



Speech by

Liz Cunningham

MEMBER FOR GLADSTONE

Hansard Thursday, 30 November 2006

PARLIAMENTARY AMNESTY GROUP

Mrs CUNNINGHAM (Gladstone—Ind) (8.05 pm): One of the great tenets of our democracy is the right to free speech, and that free speech does not always include criticism of the current government. It allows individuals the opportunity to express their aspirations, their concerns, their views and their wishes for their community and their families into the future. We in Queensland and in Australia have that freedom of speech, and I think it would be very difficult for us to understand countries where any person who stands publicly, and sometimes privately, and endeavours to articulate their aspirations for themselves as individuals, their families and their nation is arrested and imprisoned. This motion intends to convey to those countries that we as a democratic community believe that those individuals have the right to express their freedoms, their feelings and their wishes for the future. I support the motion.