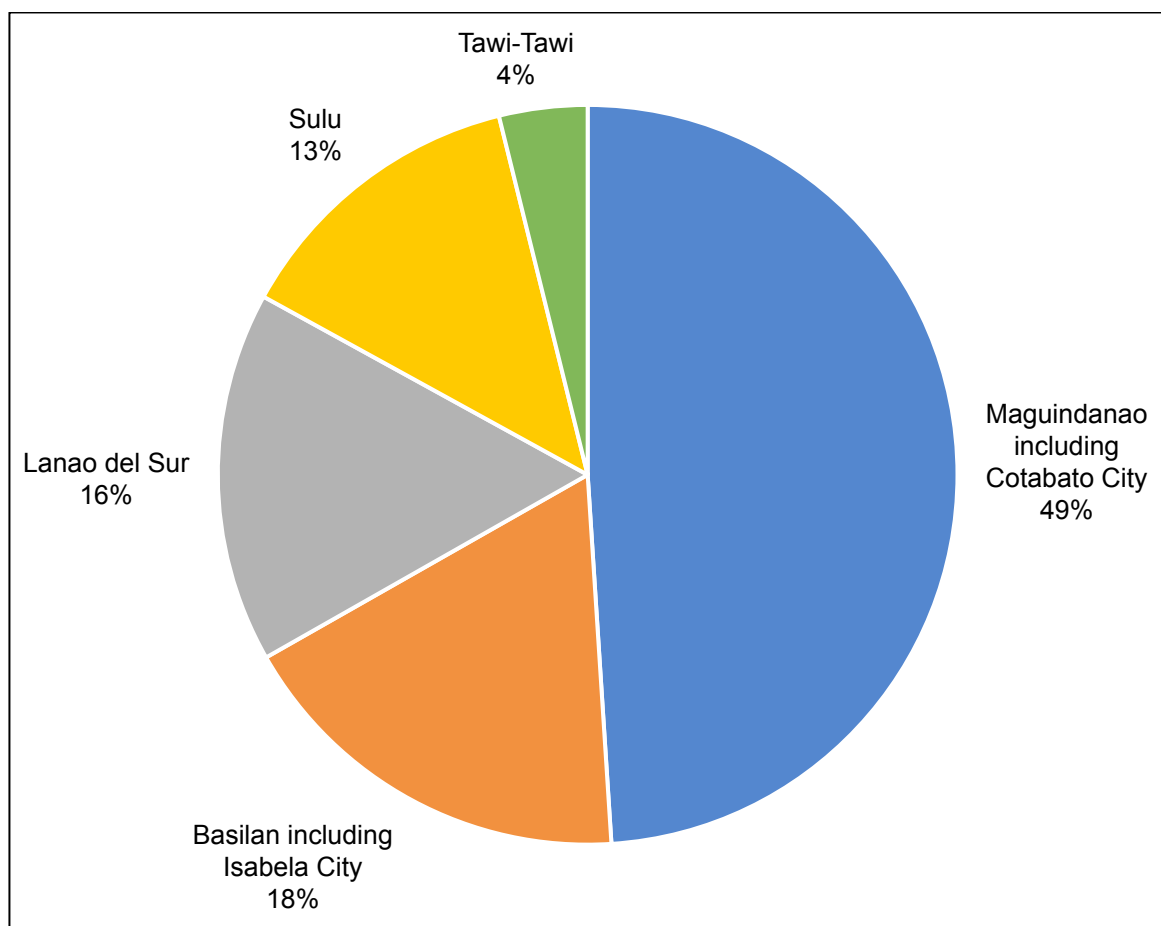


As of 2016, the number of reported violent conflict incidents in Muslim Mindanao stood at 10,728, or 67% more than the total as of 2015. Nearly half of this number took place in Maguindanao (including Cotabato City) (*Table 3 and Figure 3*).

