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## Chief Justice of the Supreme Court: criticising a court decision for political purposes is not compatible with the rule of law

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The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and the judiciary as a whole, are deeply disturbed by the statement made by Martin Helme, a member of the Riigikogu, at a meeting on 20 March in which he attacked the judges of Tallinn Circuit Court in relation to their judicial activities.

"This is not only an unacceptable intervention into the administration of justice and a disregard for the principle of the separation of powers, but is also a personal attack on these judges in relation to their professional work. It is an extremely reprehensible statement by a member of the Riigikogu. The functioning of a state can only be ensured if the different branches of state power respect each other's competences, both legally as well as in their daily activities. Criticising a court decision for political purposes is not compatible with the rule of law. Therefore, I hope that both the Board of the Riigikogu and the Council of Elders will formulate a standpoint on such behaviour by a member of parliament as quickly as possible," said Priit Pikamäe.

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