

child sits outside of the society, outside of what is normally done as a matter of course for children.

I hope this resolution begins to put Darfur, its genocide and especially its treatment of women and children, on the front burner once again.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, today, the House is considering three critically important resolutions related to the world's worst ongoing humanitarian disaster—the genocide in Darfur, Sudan.

The first is H. Res. 573, which recognizes and commends the efforts of U.S. advocacy groups to raise awareness about and help end the worsening crisis in Darfur. These groups remind us daily, through their media campaigns and grassroots efforts, that the international community has a responsibility to unite and stop crimes against humanity—and that we must learn from past failures to do so—in Rwanda, Bosnia, and elsewhere.

The second is H. Res. 740, which condemns the brutal attack on African Union peacekeepers that occurred in Haskanita, Darfur, 1 month ago today. This violent act, carried out by rebels, took the lives of 10 peacekeepers—seven Nigerians and three other soldiers from Mali, Senegal, and Botswana. It reminds us that there are many guilty parties in the violence in Darfur, and that we must reinforce our support for the courageous African Union soldiers—who indeed fight not for their own countries, but for humanity.

Finally, the House will vote today on H. Res. 726, a resolution calling on the President and the international community to take immediate steps to respond to and prevent acts of rape and sexual violence against the most innocent of Darfur's victims—young girls and women. I was asked to cosponsor this important resolution by my friend and colleague BRAD MILLER, who traveled with me to Darfur in April. There we saw things we will never forget—children orphaned by genocide and women who had experienced unspeakable personal traumas. We learned that the heartbreaking reality of life in Darfur today means women risk being raped when doing things as simple as collecting firewood. This resolution addresses this horrific reality by authorizing grants to help the women and girls of Darfur and calling for prosecution of those who have carried out such hideously inhumane acts.

I am proud that the U.S. House of Representatives is putting itself on record with these resolutions—as an institution that will not stand idly by while the world's worst humanitarian disaster continues to unfold. While these resolutions are not a panacea to the heart-rending conflict in Darfur, we know from experience that continual pressure on those who take part in such violent, inhumane actions brings us closer to a solution.

That solution must be multi-faceted. It includes not only full and speedy implementation of the United Nations/African Union hybrid peacekeeping force, but also international support for a single, unified peacemaking process. I am extremely disappointed to learn that multiple rebel leaders have chosen violence over peace and declined to participate in the current talks in Libya, but I am hopeful that the representatives that are there—including the representatives of the Government of Sudan—will make progress toward a ceasefire and a viable political solution for this ravaged land.

Finally, and equally important, a solution in Darfur must include a sustained and secure role for the courageous humanitarian workers, who risk their lives daily because they are so committed to alleviating the suffering of their fellow human beings.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support these three resolutions.

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about a human tragedy that affects the lives of millions of innocent individuals. The barbarism in the Darfur region of Sudan continues despite international calls for a cessation of violence. Lives continue to be lost and hope for peace remains distant.

On July 4 of 2004, the 109th Congress declared that genocide was occurring in the Darfur region of Sudan. Over 3 years later, the violence continues. Hundreds of thousands of people have lost their lives. An estimated 2.2 million people have been forced from their homes.

Today the House will consider three resolutions related to Darfur. It is my hope that this body will continue to focus on this humanitarian crisis until the genocide comes to an end. H. Res. 573 recognizes and commends the efforts of the United States public and advocacy groups to raise awareness about and help end the worsening humanitarian crisis and genocide in Darfur. The responsibility to help end this humanitarian crisis is part of the values that make us American. It is in the best spirit of our country, and it is part of the leadership that we should bring to the world. We must continue to work together as one to bring this conflict to an end.

The second resolution, H. Res. 756, condemns rape and sexual violence against women and girls in Darfur, Sudan, eastern Chad and the Central African Republic. The violence and inhuman experiences perpetrated upon the people of Darfur and the surrounding region have been particularly terrible for women. This resolution urges the President to take an active role in providing victims of sexual abuse with medical and legal support. It also calls on fellow members of the United Nations to sanction the Sudan for any non-compliance to bring known perpetrators to justice. We cannot be silent while innocent women and girls suffer such cruelty.

