



Speech by

**Hon. D. WELLS**

**MEMBER FOR MURRUMBIDGE**

---

Hansard 13 December 2001

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL**

**Take a Step to Stamp Out Torture Campaign**

**Hon. D. M. WELLS** (Murrumbidgee—ALP) (Minister for Environment) (3.32 p.m.), by leave, without notice: I move the following motion suggested by Amnesty International—

That this House—

Supports Amnesty International in its 2001 campaign, *Take a Step To Stamp Out Torture*, and acknowledge Amnesty's Twelve Point Program for the Prevention of Torture.

Further, that this House recognises the calls of Amnesty International to all people, groups and governments to do what they can to end impunity for torture.

The House is concerned that more than 150 countries throughout the world practice both physical and psychological forms of torture to cause pain, intimidation and misery to individuals. People are tortured not only for information but also because of their beliefs, their gender, and their social standing within society.

Recognises that torture is a fundamental violation of human rights condemned by the General Assembly of the United Nations and calls on all governments to acknowledge Amnesty International's twelve-point program for the prevention of torture—

1. Official condemnation of Torture.
2. Limits on incommunicado detention (safeguards should be enacted to ensure victims have access to people outside who can help them or find out what is happening to them).
3. No secret detention (ensure accurate information is available to the victim's relatives or lawyers).
4. Safeguards during interrogation and custody (ensure Governments keep procedures for detention and interrogation under regular review).
5. Independent investigations of reports of torture (reports of torture must be impartially and effectively investigated).
6. No use of statements extracted under torture.
7. Prohibition of torture in law (Governments should ensure that acts of torture are punishable offences under criminal law).
8. Prosecution of alleged torturers (those responsible for torture should be brought to justice).
9. Training procedures (incorporate into training the message that interrogation or treatment that is torture is a criminal act).
10. Compensation and rehabilitation (victims of torture and their dependents should be entitled to obtain financial compensation).
11. International response (Governments should use all available channels to intercede with governments accused of torture).
12. Ratification of international instruments (all governments should ratify international instruments containing safeguards and remedies against torture, in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its Optional Protocol which provides for individual complaints).

Further this House reaffirms its commitment to bring an end to the torture of all men, women and children throughout the world by calling on all governments to acknowledge and adhere to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and condemns all forms of torture, calling on all Governments around the world to heed Amnesty International's message, *Take a Step To Stamp Out Torture*.

---