President Toomas Hendrik Ilves sent a message of condolence to French President Nicolas Sarkozy yesterday, on the occasion of the death of ten French soldiers in a battle with Taliban rebels in Afghanistan near Kabul.

"Allow me to express my profound condolences to the family and friends of the victims.," President IIves wrote on behalf of himself and the entire Estonian nation.

The Head of State also wished a speedy recovery to the twenty-one French soldiers who were wounded in the same battle, "our thoughts are with you and the people of France at this time of sorrow."

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