

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. SCOTT. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

SUDAN PEACE ACT

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1453) to facilitate famine relief efforts and a comprehensive solution to the war in Sudan, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1453

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Sudan Peace Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) With clear indications that the Government of Sudan intends to intensify its prosecution of the war against areas outside of its control, which has already cost nearly 2,000,000 lives and has displaced more than 4,000,000, a sustained and coordinated international effort to pressure combatants to end hostilities and to address the roots of the conflict offers the best opportunity for a comprehensive solution to the continuing war in Sudan.

(2) A viable, comprehensive, and internationally sponsored peace process, protected from manipulation, presents the best chance for a permanent resolution of the war, protection of human rights, and a self-sustaining Sudan.

(3) Continued strengthening of humanitarian relief operations in Sudan is an essential element in the effort to bring an end to the war.

(4) Continued leadership by the United States is critical.

(5) Regardless of the future political status of the areas of Sudan outside of the control of the Government of Sudan, the absence of credible civil authority and institutions is a major impediment to achieving self-sustenance by the Sudanese people and to meaningful progress toward a viable peace process.

(6) Through manipulation of traditional rivalries among peoples in areas outside their full control, the Government of Sudan has effectively used divide and conquer techniques to subjugate their population, and Congress finds that internationally sponsored reconciliation efforts have played a critical role in reducing the tactic's effectiveness and human suffering.

(7) The Government of Sudan is increasingly utilizing and organizing militias, Popular Defense Forces, and other irregular troops for raiding and slaving parties in areas outside of the control of the Government of Sudan in an effort to severely disrupt the ability of those populations to sustain themselves. The tactic is in addition to the overt use of bans on air transport relief flights in prosecuting the war through selective starvation and to minimize the Government of Sudan's accountability internationally.

(8) The Government of Sudan has repeatedly stated that it intends to use the expected proceeds from future oil sales to increase the tempo and lethality of the war against the areas outside its control.

(9) Through its power to veto plans for air transport flights under the United Nations relief operation, Operation Lifeline Sudan (OLS), the Government of Sudan has been able to manipulate the receipt of food aid by the Sudanese people from the United States and other donor countries as a devastating weapon of war in the ongoing effort by the Government of Sudan to subdue areas of Sudan outside of the Government's control.

(10) The efforts of the United States and other donors in delivering relief and assistance through means outside OLS have played a critical role in addressing the deficiencies in OLS and offset the Government of Sudan's manipulation of food donations to advantage in the civil war in Sudan.

(11) While the immediate needs of selected areas in Sudan facing starvation have been addressed in the near term, the population in areas of Sudan outside of the control of the Government of Sudan are still in danger of extreme disruption of their ability to sustain themselves.

(12) The Nuba Mountains and many areas in Bahr al Ghazal, Upper Nile, and Blue Nile regions have been excluded completely from relief distribution by OLS, consequently placing their populations at increased risk of famine.

(13) At a cost which can exceed \$1,000,000 per day, and with a primary focus on providing only for the immediate food needs of the recipients, the current international relief operations are neither sustainable nor desirable in the long term.

(14) The ability of populations to defend themselves against attack in areas outside the Government of Sudan's control has been severely compromised by the disengagement of the front-line sponsor states, fostering the belief within officials of the Government of Sudan that success on the battlefield can be achieved.

(15) The United States should use all means of pressure available to facilitate a comprehensive solution to the war, including—

(A) the maintenance and multilateralization of sanctions against the Government of Sudan with explicit linkage of those sanctions to peace;

(B) the support or creation of viable democratic civil authority and institutions in areas of Sudan outside government control;

(C) continued active support of people-to-people reconciliation mechanisms and efforts in areas outside of government control;

(D) the strengthening of the mechanisms to provide humanitarian relief to those areas;

(E) cooperation among the trading partners of the United States and within multilateral institutions toward those ends; and

(F) the use of any and all possible unilateral and multilateral economic and diplomatic tools to compel Ethiopia and Eritrea to end their hostilities and again assume a constructive stance toward facilitating a comprehensive solution to the ongoing war in Sudan.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) GOVERNMENT OF SUDAN.—The term "Government of Sudan" means the National Islamic Front government in Khartoum, Sudan.

(2) IGAD.—The term "IGAD" means the Inter-Governmental Authority on Development.

(3) OLS.—The term "OLS" means the United Nations relief operation carried out

by UNICEF, the World Food Program, and participating relief organizations known as "Operation Lifeline Sudan".