The final resolution, H. Res. 740, condemns the attacks made on African Union Peacekeepers in the Darfuri village of Haskanita on September 29, 2007. This violent act took the lives of 10 peacekeepers—7 Nigerians and 3 other soldiers from Mali, Senegal, and Botswana. These attacks are unacceptable and detrimental to the peace effort but should not deter the conviction of the African Union or the international community to bring peace and security to the region.

The displacement of millions of people as well as the rape and murder of hundreds of thousands cannot be tolerated by the United States or any country that holds freedom and democracy as sacred values. The ongoing events in Darfur constitute the worst ongoing humanitarian disaster in the world. We must do everything we can to bring it to an end.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, the deplorable situation in Darfur has united the world in outrage over the atrocities being committed there. Through the efforts of motivated individuals and advocacy groups, the situation in Darfur has been brought to the forefront of public consciousness.

These people have worked tirelessly in raising awareness about the situation in Darfur and calling for an end to the genocide. Around the country, throughout Virginia and across the 6th District of Virginia, I have seen first hand the dedication and commitment of these individuals in calling on leaders, from around the world, to speak out against the horrendous events in Darfur. In fact, it was often their humanitarianism and commitment to peace in Darfur that encouraged nations to speak out against what was happening in Sudan and take action.

It is no surprise to me that the citizens of the United States have taken such an active role in condemning the actions taking place in Sudan. After all as a Nation dedicated to freedom and the rights of the individual, the United States and its citizens have a responsibility to speak out when those rights are violated, whether at home or abroad. The work of these groups is a true testament to the values of our country.

The goodwill of these individuals and groups in raising global awareness is instrumental in helping to end the genocide in Darfur. I am glad that we in Congress have risen today to commend these groups and thank them for their service. We thank all the various local schools, communities, faith-based, human rights, humanitarian, and youth-led advocacy organizations that have dedicated their time and energy to help end the genocide in Darfur, to promote peace there, and to defend human rights. We must continue to work together and do more to bring an end to the genocide in Darfur.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 573, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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.

□ 1515

CALLING ON THE PRESIDENT AND INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO TAKE IMMEDIATE STEPS TO RESPOND TO AND PREVENT RAPE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN DARFUR, SUDAN, EASTERN CHAD AND CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 726) calling on the President of the United States and the international community to take immediate steps to respond to and prevent acts of rape and sexual violence

against women and girls in Darfur, Sudan, eastern Chad and the Central African Republic, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 726

Whereas, during war, rape and sexual violence are often used systematically as a weapon of intimidation, humiliation, terror and ethnic cleansing;

Whereas it is estimated that between 250,000 and 500,000 women and girls were raped during the genocide in Rwanda;

Whereas, on September 2, 1998, the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda found Jean Paul Akayesu guilty of rape and held that rape and sexual assault constitute crimes against humanity;

Whereas, on October 31, 2000, the United Nations Security Council adopted Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000), calling on all parties to an armed conflict to take, "special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse";

Whereas the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which entered into force on July 1, 2002, states that rape and "any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity" may constitute both "crimes against humanity" and "war crimes";

Whereas since 2003, mass rape committed by members of the Sudanese armed forces and affiliated militias with the support of the Government of Sudan has been a central component of the Government of Sudan's violence and ethnic cleansing in Darfur;

Whereas women and girls leaving Internally Displaced Persons camps in Darfur and refugee camps in eastern Chad, to seek firewood, water or outside sources of income are often attacked and subjected to rape and sexual violence perpetrated by members of the Sudanese armed forces and associated Janjaweed militia and other armed combatants;

Whereas, on July 19, 2004, Amnesty International reported that it collected the names of 250 women who had been raped in Darfur and information on 250 additional rapes;

Whereas, on January 25, 2005, the International Commission of Inquiry on Darfur, in a report to the United Nations Secretary General, reported numerous cases of mass rape throughout Darfur including an incident in which a large number of Janjaweed attacked a boarding school, and raped as many as 110 girls;

Whereas, on October 14, 2005, the Secretary General of the United Nations reported "Many girls have given birth as a result of rape. Although local communities are trying to accept the offspring, the children face a great deal of stigmatization.";

