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## A SHAMEFUL STRATEGY

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Madam Speaker, the Iraq supplemental bill being brought to the floor today is a bad idea wrapped in the wrong intentions. This is a time when Congress ought to be working together to provide our troops with the tools and the resources necessary to do their job.

Instead, the Democrat leadership is committed to a strategy that spells nothing but failure in Iraq. They are telling the commanders in the field that 535 politicians know better how to do their job. It is irresponsible for Members of Congress to play Commander in Chief. There is too much at stake in Iraq for political grandstanding.

This bill sends the wrong message to our soldiers, our allies and our enemies. It tells our troops that we have got no faith in them. It tells our allies that we lack the resolve of our stated commitment, and it tells our enemies all they have to do is wait.

This is shameful partisan politics that puts our troops at greater risk. It is wrong, and the American people are watching.

## DEMOCRATS WILL NOT LET THIS WAR GO ON INDEFINITELY

(Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, the emergency supplemental conference report that will come before this House today does three crucial things. One, it supports our military men and women; two, it sets benchmarks for the Iraqis to meet; and, three, it makes clear that the war will not continue indefinitely.

Unfortunately, after 4 years, thousands of lives lost, and billions of dollars spent, the President continues to demand an open-ended commitment to our American troops being deployed on the streets of Iraq. President Bush says he will veto the emergency supplemental, ignoring the views of this Congress, the American people, former military generals and the nonpartisan Iraq Study Group.

While he delays signing this bill, the President continues to claim that the resources for American troops will begin to run out later this month. However, the fact is that the Congressional Research Service confirms resources will be available well into the summer.

The New York Times notes this week that the real obstacle to getting the money promptly to the troops would be the veto of the President.

The President should support this important legislation which sends a message that this war is not going on indefinitely.

## ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

(Mr. BAKER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BAKER. Madam Speaker, in 1986 the United States Congress passed an Immigration Reform Act. As a result, 2.7 million illegal immigrants were given amnesty. That translated immediately into 2.7 million reasons why anyone who wishes to come here should come here illegally.

Last week, in the storm-ravaged Katrina area, 88 illegal immigrants were arrested, 13 of whom had criminal felony convictions.

This is no longer just a minor problem. It is a taxpayer tragedy. Limited taxpayer resources are being stretched to meet the repair and rebuilding needs of the Katrina/Rita areas. To have those resources dissipated for those who ignore our law and come here illegally is not only a disservice to the American taxpayer, but to all the immigrants who play by the rules, who abide by American law and come here through the normal immigration process. It is time for this to come to an end. It is no longer an inconvenience. It is a tragedy.

## HONORING ARKANSAS TEACHER OF THE YEAR AND NATIONAL TEACHER OF THE YEAR FINALIST, JUSTIN MINKEL

(Mr. BOOZMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my heartfelt congratulations and pride in a young man who makes a difference daily in the lives of Arkansas' children, Justin Minkel.

Justin is a second grade teacher at Harvey Jones Elementary School in Springdale, Arkansas. His school is 85 percent minority, 93 percent on free or reduced lunch. Seventeen of his 25 students were below grade level in reading. By the end of the year though, 14 of them had reached or surpassed expectation.

I am proud that Justin decided to return to his home district and teach, and do the hard work which truly leaves no child behind. I congratulate him on being named the Arkansas Teacher of the Year of 2007, and a National Teacher of the Year finalist.

Again, we appreciate the hard work of Justin Minkel and all that he represents in the teaching profession.

## FUNDING FOR OUR TROOPS

(Mrs. BACHMANN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BACHMANN. Madam Speaker, my message this morning is very simple, and it is this. Our troops in combat deserve to be sent the resources and the reinforcements that they deserve

to succeed in their mission in Iraq without strings and without delay.

Putting in place a time line that allows for no flexibility and that culminates with a date certain for withdrawal just simply micromanages our commanders in the field and, unfortunately, will undermine the effort of our troops on the ground.

Today, General Petraeus has offered to meet with Members of Congress concerning the war effort, and I look forward to meeting with the general. I hope that our colleagues on the other side of the aisle will be there as well.

Can we remember that this war is truly about defeating terrorists, and that it is our effort to come together now, as Americans, to fight for freedom that will ultimately lead to our peace.

## REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 65

Ms. HERSETH SANDLIN. Madam Speaker, I seek unanimous consent to remove my name from cosponsorship of H.R. 65.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. TAUSCHER). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from South Dakota?

There was no objection.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

## CALLING ON THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE GENOCIDE IN DARFUR

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 7) calling on the League of Arab States to acknowledge the genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan and to step up their efforts to stop the genocide in Darfur, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

## H. CON. RES. 7

Whereas in July 2004, the House of Representatives and the Senate declared that the atrocities in the Darfur region of Sudan constitute genocide, and the Bush administration reached the same conclusion in September 2004, when then Secretary of State Colin Powell stated that "the evidence leads us to the conclusion that genocide has occurred and may still be occurring in Darfur";

Whereas estimates indicate that 400,000 people may have been killed by the Government of Sudan and its Janjaweed allies since the crisis began in 2003, more than 2,000,000

people have been displaced from their homes, and more than 250,000 people from Darfur remain in refugee camps in Chad;

Whereas the former United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Jan Egeland, in late August 2006 stated that “[i]nsecurity is at its highest level since 2004, access at its lowest levels since that date, and we may well be on the brink of a return to all-out war”;

Whereas despite the signing of the Darfur Peace Agreement in May 2006, violence against civilians, peacekeepers, and humanitarian workers continues unabated, including the killing of an estimated 12 humanitarian workers and 16 African Union Mission in Sudan peacekeepers;

Whereas in August 2006, the Government of Sudan began to deploy thousands of government troops for a major offensive in Darfur, once again threatening a major humanitarian catastrophe and risking the safety and security of millions of civilians;

Whereas, according to the Government of Sudan's plan, in a document submitted to the United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, the Government of Sudan planned to deploy approximately 26,500 additional troops and 7,050 additional police to Darfur;