SEC. 4. CONDEMNATION OF SLAVERY, OTHER HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES, AND NEW TACTICS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF SUDAN.

Congress hereby—

(1) condemns—

(A) violations of human rights on all sides of the conflict in Sudan;

(B) the Government of Sudan's overall human rights record, with regard to both the prosecution of the war and the denial of basic human and political rights to all Sudanese;

(C) the ongoing slave trade in Sudan and the role of the Government of Sudan in abetting and tolerating the practice; and

(D) the Government of Sudan's increasing use and organization of "murahalliin" or "mujahadeen", Popular Defense Forces (PDF), and regular Sudanese Army units into organized and coordinated raiding and slaving parties in Bahr al Ghazal, the Nuba Mountains, Upper Nile, and Blue Nile regions; and

(2) recognizes that, along with selective bans on air transport relief flights by the Government of Sudan, the use of raiding and slaving parties is a tool for creating food shortages and is used as a systematic means to destroy the societies, culture, and economies of the Dinka, Nuer, and Nuba peoples in a policy of low-intensity ethnic cleansing.

SEC. 5. SUPPORT FOR THE IGAD PEACE PROCESS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—Congress hereby—

(1) declares its support for the efforts by executive branch officials of the United States and the President's Special Envoy for Sudan to lead in a reinvigoration of the IGAD-sponsored peace process;

(2) calls on IGAD member states, the European Union, the Organization of African Unity, Egypt, and other key states to support the peace process; and

(3) urges Kenya's leadership in the implementation of the process.

(b) UNITED STATES DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT.—The Secretary of State is authorized to utilize the personnel of the Department of State for the support of—

(1) the secretariat of IGAD;

(2) the ongoing negotiations between the Government of Sudan and opposition forces;

(3) any peace settlement planning to be carried out by the National Democratic Alliance and IGAD Partners' Forum (IPF); and

(4) other United States diplomatic efforts supporting a peace process in Sudan.

SEC. 6. INCREASED PRESSURE ON COMBATANTS.

It is the sense of Congress that the President, acting through the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations, should—

(1) sponsor a resolution in the United Nations Security Council to investigate the practice of slavery in Sudan and provide recommendations on measures for its eventual elimination;

(2) sponsor a condemnation of the human rights practices of the Government of Sudan at the United Nations conference on human rights in Geneva in 2000;

(3) press for implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Special Rapporteur for Sudan with respect to human rights monitors in areas of conflict in Sudan;

(4) press for UNICEF, International Committee of the Red Cross, or the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, or other appropriate international organizations or agencies to maintain a registry of those individuals who have been abducted or are otherwise held in bondage or servitude in Sudan;

(5) sponsor a condemnation of the Government of Sudan each time it subjects civilian populations to aerial bombardment; and

(6) sponsor a resolution in the United Nations General Assembly condemning the human rights practices of the Government of Sudan.

SEC. 7. SUPPORTING SANCTIONS AGAINST SUDAN.

(a) SANCTIONS.—Until the President determines, and so certifies to Congress, that the Government of Sudan has—

(1) fully committed to and has made verifiable progress toward a comprehensive, peaceful solution to the war or has otherwise committed to and made verifiable progress in a good faith effort with both northern and southern opposition toward a comprehensive solution to the conflict based on the Declaration of Principles reached in Nairobi Kenya, on July 20, 1994,

(2) made substantial and verifiable progress in controlling the raiding and slaving activities of all regular and irregular forces, including Popular Defense Forces and other militias and Murahalliin,

(3) instituted credible reforms with regard to providing basic human and civil rights to all Sudanese, and

(4) ceased aerial bombardment of civilian targets,

the following are prohibited, except to the extent provided in section 203(b) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702(b)) and in regulations, orders, directives, or licenses that may be issued pursuant to this section:

(A) The facilitation by a United States person, including but not limited to brokering activities of the exportation or reexportation of goods, technology, or services from Sudan to any destination, or to Sudan from any location.

(B) The performance by any United States person of any contract, including a financing contract, or use of any other financial instrument, in support of an industrial, commercial, public utility, or governmental project in Sudan.

(C) Any transaction by any United States person or within the United States that evades or avoids, or has the purpose of evading or avoiding, or attempts to violate, any of the prohibitions set forth in this section.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the sanctions in subsection (a), and in the President's Executive Order of November 4, 1997, should be applied to include the sale of stocks in the United States or to any United States person, wherever located, or any other form of financial instruments or derivatives, in support of a commercial, industrial, public utility, or government project or transaction in or with Sudan.