Whereas, on March 9, 2007, members of the United Nations High-Level Mission on the situation of human rights in Darfur reported that "rape and sexual assault have been widespread and systematic, terrorizing women and breaking down families and communities" and that "women are also attacked in and around refugee camps in eastern Chad";

Whereas, on April 27, 2007, the International Criminal Court, acting under the authority provided in Security Council Resolution 1593 (2005), issued arrest warrants for Sudan's Humanitarian Affairs Minister Ahmad Muhammad Harun and Janjaweed Colonel Ali Muhammad Al Abd-Al-Raham seeking their arrest for 51 counts including 6 counts involving rape;

Whereas under Sudanese law victims of rape have virtually no legal recourse and

may in fact be charged with the crime of zina, or sexual intercourse outside of marriage, punishable by one hundred lashes if the victim is unmarried and death by stoning if she is married;

Whereas, on July 31, 2007, the United Nations Security Council adopted Security Council Resolution 1769 authorizing the deployment of a United Nations-African Union peacekeeping force (UNAMID) to Darfur and expressing strong concern about "on-going attacks on the civilian population and humanitarian workers and continued and widespread sexual violence" while "emphasising the need to bring to justice the perpetrators of such crimes"; and

Whereas, on August 20, 2007, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, reported on attacks, abductions and systematic rapes of women in Darfur and the resulting "grave health risks from the consequent physical injuries and psychological trauma", and declared that these acts may "constitute war crimes": Now, therefore be it:

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) calls upon the President of the United States to develop within the United States Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development a Women and Girls of Darfur Initiative to improve assistance to victims and potential victims of rape and sexual violence in Darfur, Sudan, eastern Chad and the Central African Republic by—

(A) offering specialized grants to non-governmental organizations, operating within IDP and refugee camps in Sudan, Chad and the Central African Republic that can provide all essential quality health care services and medical supplies, psychological and social counseling, and legal advice to Darfuri victims of rape and sexual violence;

(B) providing treatment for the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, including antiretroviral drugs to prevent HIV infections, and specialized care for rape victims already infected with HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases;

(C) meeting the psychological, social and educational needs of victimized women, girls, children born as a result of rape, their family and the community in order to limit the stigmatization associated with rape; and

(D) providing financial, technical and other forms of assistance to support women's peace initiatives;

(2) calls upon the Secretary General of the United Nations, the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, the African Union, the European Union, the Arab League and other nations to immediately take steps to—

(A) ensure that a fully funded and fully equipped UNAMID is deployed to Darfur, Sudan;

(B) mandate that UNAMID employ all necessary measures to protect women and girls from acts of rape and sexual violence both outside and within Darfuri refugee and IDP camps;

(C) provide sufficient resources and training to UNAMID troops and police to ensure a capability to properly respond to acts of rape and sexual violence;

(D) provide for firewood patrols and other safeguarding measures to protect women and girls leaving refugee and IDP camps; and

(E) include an adequate number of female troops and police in UNAMID to properly manage incidents of rape and sexual violence; and

(3) calls on the United Nations Security Council to immediately—

(A) find the Government of Sudan in non-compliance with Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000);

(B) call on the Government of Sudan to provide full legal protections to victims of rape and sexual violence and to bring to justice individuals responsible for such crimes; and

(C) adopt under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter a Security Council Resolution calling on the Government of Sudan to respect all related Security Council Resolutions, including Security Council Resolution 1593 (2005), enforce the arrest warrants for Ahmad Muhammad Harun and Ali Muhammad Al Abd-Al-Raham, and further recognize the systematic rape of women and girls in Darfur as crimes against humanity and war crimes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

I want to thank Congresswoman DELAURO for this important resolution that focuses again on one of the most heinous crimes of war known to humans: the rape of women.

In the process of the Darfur genocide, women and girls have been targeted specifically. And I will let her speak more about this, but when women living in refugee camps, for example, were asked why they went to fetch water and risk rape rather than the men, they answered, If we let the men go, they will be killed. It is better for us to be raped than for our husbands to be killed.