Table 3. Proportion of reported violent conflict incidents in Muslim Mindanao by province

Province	Number of Incidents	Percentage
Maguindanao including Cotabato City	5,254	49%
Basilan including Isabela City	1,910	18%
Lanao del Sur	1,740	16%
Sulu	1,410	13%
Tawi-Tawi	414	4%
Total	10,728	100%

Figure 3. Proportion of reported violent conflict incidents in Muslim Mindanao by province



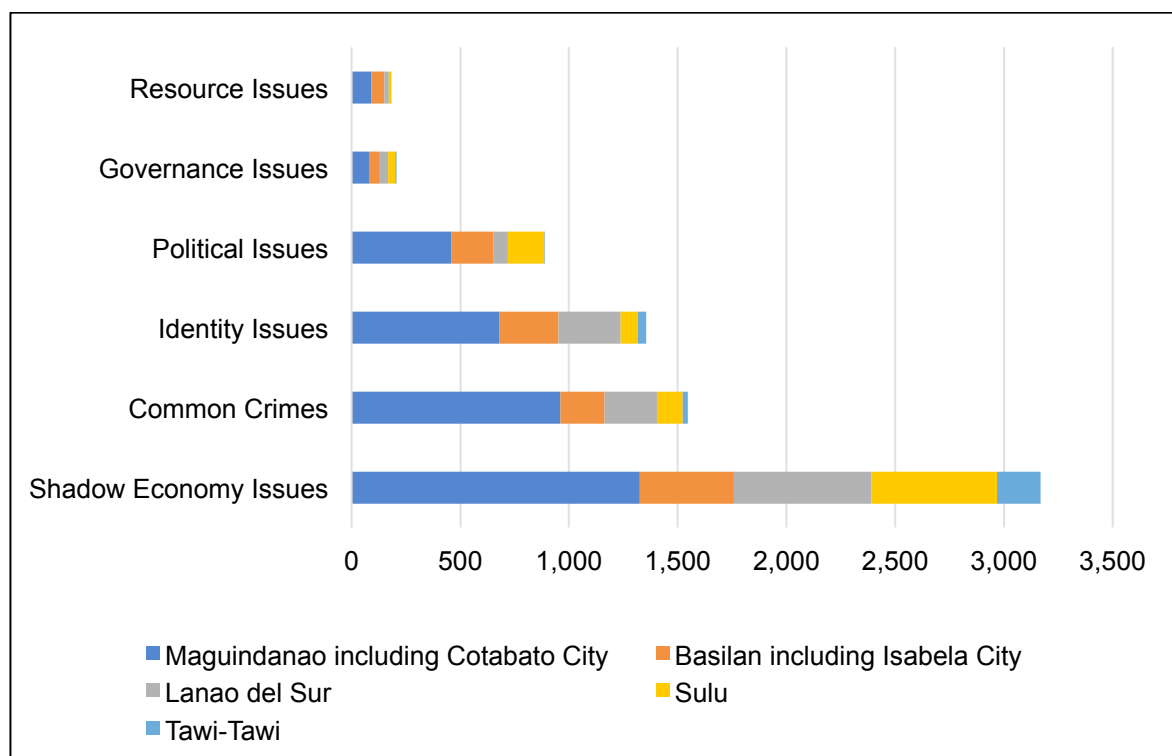
Spikes in violence in the illicit drug and gun trades

Violent shadow economies, particularly the illicit drug and gun trades, were the top causes of violent conflicts in Muslim Mindanao. Common crimes, particularly robberies, and identity issues, particularly gender-related violence, were the second and third causes of conflict, respectively (*Tables 4 and 5, and Figures 4 and 5*).²

Table 4. Violent conflict incidents by main cause and province, 2011-2016

Main Cause	Maguindanao including Cotabato City	Basilan including Isabela City	Lanao del Sur	Sulu	Tawi-Tawi	Total
Shadow Economy Issues	1,324	434	634	575	202	3,169
Common Crimes	960	203	246	113	24	1,546
Identity Issues	680	271	287	80	38	1,356
Political Issues	459	192	69	166	2	888
Governance Issues	80	51	38	33	5	207
Resource Issues	93	57	22	10	0	182