(c) NATIONAL SECURITY WAIVER.—The President may waive the application of any of the sanctions described in subsection (a) if he determines and certifies to Congress that it is important to the national security of the United States to do so.

(d) REPORT.—Beginning 3 months after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 3 months thereafter, the President shall submit a report to Congress on—

(1) the specific sources and current status of Sudan's financing and construction of oil exploitation infrastructure and pipelines;

(2) the extent to which that financing was secured in the United States or with involvement of United States citizens;

(3) such financing's relation to the sanctions described in subsection (a) and the Executive Order of November 4, 1997;

(4) the extent of aerial bombardment by the Government of Sudan forces in areas outside its control, including targets, frequency, and best estimates of damage;

(5) the number, duration, and locations of air strips or other humanitarian relief facilities to which access is denied by any party to the conflict; and

(6) the status of the IGAD-sponsored peace process or any other ongoing efforts to end the conflict, including the specific and verifiable steps taken by parties to the conflict, the members of the IGAD Partners Forum, and the members of IGAD toward a comprehensive solution to the war.

(e) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall prohibit—

(1) transactions for the conduct of the official business of the Federal Government or the United Nations by employees thereof;

(2) transactions in Sudan for journalistic activity by persons regularly employed in such capacity by a news-gathering organization; or

(3) legitimate humanitarian operations.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term "entity" means a partnership, association, trust, joint venture, corporation, or other organization;

(2) the term "Government of Sudan" includes the Government of Sudan, its agencies, instrumentalities and controlled entities, and the Central Bank of Sudan;

(3) the term "person" means an individual or entity; and

(4) the term "United States person" means any United States citizen, permanent resident alien, entity organized under the laws of the United States (including foreign branches), or any person in the United States.

SEC. 8. REFORM OF OPERATION LIFELINE SUDAN (OLS).

It is the sense of Congress that the President should organize and maintain a formal consultative process with the European Union, its member states, the members of the United Nations Security Council, and other relevant parties on coordinating an effort within the United Nations to revise the terms of OLS to end the veto power of the Government of Sudan over the plans by OLS for air transport relief flights.

SEC. 9. CONTINUED USE OF NON-OLS ORGANIZATIONS FOR RELIEF EFFORTS.

(a) FINDING.—Congress recognizes the progress made by officials of the executive branch of Government toward greater utilization of non-OLS agencies for more effective distribution of United States relief contributions.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the President should continue to increase the use of non-OLS agencies in the distribution of relief supplies in southern Sudan.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall submit a detailed report to Congress describing the progress made toward carrying out subsection (b).

SEC. 10. CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR ANY BAN ON AIR TRANSPORT RELIEF FLIGHTS.

(a) PLAN.—The President shall develop a detailed and implementable contingency plan to provide, outside United Nations auspices, the greatest possible amount of United States Government and privately donated relief to all affected areas in Sudan, including the Nuba Mountains, Upper Nile, and Blue Nile, in the event the Government of Sudan imposes a total, partial, or incremental ban on OLS air transport relief flights.

(b) ELEMENT OF PLAN.—The plan developed under subsection (a) shall include coordination of other donors in addition to the United States Government and private institutions.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 2 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall submit a classified report to Con-

gress on the costs and startup time such a plan would require.

(d) REPROGRAMMING AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in carrying out the plan developed under subsection (a), the President may reprogram up to 100 percent of the funds available for support of OLS operations (but for this subsection) for the purposes of the plan.

SEC. 11. NEW AUTHORITY FOR USAID'S SUDAN TRANSITION ASSISTANCE FOR REHABILITATION (STAR) PROGRAM.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—Congress hereby expresses its support for the President's ongoing efforts to diversify and increase effectiveness of United States assistance to populations in areas of Sudan outside of the control of the Government of Sudan, especially the long-term focus shown in the Sudan Transition Assistance for Rehabilitation (STAR) program with its emphasis on promoting future democratic governance, rule of law, building indigenous institutional capacity, promoting and enhancing self-reliance, and actively supporting people-to-people reconciliation efforts.

(b) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—Of the amounts made available to carry out chapter 1 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq., relating to development assistance) for the period beginning on October 1, 2000, and ending on September 30, 2003, \$16,000,000 shall be available for development of a viable civil authority, and civil and commercial institutions, in Sudan, including the provision of technical assistance, and for people-to-people reconciliation efforts.

