

**SRI LANKA CONFLICT**

*Petition*

**MR W.J. JOHNSTON (Cannington)** [9.03 am]: I have a petition from 820 petitioners about the situation in Sri Lanka. The petition reads —

To the Honourable the Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly of the Parliament of Western Australia in Parliament assembled.

We, the undersigned, say: -

- 1) that the current conflict in Sri Lanka must come to a rapid and peaceful conclusion as the first step towards a just and long term solution;
- 2) that we believe the UN Security Council should discuss the Sri Lanka conflict;
- 3) that the Red Cross, UN aid agencies and the international press should have free access to the conflict zones, and there must be protection for civilians from continued abuse;
- 4) that we abhor the death and injury that is occurring everyday to the civilian population in the north and east of the island;
- 5) that any just and long-term solution must recognise:
  - a. the rights of the Tamil people to live without being subject to religious, cultural or ethnic oppression;
  - b. the needs of all people to live in peace and harmony, free from violence and attack;
  - c. the demands of the international community for the recognition of human rights for all ethnic groups in Sri Lanka; and
  - d. our opposition to any process of “ethnic cleansing”.

Now we ask the Legislative Assembly: -

- 1) to note our concerns, and the concerns of the Tamil Community in Western Australia; and
- 2) to do all that is within your power to assist in bringing peace and justice to Sri Lanka.

[See petition 53.]