It goes on and on, Mr. Speaker, but I will reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of the resolution by my good friend, Ms. DELAURO, H. Resolution 726, which calls on the international community to take immediate steps to respond to and to halt acts of rape and sexual violence, all of which are occurring in Darfur, eastern Chad, and the Central African Republic.

I would like to thank the chairman of our committee, Mr. LANTOS; and, of course, the lead sponsor, my friend Ms. DELAURO for their flexibility in accommodating concerns raised prior to the introduction and then during the committee consideration with regard to nonessential health issues and the International Criminal Court.

With those issues addressed in the amendment before us, we now have a strong resolution that effectively focuses much-needed attention on the

horrific reality that has befallen women and young girls in Darfur without contradicting our U.S. policy.

Since the beginning of this conflict, Mr. Speaker, Sudanese Armed Forces, janjaweed militias, and other rebel factions have used rape as a weapon of war. Despite the conclusions of the Darfur Peace Agreement and the deployment of peacekeepers, these attacks have continued unabated.

The pattern of rape and sexual violence is widespread and systematic, and it seems that no one is spared. Elderly women, pregnant mothers, even girls as young as 10 years of age have fallen victim to the rapist thugs who attack with immunity. This is a horrific practice that must be condemned in the strongest possible terms.

I fully support efforts to provide essential health and psychosocial services to these women and girls as well as efforts to hold those responsible for such attacks accountable for their actions. I strongly support this resolution.

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

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as she may consume to the author of the resolution, the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee, and I rise in support of House Resolution 726, calling on the President of the United States and the international community to take immediate steps to respond to and to prevent acts of rape and sexual violence against women and girls in Darfur, Sudan, eastern Chad, and the Central African Republic.

I was proud to introduce this resolution, and I have been proud to work with my colleague Chairman LANTOS, whose attention to the crisis in Darfur has been unrelenting. His dedication made it possible to move this important legislation through the committee and onto the floor of the House so quickly.

My friend Congressman BRAD MILLER also took a lead on this resolution, and following his trip to Darfur this summer, he has shared his unique insight about the region and our responsibility.

And today it is also important to note that we have reached this point together with my colleagues from across the aisle. Congresswoman ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN led our bipartisan collaboration, and we now have the support of more than 100 cosponsors from both parties. That broad support from Members at every point along the political spectrum makes sense because this is not a political issue; it is a moral issue. And it is urgent. We have an obligation to act and to act now.

As Members of the United States Congress, we believe we must do everything in our power to protect the basic human rights of individuals around the world, and there may be no greater vio-

lation of a woman's or a girl's basic human rights than when she is a victim of rape or sexual violence.

All too often during war, rape and sexual violence are used systematically as a weapon of intimidation, humiliation, terror, and ethnic cleansing. There is no other way to put it. These crimes are crimes against humanity and war crimes. And we cannot ignore them.

The use of rape as a weapon of war is as prevalent today as ever. An average of 40 women are raped every day in the ongoing armed conflict in the Congo. It is estimated that between 20,000 and 50,000 women were raped during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the early 1990s. And it is estimated that between 250,000 and 500,000 women were raped during the genocide in Rwanda.

Now, as these atrocities occur in the Darfur conflict region, we must ask ourselves, again, when will we learn from history? The answer, it seems, is not soon enough for the untold number of Darfuri women and girls beaten, kidnapped, and raped, often multiple times by multiple attackers, and held as sex slaves by the Sudanese armed forces, the janjaweed, and other armed combatants. Since the current conflict began over 4 years ago, instances of rape and sexual violence have all been documented by NGOs like Amnesty International and Doctors Without Borders. And the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights has reported on widespread and systematic mass rape occurring in the region as well as grave health risks, psychological trauma, and resulting pregnancies.

In July, the United Nations Security Council adopted its most recent Security Council resolution relating to Darfur in which it expressed strong concern about the "continued and widespread sexual violence" while "emphasizing the need to bring to justice the perpetrators of such crimes."

But we cannot simply talk about the downward spiral in Darfur or the conditions that have only worsened since the so-called Darfur Peace Agreement was signed in May 2006. As we saw just this weekend, peace talks in Libya appear to be breaking down because key rebel groups refuse to participate, demonstrating that we are a long way from peace and security in Darfur.