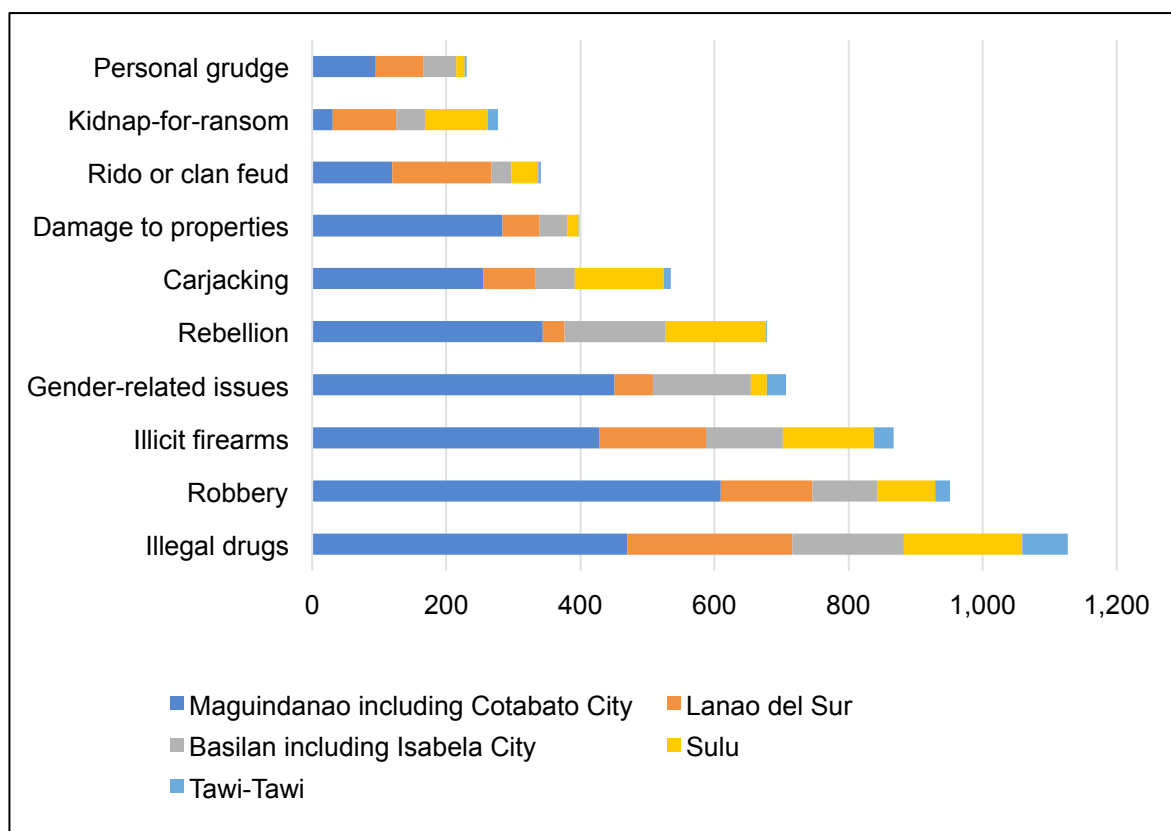
Figure 4. Violent conflict incidents by main cause and province, 2011-2016



² Incidents have either undetermined, single or multiple causes. The number of incidents by either main or specific cause of conflict will not tally with the number of incidents by either province or year.

Table 5. Violent conflict incidents by top specific cause and province, 2011-2016

Specific Cause	Maguindanao including Cotabato City	Lanao del Sur	Basilan including Isabela City	Sulu	Tawi-Tawi
Illegal drugs	470	246	166	177	68
Robbery	609	137	97	86	22
Illicit firearms	428	159	115	136	29
Gender-related issues	451	57	146	24	29
Rebellion	344	32	151	149	2
Carjacking	255	78	59	132	11
Damage to properties	284	55	41	17	1
Rido or clan feud	120	148	29	40	4
Kidnap-for-ransom	31	94	43	94	15
Personal grudge	94	72	49	12	3