(c) ADDITIONAL AUTHORITIES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the President is granted authority to undertake any appropriate programs using Federal agencies, contractual arrangements, or direct support of indigenous groups, agencies, or organizations in areas outside of control of the Government of Sudan in an effort to provide emergency relief, promote economic self-sufficiency, build civil authority, provide education, enhance rule of law and the development of judicial and legal frameworks, support people-to-people reconciliation efforts, or implementation of any programs in support of any viable peace agreement at the local, regional, or national level.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION.—It is the sense of Congress that the President should immediately and to the fullest extent possible utilize the Office of Transition Initiatives at the Agency for International Development in an effort to pursue the type of programs described in subsection (c).

(e) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that enhancing and supporting education and the development of rule of law are critical elements in the long-term success of United States efforts to promote a viable economic, political, social, and legal basis for development in Sudan. Congress recognizes that the gap of 13-16 years without secondary educational opportunities in southern Sudan is an especially important problem to address with respect to rebuilding and sustaining leaders and educators for the next generation of Sudanese. Congress recognizes the unusually important role the secondary school in Rumbek has played in producing the current generation of leaders in southern Sudan, and that priority should be given in current and future development or transition programs undertaken by the United States Government to rebuilding and supporting the Rumbek Secondary School.

(f) PROGRAMS IN AREAS OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT CONTROL.—Congress also intends that such programs include cooperation and work with indigenous groups in areas outside of government control in all of Sudan, to include northern, southern, and eastern regions of Sudan.

SEC. 12. ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING FOR NUBA MOUNTAINS AND OTHER AREAS SUBJECT TO BANS ON AIR TRANSPORT RELIEF FLIGHTS.

(a) FINDING.—Congress recognizes that civilians in the Nuba Mountains, Red Sea Hills, and Blue Nile regions of Sudan are not receiving assistance through OLS due to restrictions by the Government of Sudan.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the President should—

(1) conduct a comprehensive assessment of the humanitarian needs in the Nuba Mountains, Red Sea Hills, and Blue Nile regions of Sudan;

(2) respond appropriately to those needs based on such assessment; and

(3) report to Congress on an annual basis on efforts made under paragraph (2).

SEC. 13. OPTIONS OR PLANS FOR NONLETHAL ASSISTANCE FOR NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE PARTICIPANTS.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report, in classified form if necessary, detailing possible options or plans of the United States Government for the provision of nonlethal assistance to participants of the National Democratic Alliance.

(b) CONSULTATIONS.—Not later than 30 days after submission of the report required by subsection (a), the President should begin formal consultations with the appropriate congressional committees regarding the findings of the report.

(c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate and the Committee on International Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure, S. 1453.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, this measure, sponsored by Senator FRIST, passed the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations in November of last year. Sudan has been independent for some 44 years. For 34 of those years, it has been engaged in civil war. Entire generations of Sudanese, in both north and south, have grown up with war as a regular part of their lives.

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Several national governments, military and civilian, have come and gone. Some, like the current regime, have been militant Islamists. Others have

been moderate, the historical norm for Islam in Sudan. All, however, attempted, without much success, to subdue the rebellious south with military force.

The cost in human life has been enormous, approximately 2 million southern Sudanese dead in the past 17 years. There is no way to estimate the death toll of the first 17 years of that war, from 1956 to 1973.

Sudan has been implicated in an American death toll, as well. In August 1998, two of our U.S. embassy buildings in Africa were attacked by terrorists with Sudanese support. The World Trade Center in New York was attacked in February 1993 with Sudanese support.

Sudan is a Pandora's box of maladies: humanitarian suffering, civil war, human rights violations, religious persecution, modern-day slavery, and international terrorism. Most of it goes along largely unnoticed by the rest of the world.

This measure attempts to focus the attention of our Nation on this tragedy and report to the Congress on a regular basis. Three decades of war is much too long. It is time to end this war and end the suffering that it has caused.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, first I want to commend my distinguished colleague, the gentleman New York (Mr. GILMAN), and all the sponsors of this resolution both in the House and in the Senate.

During the last 17 years, the civil war in the Sudan has resulted in 2 million people being killed or starving to death. It is long overdue that this incredibly bloody and brutal conflict come to an end.

Our legislation condemns the most heinous atrocities perpetrated by the government of Sudan and its allied rebel groups. We specifically condemn the use of raiding and making slaves of vast numbers of innocent men, women, and children.

