

In a telephone call today, Estonian president Toomas Hendrik Ilves spoke to Burmese opposition leader, head of the National League for Democracy (NLD) and Nobel peace prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

“This week we’re celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the restoration of Estonia’s independence, and from our own experience we can confirm that totalitarian regimes never last forever,” President Ilves said.

The Estonian head of state remarked that as a Member State of the European Union, Estonia is keeping a watchful eye on developments in Burma and is willing to provide what support it can in helping to rebuild and develop democratic society in the country.

President Ilves invited Aung San Suu Kyi to visit Estonia – an invitation the Burmese opposition leader accepted.

The Nobel peace prize laureate and winner of the Sakharov prize of the European Parliament expressed her hope that developments in Burma would soon start moving in the right direction: “We want the situation here to change in reality, not just in words,” she said.

President Ilves spoke to the Burmese opposition leader in connection with the visit to the country in June of a high-level delegation from the European Union.

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