

FARMERS AND FARM WORKERS IN ZIMBABWE

Statement by Member for Hillarys

MR JOHNSON (Hillarys) [12.53 pm]: I use this opportunity to impress upon the Premier and Government of Western Australia the need to persuade the federal Government, in particular the Prime Minister, and the Premier's good friend and mentor Tony Blair in the United Kingdom, to do whatever they can to help with the plight of farmers and farm workers in Zimbabwe. I recently received an e-mail from a Zimbabwean, who outlined the terrible atrocities - murder, rape and pillaging - that are occurring in that country. The author of the e-mail recounted the experience of a 28-year-old British woman, who was reported to have said -

“It reminded me of pictures of Jews leaving Germany or the people leaving Kosovo,” she said.

“Suddenly the order came, ‘All women and children out’. The men were to be left behind.”

This is an atrocious situation. I believe that the Government of a good, western country like Australia, and Western Australia in particular, should make it known to the dreadful President of that country, Robert Mugabe, that we do not condone this type of behaviour towards fellow human beings. I urge the State Government to look at any trade sanctions that it could bring against this sort of oppressive regime, and to help the people of Zimbabwe as much as it can.