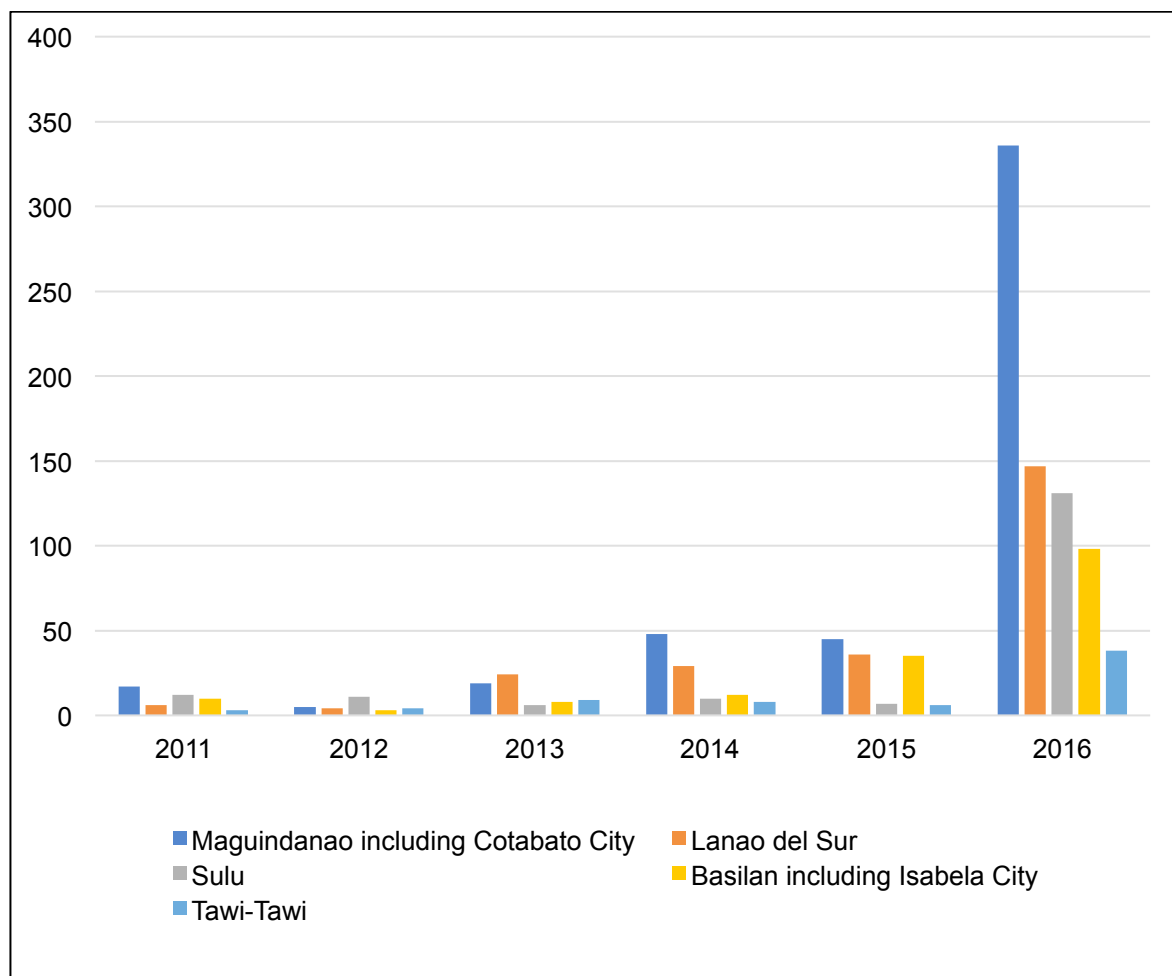
Figure 5. Violent conflict incidents by top specific cause and province, 2011-2016

Reported incidents involving illegal drugs climbed by a phenomenal 481% to 750 cases across the five provinces in 2016 compared to 129 the prior year. Sulu registered the highest increase among the five – by 1,771% or a total of 131 incidents in 2016 from just seven in 2015 (*Table 6 and Figure 6*). Maguindanao (including Cotabato City) followed with a 647% rise or 336 incidents from 45 the previous year.

Table 6. Reported illegal drug-related incidents by province and year

Province	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Maguindanao including Cotabato City	17	5	19	48	45	336	470
Lanao del Sur	6	4	24	29	36	147	246
Sulu	12	11	6	10	7	131	177
Basilan including Isabela City	10	3	8	12	35	98	166
Tawi-Tawi	3	4	9	8	6	38	68
Total	48	27	66	107	129	750	1,127