Whereas the objectives of this deployment were “to deal with the threats posed by the activities of groups that have rejected the Darfur Peace Agreement and to gain control over the security situation and achieve stability in Darfur”;

Whereas on August 31, 2006, the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 1706, expanding the mandate of the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) for the additional deployment of 17,300 peacekeeping troops and 3,300 civilian police personnel as well as 16 formed police units to Darfur;

Whereas implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) is slow, raising serious concern about the commitment of the Government of Sudan to fulfill its responsibilities;

Whereas President Omar Hassan El-Bashir of Sudan rejected the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping force to Darfur, even as First Vice President Salva Kiir publicly stated his support for the deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping mission to Darfur;

Whereas in March 2006, at the Khartoum summit, Arab leaders worked against a plan to transform the African Union Mission in Sudan (AMIS) into a United Nations protection force with a mandate to protect civilians;

Whereas on August 20, 2006, in Cairo, Egypt, the League of Arab States met and backed Sudan's refusal of a United Nations peacekeeping force in the war-wracked Darfur region;

Whereas in September 2006, a resolution passed by the League of Arab States Council of Foreign Ministers called for the United Nations Security Council to give the Sudanese Government more time to implement its “plan to improve conditions and preserve security” in Darfur;

Whereas on November 30, 2006, the Peace and Security Council of the African Union approved a decision to extend the mandate of AMIS in Darfur through July 2007;

Whereas, although the United Nations was authorized and prepared to send peacekeeping forces to Darfur under United Nations Security Council Resolution 1706 (2006), the League of Arab States worked to obstruct the deployment of such forces or had sought to reduce their mandate;

Whereas the November 30, 2006, Abuja Communique of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union endorsed the deploy-

ment of a hybrid United Nations-African Union peacekeeping force and stated the following:

(1) The Special Representative shall be jointly appointed by the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union and the Secretary-General of the United Nations, after appropriate consultations as per the practice.

(2) The Force Commander, who should be an African, shall be appointed by the Chairperson of the Commission in consultation with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

(3) The Mission shall benefit from United Nations backstopping and command and control structures and systems.

(4) The size of the force shall be determined by the African Union and the United Nations, taking into account all relevant factors and the situation on the ground, as well as the requirements for it to effectively discharge its mandate.

Whereas in March 2007, ongoing negotiations between the United Nations Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, and President Omar Hassan El-Bashir of Sudan took place under the auspices of the League of Arab States Summit in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and with the encouragement of Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the Secretary General of the League of Arab States;

Whereas on April 16, 2007, Sudanese Foreign Minister Lam Akol announced that Sudan fully accepts a “heavy support” package from the United Nations, including significant additional logistical and military support, which represents the second phase of a three-step plan to create a hybrid United Nations-African Union peacekeeping force of approximately 17,000 troops and 3,000 police; and

Whereas the support of the League of Arab States and each Member State individually will be critical to end the genocide in Darfur; Now, therefore, be it

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

(1) strongly urges the League of Arab States and each Member State individually to declare the systematic torture, rape, and displacement of Darfurians a genocide;

(2) strongly urges the League of Arab States and each Member State individually to agree and pass a resolution at their next meeting to support and accept a robust hybrid United Nations-African Union peacekeeping force, as agreed to by all parties to the Abuja Communique on November 30, 2006, to enforce the ceasefire, protect civilians, and ensure access to humanitarian assistance in Darfur; and

(3) strongly urges the League of Arab States to continue to work with the United Nations, the African Union and the United States Presidential Special Envoy for Sudan, Andrew Natsios, to bring about real and lasting peace and stability in Darfur, the refugee camps, and along the Chadian border.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may 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 New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, let me first thank the sponsor of this resolution, our friend and colleague from the Bay Area, BARBARA LEE, for introducing this important measure. Let me also acknowledge the leadership on the Darfur issue of our distinguished majority leader, our friend and colleague, STENY HOYER, who recently returned from a very important and timely mission to the region.

Madam Speaker, we are still haunted by the echoes of the Holocaust, which Congress commemorated last week in the Capitol rotunda. The message from that horrific time is fresh in our minds as we consider another terrible genocide, the slaughter in the Darfur region of the Sudan.

Despite that profound message, the international community has allowed as many as 450,000 people to be killed, by some estimates, in Darfur. The Sudanese Government has been allowed to perpetuate a shocking campaign of terror for too long. And complacent governments around the world have stood on the side lines for too long.

So today, the question faces us, will we again fail to heed the message of the Holocaust? Will we allow Khartoum to keep terrorizing the impoverished and desperate minority there into extinction?

Slight signs of progress have emerged over the past few weeks, even if it has come too late for the dead. The Sudanese Government agreed to let a 3,000 person strong United Nations peacekeeping force to enter the country and join the African Union troops already there. This is meant to be a stepping stone to a larger and more robust force.

But the Sudanese Government made the decision under pressure and only after months of excruciating backtracking and delay. But the Sudanese Government has resisted the U.N.'s efforts to send 20,000 peacekeepers to Darfur. The U.N. has deemed this larger force necessary to protect civilians and to enforce a peace.

I have no doubt that Khartoum will continue to play games until they once again feel the pain of international pressure. As we speak, the government there is deliberately intimidating aid workers in Darfur. Let me be clear: The difference between a small, targeted force and a very substantial deployment is no mere sticking point. It is absolutely essential.

It is essential to stopping the Arab militias from continuing to carry out the government's dirty deeds. It is essential to clearing the path for crucial food and water and health supplies to reach the refugee camps. And it is essential because injustice is only really addressed when it is obliterated, not when it is slowed to a painful trickle of

displacement, harassment and disrupted lives. We must have that bigger U.N. force in the Sudan.

Now, finally, the international community has spoken with one voice. But more pressure needs to be applied. They cannot be allowed to slide backward this time.

The resolution before the House today urges those who may have the most influence, the Arab League and its member states, to take dramatic steps to help bring peace to Darfur.

