President Toomas Hendrik IIves expressed condolences today to the President of the United States, Barack Obama, and the President of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai, in the wake of the US helicopter crash in the eastern part of Afghanistan following an attack by Taliban rebels. 31 US defence force members and seven Afghanistan servicemen died in the crash.

"Once again, evil has demonstrated its presence in the most tragic way and has resulted in the biggest loss of life in a single incident for coalition forces since the beginning of the conflict in Afghanistan, ten years ago. I am shocked and mourn with you, and I bow my head in memory of the victims," President Ilves wrote.

The Estonian Head of State expressed sincere condolences on behalf of the Estonian people to the next of kin of the deceased and their friends, together with their brothers in arms who will continue their service in Afghanistan.

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