

“I highly value your activities. The Defence League is an important attribute of Estonia as a free and democratic country,” said President Toomas Hendrik Ilves at the beginning of the meeting. “The Defence League has a special place in Estonia’s defence system, being a means of involving volunteers in our national defence, as well as being an important part of our reserve army.”

Last Friday, the Estonian Head of State met with the members of the Pärnumaa Brigade of the Defence League and its special organizations. Together, the importance of national defense studies in education and cooperation issues regarding local governments and schools were discussed. President Ilves also stressed that it is important not to forget the role of the Defence League in civil defence, for example, in teaching first aid technique more generally.

According to the Estonian Head of State, the membership of the Defence League is a cross section of Estonian society, where farmers and businessmen, the intelligentsia and officials are acting side-by-side. “People from various fields of life understand how important national defence is.”

“The Defence League is the highest form of civil society—it is voluntary dedication to one’s country and its defence,” President Ilves.

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