

A petition signed by 23% of Icelandic voters delivered to the President of Iceland asking him to veto controversial Icesave legislation

- **Today at 11am the InDefence grass roots activist group will deliver a petition signed by 56,089 Icelanders to the President of Iceland. The petition calls on the President to veto legislation that would place a crushing economic burden on future generations of Icelanders in order to pay the UK and Dutch governments €3.91 billion to settle the so-called Icesave dispute.**
- **The petition contains the signatures of 55,160 Icelanders that have reached the age of 18 years, that is 23,3% of Icelandic voters. A veto from the President of Iceland would force a national referendum on the Icesave legislation.**
- **The InDefence group calls on Icelanders to gather at the residence of the President of Iceland at Bessastaðir at 11am today (January 2nd 2010) to witness the delivery of the petition. It is emphasized that this should be a peaceful and somber event and not an occasion for protest.**

Today, on Saturday January 2nd, at 11am the InDefence grass roots activist group will meet with the President of Iceland to deliver a petition signed by 56,089 Icelanders (23,3% of Icelandic voters). The petition asks the President to veto a highly controversial legislative bill that poses a huge risk for the economic future of the Icelandic nation. All projections based on realistic assumptions about economic growth, income in foreign currency, population growth and debt levels showed without doubt that Iceland would be unable to meet the payments stipulated by the Icesave loan agreements as set out in the disputed legislation (*please refer to the attached document for a detailed background of the Icesave dispute*).

The online petition was started on the evening of November 25th 2009 at the InDefence website (www.indefence.is). Signatories were required to provide their full name and identity number (equivalent to a social security number). Erroneous signatures were removed from the petition by cross-referencing against a national register of the Icelandic population on January 1st 2010. The resulting number of bona fide signatories was 56,089, with 55,160 signatures from Icelanders of voting age, or in other words 23,3% of all voters in Iceland. This is the largest petition that has ever been delivered to the President of Iceland. To give a better idea of scale, this is comparable to a petition signed by 11 million UK or 3 million Dutch citizens.

The InDefence group calls on Icelanders to gather with their families at the residence of the President of Iceland to attend the handing over of the petition today at 11am (Saturday January 2nd). This will be an opportunity to lend the President the support of the Icelandic nation and to show the world the resolve and determination of the Icelandic nation to safeguard its economic future. This will not be an occasion for protest of any kind.

The ceremony starts at 11am with a choir that will sing „Ísland farsælda frón“, after which red flares will be lighted in a symbolic call of emergency to the international community for a

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Press release

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fair solution to the Icesave dispute between Iceland and the UK and Netherlands. To avoid congestion, attendees are asked to park their cars at some distance from the Presidential residence and to gather at the beginning of the entrance road to the residence at 10:30am.

The petition wording is as follows:

„I call on the President of Iceland, Mr. Ólaf Ragnar Grímsson, to veto the Icesave legislative bill. I consider it to be a reasonable demand that the economic burden placed on the current and future generations of Icelanders, in the form of a State guarantee for Icesave payments to the UK and Dutch governments, be subject to a national referendum. “[Nánar um áskorun](#)

The online petition will remain open for additional signatories until the President of Iceland has announced his decision to sign or veto the Icesave legislative bill.

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Media quality photographs and video images will be available on request