Figure 6. Reported illegal drug-related incidents by province and year

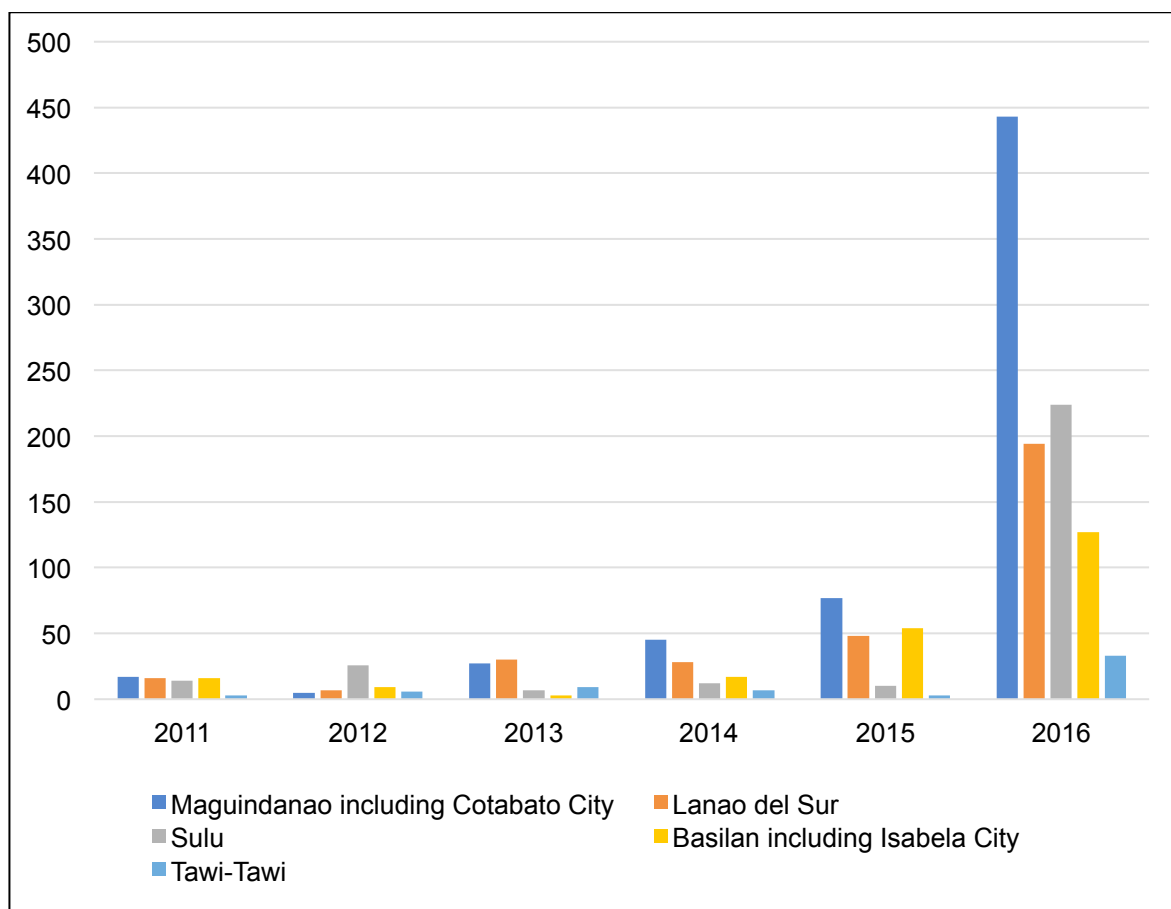


The number of drug-related arrests or detentions increased by 432% across the five provinces in 2016, or to 1,021 arrests from 192 in 2015. There were 224 arrests in Sulu, in contrast to 10 in 2015 (up by 2,140%), the highest rate of increase among the five provinces (*Table 7 and Figure 7*). Tawi-Tawi followed with 33 arrests, in contrast to merely three arrests in 2015 – an increase of 1,000%.

Table 7. Number of detained individual actors due to illegal drugs, by province and year

Province	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Maguindanao including Cotabato City	17	5	27	45	77	443	614
Lanao del Sur	16	7	30	28	48	194	323
Sulu	14	26	7	12	10	224	293
Basilan including Isabela City	16	9	3	17	54	127	226
Tawi-Tawi	3	6	9	7	3	33	61
Total	66	53	76	109	192	1,021	1,517

Figure 7. Number of detained individual actors due to illegal drugs, by province and year

