

RIEAS WORKSHOP

“PKK: FREEDOM FIGHTERS OR TERRORISTS?”

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“PKK OPERATIONS AND ERDOGAN POLICIES: NEW APPROACH, OLD OUTCOME”

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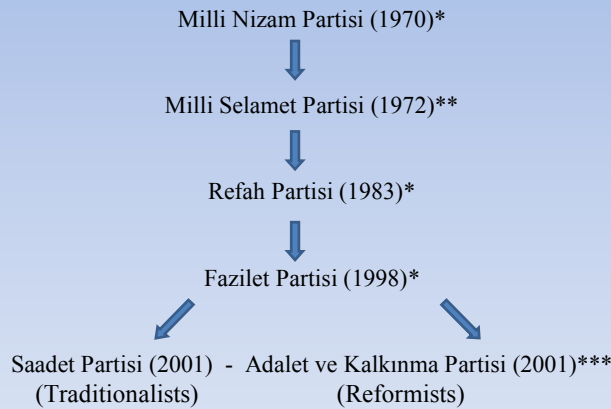
Main PKK operations during the AKP administration

- **December 2003** - Five Turkish soldiers killed by land-mine.
- **June 2004** - Three Turkish security personnel killed in Hatay.
- **11 August 2004** – Two foreign tourists killed by bomb explosions in hotels and a gas depot in the centre of Istanbul.
- **27 August 2004** - Turkish security forces captured two PKK members, who were planning bomb attacks in Istanbul and Ankara.
- **24 October 2004** - PKK attacks a Turkish Oil Corporation pipeline in Batman.
- **27 October 2004** - A security officer was killed and three wounded in Bingöl.
- **27 January 2005** – One soldier was killed and another wounded by PKK fire in Mardin.
- **2 July 2005** - Six people were killed and 12 injured as a result of a bomb attack against a passenger train in Bingöl and a small arms attack on a second train sent to assist..
- **10 July 2005** - A bomb in Çesme injured at least 15 people.
- **16 July 2005** - An explosion on a bus in Kuşadası killed five people and injured 13.
- **27 July 2005** - The mayor of Yayladere in the Bingöl province is kidnapped by Kurdish separatists, and released five days later.
- **12 August 2005** – Cease-fire was declared by the PKK, a week after a reconciliatory speech in Diyarbakir, by Turkish PM, Erdoğan, due to strong European pressure not to intensify military action in the southeast. The cease-fire was quickly dismissed by the Turkish chief of staff, Gen. Hilmi Özkök, "The aim of the Turkish armed forces is to ensure that the separatist terrorist organization bows down to the law and the mercy of the nation".
- **10 October 2005** - A policeman was abducted by the PKK near İdil.
- **15 October 2005** – Five people were injured by a bomb explosion in Istanbul.
- **May, August and September 2006** Bomb attacks in the cities of Hakkari and Diyarbakir, as well as the holiday resorts of Marmaris and Antalya, killed 14 and wounded 79 people, among them children and British tourists.
- **October 2007** a) 13 Turkish soldiers and one Kurdish fighter were killed in the Şırnak region on a cross-border attack by the PKK. Just one month earlier, the Iraqi government denied a request by Turkey to pursue PKK members inside Iraqi territory. Instead, the Turkish and Iraqi governments signed a wide-ranging security agreement, pledging to prevent finance, logistical support and propaganda for the PKK.

b) On October 21, PKK rebels killed 12 Turkish soldiers and captured eight after fights in Turkey's Hakkari province. Turkey's military said it killed 32 rebels in a counter-offensive. Immediately after the second attack, the US government agreed to provide Turkey with intelligence on PKK activities in north Iraq and the Turkish army carried out operations around its south border with northern Iraq.

- **November 2007** The Turkish premier paid an official visit to Washington, asking for assistance in the form of allowing Turkish airstrikes on PKK camps in north Iraq. The US official response acknowledged the seriousness of the problem but was negative on the airstrikes.
- **December 2007** The Turkish air force bombed a number of villages in north Iraq targeting PKK rear-bases. The Iraqi government condemned the airstrikes, as a clear violation of its territory, whereas the Turkish Chief of Staff, Gen. Yaşar Büyükanıt, said that the US gave tacit approval of the airstrikes by providing Turkey with intelligence on PKK movements. The US, on the other hand, responded that it had prior knowledge of the strikes but did not authorize them.
- **January 2008** The deepening intelligence relations regarding the PKK resulted to a warming of US-Turkish ties that peaked with the Turkish President's A. Gül, official visit to the White House. This was the first Turkish head of state to visit, since Süleyman Demirel in 1996.
- **July 2008** Two bomb blasts on a busy street in Istanbul that killed 17 people and injured more than 150 were blamed on PKK, which denied responsibility.
- **October 2008** On October 3, PKK members attacked a Turkish military outpost in south-eastern Turkey killing 17 Turkish soldiers.
- **December 2009** The Constitutional Court of Turkey shuts down the pro-Kurdish Democratic Society Party and imposes a 5-year political ban on 37 party members.
- **May 2010** Two more incidents involving Kurdish rebels. One against a military outpost in Nazimiye and another against the naval base in Iskenderun. Within the same month, the Turkish air force bombs PKK targets in northern Iraq.
- **June 2010** A bomb explodes in a military bus in Istanbul. This attack marked the end of the 14-month long unofficial truce between the Turkish government and the PKK. In a statement release, the PKK justified the ending of the truce, by underlying that its unilateral truce had become meaningless, as the Turkish government had not reciprocate.
- **July 2010** An explosion on the Kirkuk-Yumurtalık pipeline occurred in Mardin.
- **August 2010** 3 soldiers were killed by a remote-controlled mine in the Nusaybin district of Mardin. A few days later, another blast on an oil pipeline in Şirnak's İdil district by PKK killed 2 people.
- PKK official Bozan Tekin announced a ceasefire against the Turkish armed forces until September 20 due to the arrival of the holy month of Ramadan.

