

The President, Toomas Hendrik Ilves, met with the leader of the Crimean Tatars, Mustafa Džemilev, who arrived in Tallinn as a guest of the Annual Conference on Human Rights; he described the situation for his people in Russian-annexed Crimea to the Head of State.

President Ilves emphasised that Crimean Tatars are the ancient inhabitants of Crimea; Crimea is their homeland and they do not have another.

Therefore, Crimea is the very place where the language, religion, culture and customs of Crimean Tatars must be kept safe and developed, affirmed the Estonian Head of State. According to the President, this is also one of the responsibilities and duties of democratic countries – to protect the rights of smaller nations to be themselves.

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