

Today, President Toomas Hendrik Ilves called the Head of State of Lebanon, Michel Sleiman, to thank him and the officials of Lebanon, who contributed to the release of the seven Estonian citizens who were taken hostage.

“Professional and business-like co-operation, which was made available to Estonia and our allies for more than 100 days by different state agencies of Lebanon, ended in the successful release of the Estonians yesterday morning and their return home,” told President Ilves.

“It is through the efficient and committed work of hundreds of people – located in different countries – that the kidnapped Estonian citizens are now reunited with their families. I extend my gratitude to all of the Lebanese officials who were involved in solving the crisis. Please give them the greatest thanks from Estonia,” President Ilves said.

The Estonian Head of State will also send his words of thanks to the President of France, Nicolas Sarkozy, Chancellor of Germany, Angela Merkel, and the President of Turkey, Abdullah Gül.

“This serves as an excellent example of solidarity between countries, which Estonia will never forget,” writes President Ilves.

Office of the President  
Public Relations Department  
Phone 631 6229