The government of Sudan obviously will have to be pressured by the international community to negotiate a peace agreement with opposing groups. Unfortunately, Sudan continues to receive huge oil revenues, given the current high prices of oil; and they may not be willing to negotiate peace unless international pressure is brought to bear on them.

If Sudan would like to see an end to its international isolation, the time is long overdue, Mr. Speaker, to stop killing innocent civilians and to get about the serious business of making peace.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 1453, the Sudan Peace Act. At the outset, I would like to commend the principal Senate sponsor, Senator FRIST, as well as our colleague J.C. WATTS

who introduced the companion measure, H.R. 2906.

The Government of Sudan's genocidal religious war against the non-Muslim peoples of southern Sudan have turned the south into—in the words of one Sudanese priest—“the hell of the earth.” Enslavement, calculated starvation, forced conversion, and the aerial bombardment of civilian targets such as schools, churches, and hospitals, are still methods of terror favored by the National Islamic Front government. Unfortunately, Khartoum has also begun generating the revenue it needs to extend its self-described jihad by developing Sudanese oil resources.

S. 1453 is an important first step toward addressing the crisis in that war-torn region. Among other things, the bill:

Condemns slavery and the other human rights violations perpetrated by the Khartoum regime;

Expresses support for the ongoing peace process in that region;

Expresses the sense of the Congress relating to the improvement of relief services in the south of Sudan;

Authorizes an additional \$16 million for rehabilitation assistance to areas of Sudan not controlled by the government in the north; and

Requires the President to report to Congress on several aspects of the conflict, as well as on options available to the United States for providing non-lethal assistance to members of the National Democratic Alliance.

These are all good things. But the horrors of Sudan—which have already claimed more than 2 million lives—demand more than expressions of concern and new reporting requirements. They require concrete action.

For this reason, I offered an amendment at Subcommittee markup that reinstated certain sanctions language that was present in both the House- and Senate-introduced versions of the bill. Unless the President can certify that Khartoum has made significant progress toward peace and respect for human rights, the language prohibits U.S. corporations and individuals from brokering goods, technology, or services to or from Sudan. It also prohibits U.S. corporations and individuals from performing contracts or using financial instruments in support of the Government of Sudan's industrial or commercial projects. It expresses the sense of Congress that these provisions should apply to the sale of stocks and other financial instruments in the United States or to U.S. persons. In sum, these provisions are meant to keep the Khartoum regime from using U.S. capital markets to underwrite its genocide.

We have already expressed the sense of the House this Congress, when we voted 416 to 1 to condemn the Khartoum regime's genocide against the south. It's time to act on those convictions and pass S. 1453.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 1453, the Sudan Peace Act. Since coming to Congress, I have devoted a substantial amount of time with my colleagues in the House International Relations Subcommittee on Africa to finding solutions to the horrible current situation in Sudan. Over the last 2 years we have held hearings and passed House Concurrent Resolution 75 condemning the government of Sudan which has continued to harass, bomb, murder and enslave the mainly Christian population in the south. But now is the time for real action.

The Sudan Peace Act addresses the humanitarian concerns that are devastating this nation and also calls for the administration to take a more active role in addressing the peace process and condemning the actions of the government of Sudan. The bill will hopefully make the situation in Sudan more marketable for this administration.

The bill condemns the human rights violations and overall human rights record of the government of Sudan. It condemns the ongoing slave trade and the role of the government in organizing raiding and slaving parties on the people of the South.

The current ban of Operation Lifeline Sudan, imposed by the government of Sudan, and humanitarian relief has resulted in the deaths of thousands of Sudanese and medical epidemics of astounding proportions. The population of the largest displaced camps doubled and, overall, the number of those who have fled just the Blue Nile region increased from 63,000 in May to near 80,000 by the end of June. This adds to the almost 2 million that have already died in the war-torn country.

On November 19, 1999 the Senate passed the bill—whose centerpiece is a provision calling for the President to take actions through our U.N. envoy to pressure the government of Sudan and develop a comprehensive solution to the problems in Sudan. The House version of this bill introduced last September and passed by the International Relations Committee this month was the same as the Senate version but included a substantial difference. We felt very strongly that without language levying sanctions against Sudan, we would continue down the path we have pursued for the last couple of years, namely passing resolutions and holding hearings but having no change in the government of Sudan's policies. We now have a bill that has real teeth and has a chance to send a message to the government of Sudan. It is time for the leaders of Sudan to get the message and stop persecuting Christians and other minorities in the South.