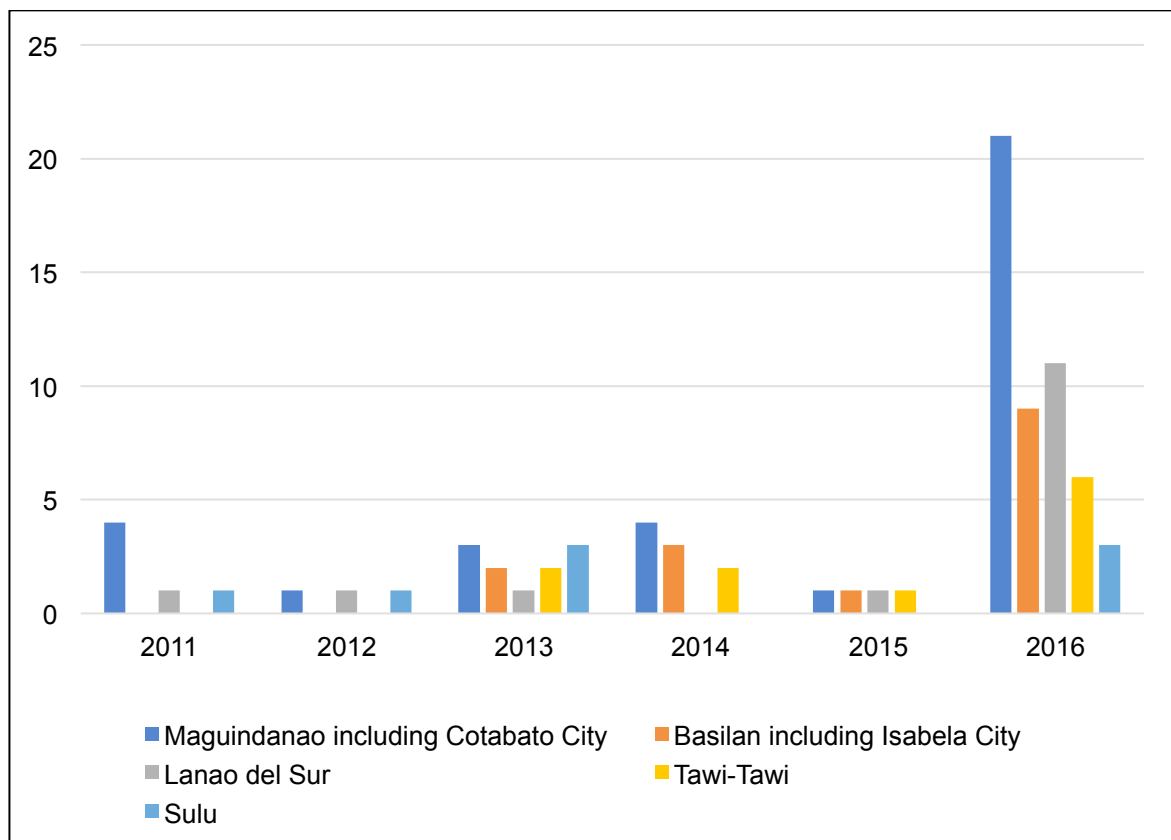


The number of those killed in drug-related incidents across the five provinces ballooned by 1,150% or to 50 in 2016 from just four in 2015. The number was highest in Maguindanao (including Cotabato City) – 21 fatalities in 2016 from just one in the prior year. The next highest were in Lanao del Sur and Basilan (including Isabela City) –11 and 9 killed, respectively, from just one in 2015 (*Table 8 and Figure 8*).

Table 8. Number of individual actors killed in illegal drug incidents by province and year

Province	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Maguindanao including Cotabato City	4	1	3	4	1	21	34
Basilan including Isabela City	0	0	2	3	1	9	15
Lanao del Sur	1	1	1	0	1	11	15
Tawi-Tawi	0	0	2	2	1	6	11
Sulu	1	1	3	0	0	3	8
Total	6	3	11	9	4	50	83

Figure 8. Number of individual actors killed in illegal drug incidents by province and year



Extremist violence

As the government confronted the drug menace, it also had to contend with the increase in newly emerging violence from violent extremist groups. The Abu Sayyaf was involved in 71 incidents, down from 77 in the previous year, but these caused around 200 deaths (*Tables 9 and 10 and Figures 9 and 10*). The Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) were involved in over 80 incidents that claimed 70 lives. These figures coincided with the reported allegiance of important factions within the Abu Sayyaf and the BIFF to ISIS.