We cannot sit idly by as women and children are targeted. The resolution before us today calls for action. It calls on the President and it calls on the international community to do the following:

One, develop within the State Department and USAID a Women and Girls of Darfur Initiative to, among other things, provide victims and potential victims of rape in Darfur, eastern Chad, and the Central African Republic with all essential and quality medical supplies and health care services, psychological counseling, and legal advice;

Two, to ensure that a hybrid United Nations-African Union peacekeeping

force is deployed that can properly protect women and girls from and respond to acts of rape and sexual violence;

And, three, through the U.N. Security Council, find Sudan in noncompliance with its obligations to protect women and girls and call on Khartoum to bring perpetrators of rape and sexual violence to justice.

Our State Department and USAID must make this a top priority. As the rape and murder in Darfur goes on, the perpetrators of these atrocities go unpunished. And while the rhetoric of the administration and the international community have hit the mark, their action has fallen far short. Too much is at stake to allow these atrocities to continue. We have the power, the will, and the moral obligation to stop sexual violence and rape in the Darfur conflict region. There is no reason that we stand by when we should be acting.

I plead with my colleagues to understand what women and girls are undergoing in Darfur and to please pass this resolution. Let's act together in the best interests of women and girls around the world.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend Ms. DELAURO for introducing this resolution.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Res. 726, a bill responding to acts of rape and sexual violence in the Darfur conflict.

Rape and sexual violence are often used as weapons of war. It is estimated that between 20,000 and 50,000 women and girls were raped during the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina in the 1990s; between 250,000 and 500,000 were raped during the genocide in Rwanda; and today, there are reports of wide and systematic rape and sexual assault of women and girls in the Darfur region.

The United States was the first government to refer to the killing in Darfur as genocide, but this has had little impact on ending the suffering. The suffering continues because the Sudanese government resists the efforts of the international community at every step and the Chinese government refuses to use its unique influence to force the Sudanese government to change its actions. In fact, China may even have prolonged the crisis by shielding Sudan against the collective efforts of the United Nations. The crisis is now in its 4th year with no end in sight and the suffering of men, women and children continues. That is why I am encouraging passage today of H. Res. 726.

H. Res. 726 requires the U.S. State Department and USAID to develop a women and girls Darfur initiative for the purpose of providing victims and potential victims of rape in Darfur, eastern Chad and the Central African Republic with much needed comprehensive and quality medical supplies and health services.

The bill also calls upon the Secretary General of the United Nations, the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council, the African Union, the European Union, the Arab League and other nations to immediately take steps to ensure that a hybrid UN-African Union peacekeeping force is deployed that can properly protect women and girls from and respond to acts of rape and sexual violence.

We cannot stand still in the face of systematic and widespread rape in the Darfur region. The U.S. Congress has a moral obligation to reach out and do all it can to put an end to this tragedy. I strongly support this important piece of legislation and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I am a proud cosponsor of this resolution, and I applaud the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) for her leadership on this important issue.

Every day in Darfur men are tortured and massacred as women and little girls seeking solace and refuge are raped, abused, and murdered. This is a systematic effort to destroy an entire race of people.

Where is the humanity, Mr. Speaker? Where are our souls? How can we stand by when hundreds and thousands are suffering every day at the hands of their own government?

Today, on the front page of the Washington Post there is an article entitled "U.S. Promises on Darfur Don't Match Actions". It highlights our Government's inaction during one of the most horrific human rights disasters of our generation.

Every single one of us has a duty to pressure our Government, the United Nations, the world—to act.

Mr. Speaker, this bipartisan resolution is not about politics. It is not about pushing an agenda forward.

We have a moral obligation to stand up for the women and children in Darfur against systematic and unchecked abuse.

They have no voice, no government, nobody to stand with them, nobody to stand for them.

