"The heavy burden of grief and sympathy are on our minds as we think of Junior Sergeant Kristjan Jalakas, who was killed in action early this morning in Afghanistan. Estonia has lost a brave soldier and the family, to whom I extend my condolences, has lost a good son and brother," wrote President Toomas Hendrik Ilves, in a letter of condolence to the next of kin of Junior Sergeant Kristjan Jalakas.

Perhaps, along with words of consolation, you can find solace in the knowledge that Kristjan Jalakas made a brave choice and fulfilled his soldier's duty to Estonia and our allies, the head of state wrote.

"I invite all my fellow countrymen to pause for a moment and give a thought to commemorate Junior Sergeant Kristjan Jalakas and of support for his next of kin, as well as his brothers in arms in Afghanistan," said President Ilves.

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