

# Turkey readies for military action in Iraq

As Turkey prepares for a possible cross-border offensive against Kurdish PKK rebels in Iraq, international concern is mounting that any attack would destabilize Iraq's Kurdish area, which has largely escaped the turmoil afflicting the rest of the country

## T U R K E Y

Prime Minister **Recep Tayyip Erdogan**

Oct 7, Sirnak province:  
PKK rebels kill 13  
Turkish soldiers

60,000 Turkish  
troops massed  
along border

**PKK – Kurdistan Workers Party:** Fighting for self-rule in southeast Turkey since 1984


Turkey argues PKK gets vital support from northern Iraq, base of some 3,000 fighters

Mount Qandil: PKK stronghold



Around 70% of U.S. air cargo sent to Iraq goes through Turkey

Pentagon concerned Turkey could deny air space in retaliation for U.S. Congress vote on Armenian "genocide"

 Iraq's Kurdistan Region


 Mainly Kurdish control

Iraqi President **Jalal Talabani** and **Massoud Barzani** (left), head of virtual Kurdish mini-state in north, urge diplomatic solution



River Tigris

50km  
30 miles

 Baghdad

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