The resolution urges the Arab states to declare the systematic torture, rape and displacement of Darfurians a genocide, and to support and accept U.N. peacekeepers. It also urges the Arab League to work with the United Nations, the African Union and the United States Presidential Special Envoy for the Sudan, Andrew Natsios, to bring about peace and stability to Darfur, the refugee camps, and along the Chadian border.

I believe it is the solemn duty of all who have said "never again" to speak out about genocide, especially this brutal one in Darfur. More importantly, I believe it is our duty in this Congress to do something about it without any delay.

I ask all of our colleagues to vote for this important and timely resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in very strong support of H. Con. Res. 7, and congratulate Congresswoman JACKSON-LEE for authoring this important measure. It sends a very clear and nonambiguous message to the Arab League to recognize the killing fields of Darfur as "genocide" and to support the deployment of the hybrid U.N. peacekeeping force pursuant to U.N. Resolution 1706.

It is timely that we consider this resolution today as leaders and activists around the world unite to raise awareness and urge action to stop the genocide during this week's Global Days for Darfur.

Madam Speaker, no other people on Earth have suffered more than the people of Sudan. Tragically, they have been victimized by not one, but two genocides. In the south, over the course of 2 decades, some 2 million people were murdered by the Khartoum regime, and only a robust peacemaking effort, backed by the military efforts on the ground by Dr. Garang, resulted in a comprehensive peace agreement that was very ably brokered by Senator Danforth as the Special Envoy appointed by President Bush. Indeed, President Bush, I think, made the crucial difference in bringing peace to southern Sudan.

But just as that peace was breaking out, in February of 2003, hostilities began in Darfur, and now we have, regrettably, another genocide, in excess of 400,000 people dead and 2 million people displaced.

Several months ago, Madam Speaker, I traveled to Darfur and met some of the heroic survivors of genocide at two camps, at Mukjar and at Kalma camp. When our old Soviet era helicopter landed at the remote Mukjar camp, thousands of women and children danced, clapped and sang beautiful traditional African songs. The people of Darfur, as we all know, have a remarkable generosity and spirit. And it was awe inspiring and heart breaking at the same time.

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At first glance most of the people had a superficial glow of physical wellness, thanks in large part to the brave NGOs bearing food, clothing, shelter, and medicine. However, even those necessities are now at risk due to the insecurity in Darfur caused by a lack of protection of humanitarian aid workers.

As the H. Con. Res. 7 points out, Khartoum is now targeting relief agencies and NGOs, and at least 12 humanitarian workers have been killed in Darfur.

It profoundly troubles me, and troubled me especially on the trip, to look at the appalling fear and trepidation. It is ever-present. Trauma, posttraumatic stress disorder is everywhere. I spoke with many women who told me personal stories of rape, senseless beatings and massacres by the Janjaweed and the Sudanese militias. Among the refugees and IDPs, emotional woundedness and brokenness is everywhere. Like you and me, Madam Speaker, all that the wonderful people of Darfur really want is to love God and their families and their friends and to earn a living and to live in peace, and yet they have had atrocities imposed upon them that no human should have to bear.

On that same trip, Madam Speaker, I also had a lengthy meeting with President Bashir at his presidential suite in Khartoum. All Bashir wanted to talk about was ending United States trade sanctions, not the horrific loss of life in Darfur. For me the exchange was eerily reminiscent of a conversation I had had in Serbia with the late Slobodan Milosevic after he invaded Croatia, then Bosnia, and unleashed the Balkan genocide. He too, like Bashir, was unmoved by the plight of suffering people.

On October 5 of 2006, I wrote a letter, cosigned by 175 Members of Congress, to the Secretary General of The League of Arab States, asking him to use his authority to employ all diplomatic means available to encourage Bashir to halt Sudan's military offensive in North Darfur, to withdraw Sudanese troops from the area, and to reverse the Arab League's opposition to the U.N. deployment of peacekeepers. I believe, and this resolution makes absolutely clear, that the UN-AU hybrid force is today the best option to enforce a cease-fire, protect civilians, ensure access to humanitarian assistance, and begin the path to reconstruction and reconciliation in Darfur. We

pointed out in the October letter that the collective voice of the Arab League could clearly help save thousands of lives and bring peace and security to Darfur. Right now they are part of the problem. It is time the Arab League became part of the solution.

Finally, this legislation strongly urges the League of Arab States to declare that the systematic torture, rape, and displacement of Darfurians is a genocide, and strongly urges the Arab League to agree and pass a resolution to accept and support the U.N. peacekeepers, again, as the best option to enforce that cease-fire and to give the people of Darfur what they so desperately need: peace and reconciliation.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 8½ minutes to the gentlewoman from California (BARBARA LEE), member of the Committee on Appropriations and the main sponsor of this resolution now before us.

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, let me thank the gentleman for yielding and for his leadership on so many issues relating to human rights and genocide and our foreign policy.

I also want to thank Chairman LANTOS. I want to thank Speaker PELOSI. I want to thank our majority leader, Mr. HOYER, and I want to thank Congressman DON PAYNE, who for so long was the lone voice in the wilderness speaking out against the horrific genocide that is taking place in Darfur. Also I want to thank Congressman SMITH and all of our Republican colleagues, Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN; our staff, Joan Condon, Pearl Alice Marsh, Christos Tsentos, all of you who have not only worked so diligently with your expertise and your clarity but also because you all are committed to the work that we are doing to try to end this genocide.

Let me thank our cosponsors of this resolution. We have over 115 cosponsors, bipartisan cosponsors.

This is a very important moment for this House of Representatives and for the world. Thirteen years ago the world did stand by as nearly 1 million people were slaughtered in the genocide of Rwanda. The best our country could do then, the best we could do, was apologize, and that was after the fact. Many of us swore that another Rwanda would never happen again, would never take place on our watch. But, today, Madam Speaker, it is happening again.

Nearly 3 years ago, on July 22, 2004, Congress formally declared that genocide was taking place in Darfur. Estimates indicate that nearly 450,000 people now, 450,000 people, have been killed and 2.5 million innocent civilians have been displaced to this date. That is mind-boggling.

