The President, Mr. Toomas Hendrik Ilves, has sent a letter of condolences to the Emperor of Japan, Akihito, in the wake of the powerful earthquake and tsunami, which hit his country.

The Estonian Head of State expressed his condolences to all of the deceased, their next of kin, those who have lost their homes and all Japanese people.

"It is with great distress that I have learnt about the news of a massive earthquake followed by a devastating tsunami that hit the north-east of Japan earlier today," President Ilves wrote in his letter of condolences. "Our thoughts are with the people of Japan at this difficult time."

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