President Toomas Hendrik Ilves today expressed his condolences to the Turkish Head of State, Abdullah Gül, and the Turkish people in the wake of the major earthquake that hit the eastern part of the country yesterday, causing dozens of buildings to collapse in two large towns.

"On behalf of the Estonian people, I express sincerest condolences to the next of kin and friends of the deceased and those who have lost their homes as a consequence of this catastrophe. Our thoughts are with you at this difficult time," President Ilves wrote.

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