I witnessed this ongoing tragedy in January of 2005, when I first visited the refugee camps in Chad and in Darfur, led by another leader against this

genocide, Congressman ED ROYCE; also with two great humanitarian leaders, Don Cheadle, Academy Award nominee for "Hotel Rwanda"; and Paul Rusesabagina, who also is a hero who was in Rwanda and led many people out of that tragedy.

In February 2006, once again under the leadership of our great Speaker, Speaker NANCY PELOSI, I visited the refugee camps with a bipartisan delegation in Darfur. And just 2 weeks ago, we returned from Darfur again. This was my third visit, again a bipartisan congressional delegation under the leadership of our leader, our majority leader, Congressman STENY HOYER.

I say this to say that I have seen this now three times, this tragedy, and it is quickly, quickly, continuing to deteriorate very rapidly. More and more people are dying. Regardless of what you hear, we know that more and more people are dying. We heard now that 1,500 to 2,000 a week are dying, and even humanitarian aid workers are at risk. Cars are being hijacked. The day before our delegation arrived, five African Union soldiers from Senegal were killed. They were killed. And the general, the head of the African Union, he begged us to send more peacekeepers. He begged us to send more logistical support and to help with what they need so that they can provide the civilian protection against this slaughter. Unfortunately, for many Darfurians, the situation is still very, very grim.

As part of our visit this time, we also went to Egypt and met with President Mubarak. He indicated that Egypt had deployed 900 troops to help implement the comprehensive peace agreement in southern Sudan. Additionally, Egypt had sent about 150 military observers and police to Darfur and was supporting a field hospital that was serving 200,000 people. These efforts are extremely, extremely important. But we urged him to do more and to use his influence with the Sudanese Government to help stop the atrocities.

News reports last week indicate that Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the League of Arab States and the United Nations were all instrumental in pressuring President Bashir of the Sudan to accept the second phase of the three-part agreement to implement an African Union-United Nations hybrid peacekeeping force. If true, this agreement to deploy the so-called "heavy support package" would provide for an additional 3,000 peacekeepers, helicopters, and significant logistical and military support for the hybrid force. But as the African Union told us, they need at least 22,000-plus troops.

So whether or not we see this 3,000 force come into Darfur remains to be seen. Past experience has taught us that we can never take President Bashir at his word. News reports the very next day detailed a United Nations investigation that caught Khartoum disguising military supply planes in United Nations colors in order to supply weapons to their janjaweed allies.

The international community and our friends in the League of Arab States cannot allow this sort of double-dealing to take place. We have all got to keep the pressure on Khartoum, and that is why we have got to pass this bipartisan resolution today.

The thrust of this resolution is very simple. It calls on the League of Arab States and each member state to be our partners for peace by stepping up their efforts to end the genocide in Darfur. For too long the world has been silent in this struggle. I remember in my trips to Algeria, meeting with the President of Algeria, and a previous visit to Egypt several years ago that the government officials were very reluctant to call the ongoing atrocities in Darfur genocide, and some even denied that genocide was taking place. But we know that it is.

Even just last week, Egypt expressed its opposition to further United Nations sanctions against Sudan, urging that we give President Bashir more time. More time for what? To allow more innocent people to get killed?

While it appears today that in some cases those outlooks are changing of some of the Arab states, there is still much more that they can do and that we can do. We must demand that President Bashir follow through on the full deployment of the AU-UN hybrid force; and we must urge all parties, the rebels and the government, to end the violence and come to the table to negotiate a political solution. But we cannot and we should not hold a cease-fire declaration hostage to a peace agreement or vice versa. We cannot wait for a peace agreement to stop the slaughter. We must do both at the same time. And we must insist that Darfurians return to their homes, figure out a way so they can get home quickly to their villages and reclaim their lives.

Our own efforts to stop this genocide must intensify also. We must pursue divestment to remove all United States funding from any business that is supporting the Sudanese Government and the ongoing genocide. And we have got to explore further sanctions and legislation that I know my colleague Congressman DON PAYNE is working on.

Lastly, we must engage with the Chinese to leverage their influence on the Sudanese Government and help put a stop to this violence. As the principal buyer of oil from the Sudan, the Chinese have the ability to exert political and financial pressure on President Bashir. We need their help to end the genocide.

I salute the faith community and our young people around the country who are organizing and speaking out and working day and night to end this genocide. This week they are conducting a series of "Darfur Days" as they continue to say "not on our watch." We hope that our friends in the Arab world join these young people in saying not on their watch, never will this happen again.

I just want to mention that our beloved colleague Congresswoman Juanita

Millender-McDonald, who passed away this weekend, worked tirelessly to end this genocide in Darfur. So I am asking for a strong bipartisan vote on this resolution in her honor. And for the young people, the men and the women whom we have seen and whose lives we know have been destroyed, and for those who have died, let us say to the entire world and let us ask our partners for peace in the Arab world to end this genocide now.

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Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE).

Mr. GOODLATTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this legislation.

Earlier this month, I had the invaluable opportunity to travel to the war torn country of Sudan as part of a bipartisan congressional delegation led by our distinguished majority leader, Mr. HOYER. We journeyed to the besieged African nation to meet with the government and humanitarian leaders to discuss issues related to the ongoing atrocities in Darfur. What I saw was horrendous, and I am pleased that we have once again joined together here in this Congress to call for an end to this genocide.

The ongoing crisis in Darfur and western Sudan has led to a major humanitarian disaster. At the core of the current conflict is a struggle for control of political power and resources, with an estimated 1.9 million people displaced, and more than 213,000 people forced into neighboring Chad. Observers estimate that up to 450,000 people have been killed over the course of this violence.

It is deplorable that any government would use the systematic dislocation of its own people and the disease and starvation that inevitably follow as a weapon, not to mention the outright violence that the Government of Sudan has helped foster in Darfur. The situation there is clearly one of the worst humanitarian crises in recent times. As a Nation dedicated to freedom and the rights of the individual, we have a responsibility to speak out when those rights are violated, whether at home or abroad. This House has already taken action condemning the situation in Sudan, but still more must be done to end this humanitarian crisis. That is why I am joining with my colleagues in supporting this resolution.

