

President Toomas Hendrik Ilves today gave a working lunch to the members of the International Learned Committee of Experts of the Estonian Institute of Historical Memory, who convened for a session in Tallinn to discuss the interim reviews of the final report.

At today's session, the expert committee discussed the various aspects of Estonian history during the Soviet period against the background of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The final report of the expert committee is expected to be completed by late summer of next year.

The establishment of the Estonian Institute of Historical Memory was initiated by President Toomas Hendrik Ilves in 2008 in order to provide the citizens of Estonia with a thorough and objective account of the status of human rights during the Soviet occupation of Estonia.

The work of the Institute is supervised by an International Committee of experts with wide experience in the study of the history of Europe, human rights and political repression.

The Institute is not a judicial body. No legal consequences follow from its findings. Rather, its goal is to establish facts and circumstances which represent violations of human rights during the period under review. The results of the Institute's research, and its contribution to international debate on this subject, are intended to create a reliable data base for a broader study both of developments within Estonia under Soviet rule, and of their ramifications for modern Estonia and for the whole of Central and Eastern Europe since the collapse of the Soviet Union. This is the output of the research done by the Institute, which also represents a contribution to international discussions on the topic.

Website of the Estonian Institute of Historical Memory: <http://www.mnemosyne.ee/>

In the photo, first row from left: **Nicholas Lane**, former Vice President of American Jewish Committee and Chairman of the Committee of Foreign Relations, member of the Estonian International Commission for the Investigation of Crimes Against Humanity in 1999–2009;

Yakov M. Rabkin

, Professor of History at Montreal University; President

Toomas Hendrik Ilves

;

Lasse Lehtinen

, and

Pavel Žáček

, social scientist, Director of the Institute for the Investigation of Totalitarian Regimes.

In the photo, second row from left: **Toomas Hiio**, board member of the Estonian Institute of Historical Memory;

Emeritus of Lund University and historian, and

Kristian Gerner, Professor

Paavo Keisalo

, retired diplomat, acting assistant of Minister Max Jakobson in 1999–2009, while he was discharging the functions of the Head of Estonian International Commission for the Investigation of Crimes Against Humanity.

Office of the President

Public Relations Department