Succession of islamic Parties in Turkey

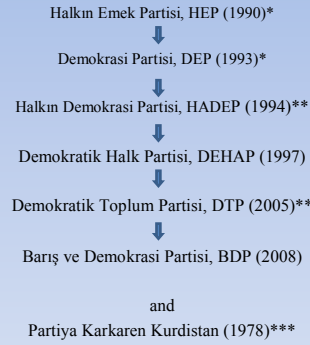


* These political parties were banned by the Constitutional Court for violating the principle of secularism of the Constitution.

** The MSP was closed down after the 1980 military coup.

***The AKP narrowly escaped closing down in 2002 for allegedly violating political party law. The accusations were dismissed by the Constitutional Court.

Succession of pro-Kurdish Parties in Turkey



* The HEP and DEP were banned by the Constitutional Court on the grounds that they promoted Kurdish nationalism, Kurdish cultural and political rights.

** The HADEP and DTP were banned by the Constitutional Court on the grounds that they undermined the unity of the state and the nation and that they supported the PKK.

*** The PKK is listed as a terrorist organisation internationally by a number of states and organisations, including the USA, the UN, the EU, etc.

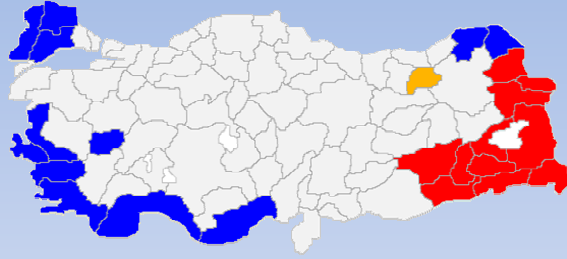
Initiatives towards a solution to the Kurdish issue in Turkey

- Early 1990s – President T. Özal
- 1999 – After the capture of A. Öçalan
- 2005 – First initiative by the AKP
- 2009 – Current initiative by the AKP

General elections vote distribution

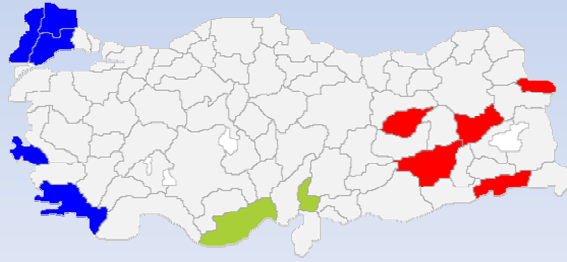
2002 Election Distribution

- AKP
- INDEPENDENT
- CHP
- DEHAP



2007 Election Distribution

- AKP
- MHP
- CHP
- INDEPENDENT

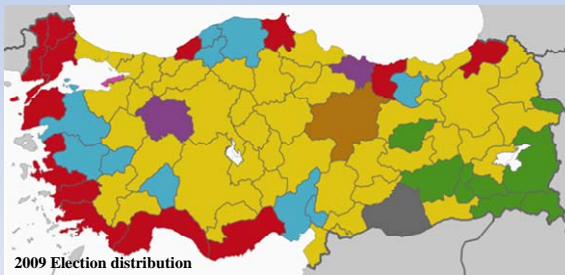


Local elections results



2004 Election distribution

- Justice and Development Party (AKP)
- Republican People's Party (CHP)
- Nationalist Movement Party (MHP)
- Democratic People's Party (DEHAP)/DTP-2009
- Democratic Left Party (DSP)
- True Path Party (DYP)
- Felicity Party (SP)
- Independent



2009 Election distribution

- Justice and Development Party (AKP)
- Republican People's Party (CHP)
- Nationalist Movement Party (MHP)
- Democratic Society Party (DTP)/DEHAP-2004
- Democratic Left Party (DSP)
- Democratic Party (DP)
- Great Union Party (BBP)
- Independent