The resolution calls on the League of Arab States, Sudan's neighbors, to acknowledge the genocide in Darfur and step up their efforts to end this genocide. This crisis has cast an international spotlight on Darfur and the region, and we must urge the Arab League to step up their efforts and join with the world in ending genocide.

While I have never seen anything like what I saw in Darfur, the situation is not completely hopeless. The humanitarian assistance the United States is

providing is helping millions of people in desperate circumstances, but we must continue using international sanctions to force access for additional peacekeeping and humanitarian missions in order to stabilize this volatile place and prevent further genocide.

Madam Speaker, while I was in Darfur, we had the opportunity to visit the Alsalom Internally Displaced Persons Camp, where some 47,000 people live in the most humble of conditions, some in huts made of twigs barely the size of a pup tent, with perhaps a piece of cloth or plastic to provide some additional protection. This is one of a hundred such camps spread across Darfur containing nearly 2 million people.

While there, we had the opportunity to meet some very wonderful and very desperate people. We had the opportunity to look into the eyes of children, children who have the same hopes and expectations that all young children have, and yet, as I stood there, I realized how uncertain their future was.

As long as that condition exists, the United States must continue to be the leader in shining a spotlight on what is going on in Sudan and working together to bring an end to this atrocity, and to bring hope, real hope, to those children.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey, Congressman BILL PASCRELL, a member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak on an issue on which our Nation is united and the House is united, an issue upon which people from different political parties, people from all races and religious faiths agree upon, and that is the issue of Darfur. It should be a lesson for the rest of the day, what Ms. LEE and what Mr. SMITH are doing here.

So I stand today as a proud cosponsor of this legislation, the Darfur Partners for Peace for 2007. And I wish to thank both Congresswoman LEE and Congressman SMITH, and all the rest who had anything to do with this, my good friend, Congressman PAYNE, your personal experiences are heart wrenching, and America is listening.

America and much of the world stands united on the fact that more needs to be done to end the ongoing genocide in Darfur and finally address the dire humanitarian situation in the region. I have never seen an issue affect young Americans more than this issue on Darfur. We need to tap that. They are engaged.

A few nations, including China, have stood in the way of applying real pressure to the Sudanese Government to allow a real U.N. peacekeeping force so that the people of Darfur can finally have a sense of security, like every human being desires.

Among those who arguably have not done enough to end this horrendous genocide are the nations of the Arab

League. I ask the Arab League to hear our voices, not only in Darfur, but also in the northern part of the continent, also in the Middle East. They must come forward and have the courage and the guts to speak up and do something.

The bill before us today would call upon that league to recognize the conflict in Darfur as genocide, the past resolution supporting and accepting a robust hybrid United Nations-African Union peacekeeping force, and to work with all the parties involved in the region.

There can be no excuse for inaction. By most estimates, over 400,000 people in Darfur have died, and an astounding 2.5 million people have been made into refugees, creating a humanitarian crisis of shocking proportions.

Terror comes in many forms, none of which are convenient. Many worry that the relative inaction of the Arab League to this crisis is subject to fuel the following falsehoods:

The fact is that this conflict is not about Muslims versus non-Muslims because the people of Darfur are predominantly Muslim. This conflict is not about Arabs versus non-Arabs because the Arabs of Darfur have stood against the Sudanese Government's war.

Quite simply, this conflict is about the Sudanese Government's attempt to subjugate and brutalize the innocent people of Darfur. President Bashir is not in denial. He is allowing the genocide.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the distinguished gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. I appreciate the gentleman from New Jersey yielding time. He has been a leader on this and other issues for so long, and I am honored to be here with him here today.

Madam Speaker, often on this floor, way too often from my perspective, we see a divisive, partisan discussion and debate. But, Madam Speaker, today we speak about an issue in which there is no partisanship and there is no political divide, and that, Madam Speaker, is what is transpiring and has transpired over the last several years in Darfur.

We know that there have been 2 million citizens of Sudan who no longer live in their homes or villages. We know that there has been 450,000 people killed in Sudan. It is something that demands our attention. It is something that we as Congress, we as a country, we as a world, must come together to bring the death and destruction, the inhumanity and the hunger and violence to an end.

Madam Speaker, I had the opportunity several weeks ago to join the honorable majority leader (Mr. HOYER), the distinguished majority leader of this House, along with the ranking Republican of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, to visit Darfur. And there, of course, we had the opportunity to visit with gov-

ernment officials, as we in Congress often do. But we also had the opportunity to see for ourselves the conditions that human beings are living in today. And while I hope our meetings with government officials were useful, I know the view I saw, the scenes that were brought to my attention, the people of Darfur I met transcend any meeting I could have had with a government official to discuss what is going on. But it was an opportunity for me to see my life change as a human being, and to see that we all have a cause to see that life prevails and justice endures.

Upon my return, Madam Speaker, last Tuesday I took the opportunity to visit the Holocaust Museum. That week was the Week of Remembrance of the Holocaust. And while there, I saw the quote from Isaiah, Isaiah 43:10, "You are my witness." Madam Speaker, that speaks to me and should speak to all of us. We are the witnesses of a holocaust today.

Many Members of Congress, much more so than me and for much longer periods of time, have paid attention to this issue and have been trying to rise to the occasion and bring awareness to the world, and I commend those colleagues who have been outspoken on this issue for a long, long time, and today I join them.

Recently, I returned back to the Holocaust Museum where President Bush spoke. He spoke certainly about the remembrance of the death and destruction of the Jewish community, the people of Jewish faith who have suffered, but he also brought home the importance of addressing genocide and death today.

I commend the President for his demands that the Sudanese Government allow the African Union and the United Nations peacekeeping force, that they be allowed to reach out and be increased in their force, that they reach out to rebel leaders, that the Sudanese Government end its support for violent janjaweed militia and they permit humanitarian aid workers to do their work. President Bush outlined some steps that we as a country are willing to take and requests that we will make to the United Nations.