Every day that we wait for a solution to magically appear, is another day that a woman, a child, is stripped of her home, her family, her dignity, her health, and her humanity.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H. Res. 726.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 726, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### CONDEMNING ATTACKS ON AFRICAN UNION PEACEKEEPERS IN HASKANITA, DARFUR, SUDAN, ON SEPTEMBER 29, 2007

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 740) condemning in the strongest terms the attacks on African Union peacekeepers that occurred in Haskanita, Darfur, Sudan, on September 29, 2007, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

#### H. RES. 740

Whereas, on September 29, 2007, an estimated 1,000 heavily-armed rebels in Darfur overran a small base in Haskanita, Darfur, Sudan, occupied by the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS), brutally killing 10 peacekeepers—seven Nigerian soldiers and three other unarmed military observers and civilian police officers from Mali, Senegal, and Botswana—and wounding seven other peacekeepers, with 50 peacekeepers still missing;

Whereas, in an assault described by the African Union commander as "deliberate and sustained", the rebel group broke into the AMIS base in 30 vehicles with heavy artillery and mortars and battled for hours until AMIS forces ran out of ammunition;

Whereas the attacks were the worst attacks on AMIS peacekeepers since the deployment of the peacekeepers to Sudan in July 2004;

Whereas the United Nations Security Council condemned the "murderous attack" on AMIS peacekeepers and demanded that "no effort be spared" to identify and bring to justice the perpetrators of the attacks;

Whereas, in the aftermath of the attacks, the Government of Sudan secured the area reportedly to facilitate the evacuation of AMIS peacekeepers, but later was accused of burning Haskanita to the ground, driving more than 15,000 civilians into the wilderness or neighboring towns;

Whereas the attacks have been openly condemned by the United States Government, the African Union, the international community, and civilized people everywhere; and

Whereas the Government of Sudan has not publicly spoken out against or condemned the attacks: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns in the strongest terms the attacks on African Union peacekeepers that occurred in Haskanita, Darfur, Sudan, on September 29, 2007;

(2) expresses its condolences to the people and Governments of Nigeria, Mali, Senegal, and Botswana, the families and friends of those individuals who were killed or missing in the attacks, and expresses its sympathies to those individuals who have been injured;

(3) expresses the solidarity of the people and Government of the United States with the African Union and the African Union peacekeepers as they recover from these cowardly and inhuman attacks;

(4) expresses its readiness to support efforts to bring to justice those individuals responsible for the attacks and efforts to detect, pursue, disrupt, and dismantle the networks that plan and carry out such attacks;

(5) expresses its support for the people of Darfur, Sudan, in their continued struggle against extremism and violence and support for their efforts to secure a permanent peace, justice, and return to their restored villages and homes; and

(6) encourage all parties involved in the conflict to commit to negotiate a final and binding peace agreement at the peace talks scheduled for October 27, 2007, in Tripoli, Libya.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. TANNER) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Let me thank Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON-LEE for introducing this resolution, which condemns the recent vicious and deadly assault on African Union forces.

On September 29, 2007, an estimated 1,000 members of a heavily armed group of Darfur rebels overran a small African Union base in Haskanita in Darfur. Ten peacekeepers were brutally killed, seven wounded, and 50 others are missing. Seven of those killed were Nigerian soldiers. The other three were unarmed military observers and civilian police officers from Mali, Senegal, and Botswana. With consideration of this resolution today, the U.S. Congress sends its condolences to their respective governments and to their families who have made the ultimate sacrifice in a war far from their native soil.

While the nations of the world deplore the war in Darfur and have provided significant humanitarian assistance to refugees and displaced persons, we still have not demonstrated the will to end this crisis. The United Nations is intensely lobbying countries to provide helicopters for a U.N. African Union peacekeeping force, one of many obstacles to starting the mission. According to recent reports, no country has made a credible offer to provide the 24 transport and attack helicopters needed for the 26,000-strong force.

□ 1530

This lack of helicopters, in part, accounts for the deadly attack on AU troops.

After Rwanda, the world said, never again, never again would we stand by and let another genocide take place; yet we continue to fail in Darfur. For over 4 years now, we have failed.

Today, our Congress calls upon our allies and friends to help put an end to this nightmare. We call on the Sudanese Government, its militia and rebel forces to take up seriously peace negotiations in that part of the world.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be a cosponsor of House Resolution 740, which condemns the horrible and cowardly attacks that occurred last month in Haskanita. According to reports, as we've heard, up to 1,000 heavily armed rebels believed to be associated with the Sudan Liberation Army ambushed the small base that had been occupied