For the first time, Conflict Alert began tracking the activities of the Maute Group in 2016. Based in Butig, Lanao del Sur, this group had also pledged allegiance to ISIS. Conflict Alert recorded 15 incidents involving the Maute Group in 2016. The first incident was an attack against the Army's 51st Infantry Battalion's patrol base in Butig in February. The other incidents took place in various towns of Lanao del Sur, as well as in Marawi City, the provincial capital, and Barira in the province of Maguindanao. These accounted for around 120 deaths.

Meanwhile, the number of reported violent conflict incidents attributed to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), which has a peace agreement with the government, rose to 22 in 2016 from 15 in 2015. These incidents, however, were mostly horizontal conflicts involving clashes between MILF commanders, clan feuds or *rido*, and land conflict, among others.

Table 9. Reported violent conflict incidents involving armed groups, 2011-2016

Group	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Abu Sayyaf	59	34	45	37	77	71	323
BIFF	12	22	39	50	67	80	270
Paramilitary	29	17	16	24	18	34	138
MILF	22	15	19	24	15	22	117
MNLF	6	2	10	4	1	3	26
Private armed groups	6	0	3	5	3	6	23
Maute Group	0	0	0	0	0	15	15
NPA	0	1	0	0	6	3	10
Jemaah Islamiyah	3	0	0	0	2	5	10
Total	137	91	132	144	189	238	931

Figure 9. Reported violent conflict incidents involving armed groups, 2011-2016

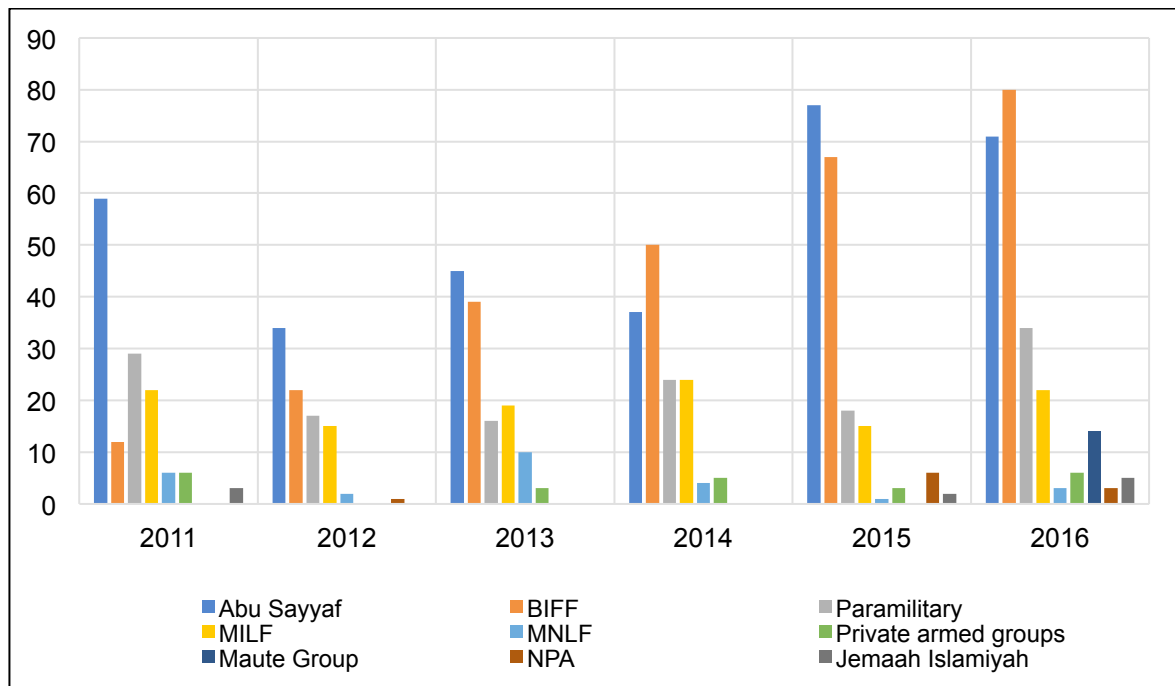


Table 10. Conflict deaths due to armed groups

Group	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	Total
Abu Sayyaf	42	48	56	71	93	197	507
BIFF/BIFM	49	10	20	135	139	70	423
Maute Group	0	0	0	0	0	120	120
Jemaah Islamiyah	1	0	0	0	10	74	85
Total	92	58	76	206	242	461	1,135

Figure 10. Conflict deaths due to armed groups