If you think the situation in Sudan will fade away or somehow correct itself, you are sadly mistaken. In fact, a recent U.N. report accused the Sudanese Government of using an airfield built with Chinese assistance to bomb schools and hospitals in the South. In addition, we have recently learned that Sudan has acquired 34 new jet fighters from China, doubling the size of the country's air force. We can no longer turn our head when it comes to the situation in Sudan. I would encourage this Congress and this administration to act now before the government of Sudan continues to evolve and before the Chinese increase their foothold in Sudan. The longer we wait without substantive changes to our policy in Sudan, the more innocent people will get killed and the more the government of Sudan will court friends to help them in their evil bidding.

I would encourage my colleagues to accept the House version of S. 1453 the Sudan Peace Act, and pass it here today. The time has come for this Congress and this administration to act on Sudan.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HANSEN). The question is on the motion

offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1453, as amended.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

CONDEMNING ASSASSINATION OF FATHER JOHN KAISER AND OTHERS IN KENYA

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 410) condemning the assassination of Father John Kaiser and others who worked to promote human rights and justice in the Republic of Kenya.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 410

Whereas Father John Kaiser, a Catholic of the Order of the Mill Hill Missionaries and a native of Minnesota who served as a missionary in the Kisii and Ngong Dioceses in the Republic of Kenya for 36 years advocating the rights of all Kenyans, was shot dead on August 23, 2000;

Whereas Father Kaiser was a frequently outspoken advocate on issues of human rights and against the injustice of government corruption in Kenya;

Whereas fellow priests have stated that Father Kaiser had told them the night before he was killed that he feared for his life;

Whereas the brutal murders of Father Stallone, Father Graiff, and Father Luigi Andeni, all of the Marsabit Diocese, and the circumstances of the murder of Brother Larry Timons of the Nakuru Diocese, and that of Father Martin Boyle of the Eldoret Diocese have not yet been satisfactorily investigated nor have the perpetrators of the murders been brought to justice, raising growing concern over the rule of law and the justice system in Kenya;

Whereas Father Kaiser's death is one more example of the hostile actions being directed against Kenyan civil society and in particular human rights groups and advocates;

Whereas the report of a Kenyan governmental commission, known as the Akiwumi Commission, on the investigation into the politically motivated ethnic violence between 1992-1997 in Kenya's Great Rift Valley, has not yet been released, in spite of several requests by numerous church leaders and human rights organizations to have the Commission's findings released to the public;

Whereas documents were found on Father Kaiser's body that he had intended to hand over to the Akiwumi Commission;

Whereas the Kenyan Human Rights Commission has expressed the fear that the progress in the struggle for democracy, the rule of law, respect for human rights, and the basic needs of all Kenyans achieved during the last few years is jeopardized by the current Kenyan Government;

Whereas the Kenyan Human Rights Commission has expressed concern over the con-

tinued blatant violations of the rule of law and the constitution, acts of torture, and murder and rape by the Kenyan security forces;

Whereas private armies that work with the police are known to exist in Kenya and the Government of Kenya encourages informal repression as a means of intimidating and denying citizens their rights; and

Whereas the human rights movement in Kenya is in need of international support and solidarity for the important work they are doing; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the Congress—

(1) condemns the violent deaths of Father John Kaiser and others who worked to promote human rights and justice in the Republic of Kenya and expresses its outrage with respect to such deaths;

(2) calls for an independent investigation of such deaths, in addition to the initiatives of the Government of Kenya;

(3) calls on the Secretary of State, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, to prepare and submit to the Congress, not later than December 15, 2000, a report on the progress of the independent investigation and initiatives of the Government of Kenya described in paragraph (2);

(4) calls for the findings of such independent investigation to be made public; and

(5) calls on the President to support such independent investigation through all diplomatic means.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 410.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks and to include extraneous material.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution. An outspoken and passionate defender of the poor, the weak and the oppressed, Father John Kaiser was shot and killed just 1 month ago. His killer still remains at large.

Although Father Kaiser knew that he was in danger, his courage and compassion never left him. He is one of a distressingly long line of clergy who have been murdered in Africa.

Eight years ago, five American nuns from Illinois were killed by Charles Taylor's NPFL soldiers in Liberia. We are still waiting for their killers to be brought to justice. We must not let 8 years slip by with no resolution of Father Kaiser's case. We owe it to him and to the voiceless on whose behalf he spoke with such energy, devotion, and commitment. We also owe it to the future of democracy and the rule of law in Kenya.