Congress designated last week as The Days of Remembrance in order to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust. While at the Holocaust Museum, I learned much about the reach of the Holocaust and saw the images of death and dehumanization.

As I reflected upon the Jews' past and considered the future of African tribes in Darfur, I have a question to ask: Are we going to wait until the proportions of death are similar to the Holocaust before we take action?

The part of the exhibit that moved me the most, Madam Speaker, was the list of 10,000 individuals who took action during the Holocaust. They have been identified by the Israelis as "the Righteous Among the Nations," those who risked their lives to save innocent Jews during Nazi rule.

When the conflict in Darfur has ended, everyone will feel sorrow for the unnecessary loss of life. But will our Nation be among those, will we, as individuals, be among those who feel shame for inaction, or will we have the opportunity to have pride for standing up for justice in Darfur?

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois, the Honorable BOBBY RUSH, chairman of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Commerce Trade and Consumer Protection.

Mr. RUSH. I want to thank the gentleman for yielding, and I want to commend you and all the others, my colleague from California, my other colleagues and friends who have worked so tirelessly on this particular issue, and on other issues.

Congresswoman LEE, you are an inspiration to all of us because of the stance that you take on these and other humanitarian issues.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to show my strongest support for the Darfur Partners for Peace Act. We must continue to put pressure on the international community to intervene on behalf of the hundreds of thousands of men, women and children who are being brutally slaughtered even as we speak in the killing fields called Darfur. With over 2 million people displaced, and more than 400,000 people murdered, we cannot allow the world to become numb to the tragedy that is taking place in the Sudan.

Madam Speaker, after Rwanda we said “Never again. Never again. Never again.” Well, Madam Speaker, never is now. This is a genocide, and now is the time to act. Now is the time to speak out, and now is the time to stand up against this viciousness and cruelty.

Madam Speaker, we can do no less than to use all of the resources, every resource at our command, every fiber in our body, every moral indignation that we can find in our humanity. We can do no less than to stand up now and to speak out against the killing of women, men and children in Darfur. Our future as a nation will be predicated on the issues and on how we react and stop this genocide.

Madam Speaker, a year from now, 2 years from now, 10 years from now, 20 years from now an apology should not be necessary and an apology should not be appropriate for this kind of tragedy. Never is now. Speak out now.

□ 1115

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, to the Tenth District of Ohio, the Honorable DENNIS J. KUCINICH, chairman of the Oversight and Government Reform Subcommittee on Domestic Policy, I yield 1 minute.

Mr. KUCINICH. I thank the gentleman.

Madam Speaker, it has been long recognized that the Government of Sudan

has tremendous responsibility to protect human rights and to maintain law and order. However, I would submit that the policies of the United States, since the Government of Sudan has said to be cooperating in the dubious war on terrorism, the Government of the United States has not been aggressive enough in causing Sudan to assert its responsibility for matters affecting Darfur in the first place.

Furthermore, there has to be a commitment obtained by that government to, first of all, investigate any of the war crimes and to see them taken to the ICC.

I think that it is imperative that this Congress not just pass this resolution but makes this the beginning of an ongoing effort to address the issues in Darfur.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, it is now my distinct honor to yield to the gentleman from Maryland, the distinguished majority leader of the House of Representatives, recently returned from leading the delegation in this House personally to see the suffering going on, Mr. STENY HOYER.

Mr. HOYER. I thank my friend Mr. ACKERMAN for yielding, and I thank him for his leadership and commitment for decades to issues of human rights, humanitarian concerns, and peace.

I thank my friend BARBARA LEE who has been such an extraordinary leader. She worked for a gentleman that is a great hero of mine, Ron Dellums, who, when he was on this floor raised his voice for peace, raised his voice on behalf of the dispossessed, raised his voice on behalf of those who were under attack. BARBARA LEE has continued that very strong voice in representing that district. She is one of the experts in this House on issues relating to Africa, issues relating to AIDS, and on efforts to attain peace and securing this world for the citizens of this world.

I am also, Madam Speaker, very pleased to join my friend CHRIS SMITH. I had the privilege of cochairing the Helsinki Commission with Mr. SMITH for a number of years and serving with him for 15 years on the Helsinki Commission before I became the minority whip and took leave from the commission. I want to thank him. Not only in a collegial sense does he participate in these matters, but probably as much as any Member in this House of the 435 and the literally, probably, 2,000 that he and I have served with over the years has personally, individually, gone to some of the most troubled spots in the world. No publicity, no large delegation, no Air Force plane; I am going to speak briefly about the fact that we were able, but on his own.

He and FRANK WOLF, two of our Members who have gone to people in trouble and at risk and taken their hand and heard their story and brought it back and exposed it to the light of day. I

thank Mr. SMITH for his leadership over the more than two decades, almost a quarter of a century that he and I have served together in this House.

This is a serious issue.

I want to congratulate JERRY MORAN. JERRY MORAN had not been on many codels or traveled. BARBARA LEE came over to me as he was speaking and said he got the message.

That is why we travel. Sometimes the public thinks that traveling is just a junket. Going to Darfur is no junket. Living in Darfur is much worse.

When I determined that I was going to take a delegation overseas as my first trip as majority leader of this House, I thought that I wanted to go to someplace where it was important that we tell the world that we thought they ought to be paying attention to. The world has been paying attention to it, so many people have gone to Darfur. But we went to Darfur, 11 of us went to Darfur, myself, BARBARA LEE from California, JERRY MORAN from Kansas, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN as the ranking Republican on the Foreign Affairs Committee, GREG MEEKS from New York, BRAD MILLER from North Carolina, G.K. BUTTERFIELD from North Carolina, BOB GOODLATTE from Virginia, RAY LAHOOD from Illinois, JOHN BARROW from Georgia, and JIM COSTA from California. A delegation of Democrats and Republicans who, when the plane took off from Andrews Air Force Base, flew not as Republicans or Democrats, but flew as Americans, flew as Americans who were concerned about humanitarian distress.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from California, Congresswoman LEE, for her hard work in bringing this important bipartisan resolution to the floor this morning and for her dedicated leadership in focusing attention on the continuing genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan.

