

“The Defence League – this is a civil initiative, the free expression of will of a free citizenry to protect its country,” President Toomas Hendrik Ilves, who is on a visit to Valga County, said today at meeting with members of the Valga Brigade of the Defence League.

“I thank you, members of the Defence League, who have devoted your free time, energy, and skills to protect Estonia,” said the Head of State. “The defence of Estonia in the 21st century also means taking action during large catastrophes, such as we had in April and May, when the Valga members of the Defence League helped to maintain public order in their hometown.”

President Ilves acknowledged the work that the Defence League does with young people and highly praised the activities of the Women’s Home Defence. “The Women’s Home Defence definitely needs greater recognition and support,” the Head of State asserted.

President Ilves confirmed that he understands the need to modernize the equipment of the Defence League and also supports legislative solutions for regulating the relations between the members of the Defence League and their employers.

At the meeting, cooperation between the Valga Brigade of the Defence League and the local government, as well as the Latvian voluntary national defence organization, was discussed.

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