



Speech by

## Hon. Dean Wells

MEMBER FOR MURRUMBA

Hansard Thursday, 15 November 2007

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### PARLIAMENTARY AMNESTY GROUP: INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION, PAKISTAN

**Hon. DM WELLS** (Murrumba—ALP) (6.31 pm), by leave, without notice: It has become a tradition of this parliament that before we rise to prepare for the season of peace and goodwill we turn our minds and ply our resolutions to those for whom peace is impossible and goodwill merely an aspiration, and therefore I move—

That this House—

- (a) Notes—today, Thursday 15 November, is International Day of Action on Pakistan.
- (b) Notes the current state of emergency established by the government of President Musharraf with deep concern.
- (c) Condemns the extra-constitutional activity which imposed the current state of emergency.
- (d) Notes that the current state of emergency breaches international human rights standards enshrined in Pakistan's constitution including:
  - a. The right not to be arbitrarily deprived of liberty; and
  - b. Key elements of the right to a fair trial.
- (e) Condemns the current use of mass arbitrary arrest to censor opposition and prohibit freedom of expression.
- (f) Urges urgent return to constitutional rule, democracy and press freedom.

This parliament of course respects the rights of parliaments elsewhere and of people elsewhere to their own self-determination, but what this parliament is entitled to stand up for is the fundamental human rights of citizens everywhere. I urge honourable members to join me in supporting the people of Pakistan.