JERRY MORAN is correct; all of us know that we talk about never forgetting, but never forgetting is not enough. Remembering is the first step, but acting is the absolutely essential step.

Since 2003, more than 400,000 people have been killed in Darfur, and an estimated 2½ million people have been displaced, mothers, sisters, brothers, old and feeble, sick.

Our delegation, as I know you have, Mr. SMITH, Mr. ACKERMAN, I know you as well, have had the opportunity to visit in the camps, in the medical facilities, talked to the mothers, talked to the children. I talked to a grandmother who had been forced away from her home by somebody. Was it the government? Was it a rebel group? Was it simply a band of thieves and criminals? Whatever it was, she was homeless. Her family was dispossessed, and she had nowhere to go except a displaced person's camp. That calls out to us to us in this House, it calls out to everybody in this globe to respond in a positive way to relieve that suffering.

The United Nations has identified the situation in Darfur as the worst current humanitarian and human rights crisis in the world. The United States calls it genocide.

Simply stated, the international community must not turn a blind eye to the suffering of innocents as has happened far too often throughout human history.

The international community's plaintive cry "never again" requires real collective action in Darfur now. There are people acting now, but they do not have enough help. This time we must prove that we mean it: Not now, never again.

House Concurrent Resolution 7 has 115 cosponsors on both sides of the aisle, and it is my hope that it will get 433, we have two Members who are no longer with us, 433 votes. This is an important step in this cause.

Congresswoman LEE's resolution calls on the League of Arab States to acknowledge the genocide in Darfur, to support and accept the United Nations peacekeepers as the best option to enforce a cease-fire, protect civilians, and ensure access for humanitarian workers, to work with the international community to bring about a lasting peace in Darfur.

In fact, Madam Speaker, during the recent bipartisan congressional delegation that I have spoken of to Sudan, a codel which included, as I said, Congresswoman LEE and the others, we also went to Egypt. Egypt is one, of course, of the most important members of the Arab League, the largest Arab state, an important member in the league. I have been told that President Mubarak, at our request when we met with him, followed up on his pledge to our delegation to reach out to Sudanese President Bashir who has, unfortunately and tragically, been part of the problem, not part of the solution, deemed by the international community as someone who has facilitated and, yes, even participated in the humanitarian crisis that exists. We urged his government and President Mubarak says that he has urged Bashir to accept and facilitate humanitarian workers' work, to make their visas acceptable, make their travel around the country easier. I also understand that Foreign Minister Gheit, with whom we met, is currently in Sudan, and it is my hope that he is delivering the same message that we spoke of.

Now is not the time to offer a full report of our codel; however, I do want to briefly highlight the five specific steps that I believe must be taken in Darfur without delay.

First, it is imperative that we continue to ensure humanitarian access in Darfur.

Second, the international community must insist that the Bashir government accept more peacekeeping troops.

Third, we must initiate a process by which a political solution between the warring factions can be reached.

Fourth, we must make a stronger effort to engage Sudan's neighbors in the

peace process, which was what this resolution is designed to do.

And, fifth, we must work with the Sudanese Government to help forge a comprehensive plan for stability and reconstruction across the whole of the country. North Sudan was mentioned by my friend BILL PASCRELL, as well as South Sudan which we visited.

Madam Speaker, I again want to thank Congresswoman LEE, Congressman ACKERMAN, Congressman SMITH, and all of our colleagues for this effort today. They continue to focus on Darfur. I urge all of my colleagues to unanimously support this very important resolution, a call to action, a call to humanitarian relief.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 2 minutes.

First, let me say to the distinguished majority leader, I want to thank him for his leadership on a broad range of human rights issues. And I think it speaks volumes that the first trip as majority leader that you put together was to Darfur to try to promote peace and reconciliation. So I very much want to commend you for that.

I also thank you for your compliments to FRANK WOLF and I; but I would add to that, when you talk about going to remote places, that also applies to you. I think Members should know that there were a number of trips that we undertook during the dark days of the Soviet Union when human rights were being crushed daily. I will never forget a trip we took to Lithuania, led by then Chairman HOYER when Lansbergis, the President, was under siege, was literally surrounded by Soviet Black Berets. And we went there, to be a presence, to be a deterrent. Just prior to our arrival, more than a dozen people were murdered at TV tower, the gentleman will recall, but he nevertheless led our delegation to Vilnius and I do believe it had an impact in trying to mitigate further bloodshed. That's just one example. So I want to commend the distinguished majority leader for his leadership on Darfur.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to Ms. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I can rise enthusiastically to thank both Mr. ACKERMAN for managing this bill and his leadership and certainly sensitivity to these issues. I thank my good friend and colleague, Ranking Member SMITH, who has much roadmap in front of him and behind him on these issues dealing with human rights. I am very proud to be a strong member of the Human Rights Caucus that has worked consistently on addressing these issues. And, I thank my friend and colleague, Congresswoman BARBARA LEE. We have worked on many, many issues together.

I am reminded of our first Presidential congressional trip to Africa, three women who went to address then,

some almost 10 years ago, the devastation of HIV/AIDS, and we have pursued these issues of empowerment.

□ 1130

There is no doubt, there is no quarreling with the fact that 450,000 have died. The janjaweed is alive and well. It is important that Members of Congress have been to the Darfur region and the south.

I am reminded of the time that I sat on the ground in Chad with refugees fleeing from the Sudan, and looked in the faces of women who had been brutalized and raped only because they left their village to get firewood to survive. That is what is going on today in 2007.

I also remember the time I can say on the floor of the House that I was banished, and not as some Members have been over the years, given visas to enter into Darfur and had to be utilizing extraordinary means. This is inhuman. This is not civil. This is not a nation that is part of the world family.

This resolution is very straightforward: Get your friends to talk to you about ensuring the United Nations can do its work. I ask that this resolution be supported so the raped women can have relief and response.

