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## Jailed PKK leader says peace with Turkey possible-report

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The jailed leader of the PKK Kurdish guerrilla group said peace with Turkey was possible if Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan reformed the constitution and abolished anti-terror laws in the mainly Kurdish southeast.

The Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) has stepped up attacks on the Turkish military after it ended a 14-month ceasefire in June. More than 80 soldiers have been killed this year so far, more than the total in 2009, in one of the deadliest offensives in recent years in the decades-old conflict.

Erdogan's government refuses to negotiate with the PKK, which is listed as a terrorist group by Turkey, the European Union and the United States. It does not consider jailed PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan an interlocutor in the Kurdish conflict.

"I reiterate my call to Erdogan that a peaceful solution is still possible and that parliament is the correct venue for that," Ocalan, who is serving a life sentence in prison in Turkey, said, according to a statement released by a PKK media office in northern Iraq after a lawyer visited him on Wednesday.

The PKK has bases in northern Iraq, from where it launches attacks on Turkish soil. It frequently releases statements through PKK offices in northern Iraq.

A lawyer for Ocalan in Turkey said he was not aware of such a statement. Ocalan has several lawyers.

Ocalan also said Turkey should lower the 10 percent threshold of the vote parties have to gain to be represented in parliament and said Kurdish activists detained in recent police raids in Turkey's southeast should be freed.

He also called on the government to release Kurdish children serving sentences on charges of supporting terrorism. All such demands have been made before by the PKK.

"My approach regarding the solution is clear. I could deepen the Kurdistan Revolution which would have left millions of people dead... I, however, prefer a democratic solution based on a democratic constitution."

Erdogan's government has passed laws to expand cultural and political rights of minority Kurds in the hope of ending a conflict that has killed 40,000 people.

The PKK called off a unilateral ceasefire early in June after accusing Erdogan of not being serious about reforms.