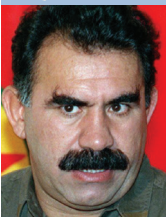
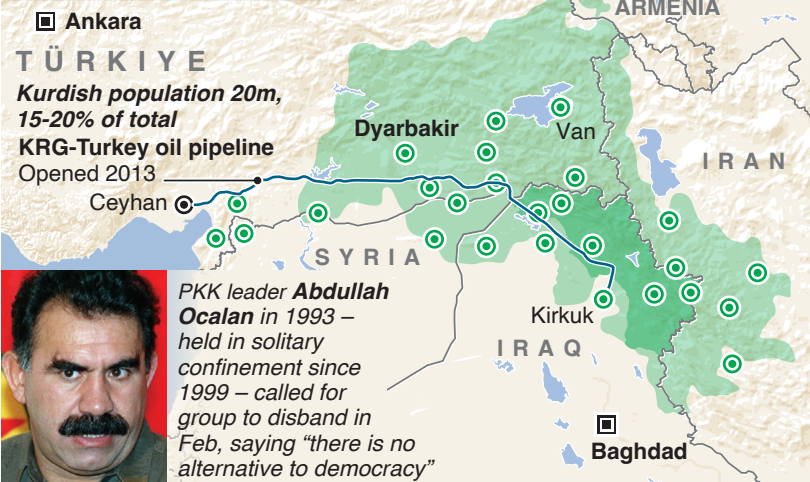


Kurdish PKK to lay down arms and disband

The separatist Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) – outlawed in Türkiye and across the world as a terrorist group – has announced it is to end its 40-year insurgency in which around 40,000 people have died



- Majority Kurdish population
- Iraqi Kurdistan Regional Government
- Kurdish-populated city



1978: Marxist group PKK founded by Kurdish political science student **Abdullah Ocalan**

1984: PKK takes up arms with aim of creating ethnic Kurdish homeland

1999: Ocalan captured and sentenced to death, later commuted to life imprisonment. PKK declares ceasefire, calls for more autonomy instead of independence

2003: **Recep Tayyip Erdogan** elected Turkish prime minister, grants Kurds cultural and language rights

2004-07: PKK ends ceasefire. Turkish army wages offensive against rebel hideouts in northern Iraq

2013: Ocalan announces ceasefire, orders PKK to withdraw from Türkiye

2015: Peace process collapses as Turkish forces attack Kurdish positions in Syrian civil war and northern Iraq. Violence within Turkish cities escalates

President Erdogan needs support of pro-Kurdish parties to run again in 2028 election

