

# Turkey to advance peace plan with Kurdish militants

Turkey's government is in the process of completing a reform bill aimed at bringing to an end a three-decade insurgency by the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), which has resulted in the deaths of over 40,000 people

 Large Kurdish population    
  Iraqi Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG)



**1978:** PKK formally established by Kurdish political science student **Abdullah Ocalan** as covert Marxist group

**1984:** PKK takes up arms with aim of creating ethnic Kurdish homeland in southeast Turkey



**1992:** Turkish army launches first major cross-border operation against PKK in northern Iraq

**1999:** Ocalan captured and sentenced to death for treason. PKK declares ceasefire and drops demands for independent state in favour of more autonomy

**2002:** Ocalan's death sentence commuted to life imprisonment

**2003:** **Recep Tayyip Erdogan** elected prime minister, pushes agenda granting Kurds more cultural and language rights

**2004-2007:** PKK ends ceasefire. Turkish army wages offensive against rebel hideouts in northern Iraq

**2009:** Government announces "Kurdish initiative" package promoting minority rights and reducing military presence in southeast Turkey

**2012:** Fighting reaches new intensity. Ocalan and Turkish intelligence officials open talks to end conflict

**March 2013:** Ocalan announces ceasefire and orders PKK fighters to withdraw from Turkey