Madam Speaker, the current crisis in the Darfur region of Sudan is of paramount importance. Although Americans may differ greatly on many issues, there is a widespread and broad-based consensus among Democrats and Republicans alike that the ongoing genocide in Darfur is intolerable and must be ended. Today we are presented with a great opportunity to work in a bipartisan fashion to achieve a humanitarian result in responding to the overwhelming suffering in Darfur.

Not since the Rwandan genocide of 1994 has the world seen such a systematic campaign of displacement, starvation, rape, mass murder, and terror as we are witnessing in Darfur for the last three years. At least 400,000 people have been killed; more than 2 million innocent civilians have been forced to flee their homes and now live in displaced-persons camps in Sudan or in refugee camps in neighboring Chad; and more than 3.5 million men, women, and children are completely reliant on international aid for survival.

Unless the world stirs from its slumber and takes concerted and decisive action to relieve this suffering, the ongoing genocide in Darfur will stand as one of the blackest marks on humankind for centuries to come. The people of Darfur cannot wait. The time has come for decisive leadership from the United States.

It has been more than 2 years since my colleagues and I in the Congressional Black Caucus Darfur Task Force met with Secretary Colin Powell. We pressed successfully for the Administration to declare that the campaign of ethnic cleansing and atrocities against civilians in Sudan is genocide. The atrocities are committed primarily by the government of Sudan and its allied Janjaweed militias.

It has been more than a year since I flew to Chad, walked across the border to Sudan, and met with African Union troops who pleaded for more peacekeeping authority and the resources to protect the refugees from violence, rather than merely monitor it. After returning

from that Congressional delegation, I worked with other Members of Congress to secure increased funding to aid the thousands of Sudanese displaced to refugee camps in Chad and to provide additional funding to assist Chad in responding to the humanitarian crisis.

It has been almost two years since the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1556 demanding that the government of Sudan disarm the Janjaweed. This demand was later followed by Resolution 1706, which authorizes a 20,000 strong U.N. peacekeeping force.

It has been 9 months since the Darfur Peace Agreement was brokered in May 2006 between the government of Sudan and one faction of Darfur rebels.

However, signs of progress have recently emerged, even if it has come too late for the dead. The Sudanese government agreed to let a 3,500-person-strong United Nations peacekeeping force enter the country and join the African Union troops already there. It made the decision under pressure and only after months of unwanted backtracking and delay.

But the Sudanese government has resisted the U.N.'s efforts to send 20,000 peacekeepers to Darfur. Let me be clear: the difference between a small, targeted force and a substantial deployment is no mere sticking point. It is absolutely essential.

It is essential to stopping the Arab militias from continuing to perpetuate a genocide. It is essential to clearing the path for crucial food and water and health supplies to reach refugee camps. And it is essential because injustice is only really addressed when it is obliterated, not when it is slowed to an excruciating trickle of displacement, harassment, and disrupted lives. We must have that larger U.N. force in Sudan. The international community has spoken with one voice but more pressure needs to be applied on Khartoum.

This resolution urges those who may have the most influence, the Arab League and its member states, to declare the systematic torture, rape, and displacement of Darfurians a genocide; to support and accept U.N. peacekeepers to enforce the ceasefire, protect civilians, and ensure access to humanitarian assistance in Darfur; and to work with the United Nations, the African Union and the United States Presidential Special Envoy for Sudan, Andrew Natsios, to bring about peace and stability to Darfur, the refugee camps, and along the Chadian border.

H. Con. Res. 7 urges the League of Arab States to: (1) declare the systematic torture, rape, and displacement of Darfurians a genocide; (2) pass a resolution to support and accept U.N. peacekeepers to enforce the ceasefire, protect civilians, and ensure access to humanitarian assistance in Darfur; and (3) work with the United Nations, the African Union and the United States Presidential Special Envoy for Sudan, Andrew Natsios, to bring about peace and stability to Darfur, the refugee camps, and along the Chadian border.

Nevertheless the violence continues; indeed, the violence is escalating. This violence is making it even more dangerous, if not impossible, for most of the millions of displaced persons to return to their homes and for humanitarian relief agencies to bring food and medical aid. According to Jan Egeland, the U.N.'s top humanitarian official, the situation in Darfur is "going from real bad to catastrophic."

We have come full circle. Violence is increasing, peace treaties and resolutions are

not being implemented, and action must be taken.

We must increase pressure on Sudan President Omar Hassan al-Bashir of Sudan to allow in U.N. peacekeepers, or alternatively, a peacekeeping force of similar size comprised of Arab and Muslim troops under the auspices of the Arab League. As with any government, dialogue is the best way to attempt a solution to the issue at hand. However, previous engagements have too often yielded poor results—the government of Sudan has been all too willing to cooperate on the surface level by signing agreements and the like and all too willing to fail to implement them.

In 1997, the Clinton Administration imposed trade and economic sanctions on Sudan, an approach which I feel is likely to yield the best results. However, sanctions imposed by a limited number of countries do not pressure the government of Sudan adequately enough. It must be noted that no just and lasting peace in Sudan can be achieved without the responsible intervention of China.

For too long, China, which is Sudan's biggest oil consumer, has also served as Khartoum's enabler and protector by preventing the U.N. Security Council from imposing more serious sanctions on Sudan in response to the genocide and crimes against humanity committed in Darfur. As former Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick stated in a major policy speech on China a year ago: "China should take more than oil from Sudan—it should take some responsibility for resolving Sudan's human crisis." It is my hope that China may be persuaded to provide the type of constructive leadership in Sudan befitting a great power.

These are the kind of constructive efforts that I feel will best represent the interests of the people of Darfur to bring an end to this horrible crisis. I am in favor of deploying U.N. peacekeeping troops to the region, and the U.N. needs to move swiftly. In addition, any options regarding United States military intervention should be carefully considered and not ruled out.

As we consider these options, Madam Speaker, I would like to remind you that it is not too early to begin the planning efforts needed to transform the Darfur region from a killing field to an economically, politically, and socially viable community. This work will, of course, require the active and purposeful engagement of the United States and other key stakeholders, such as China, and the Arab League.

Finally, we must be bold and imaginative in fashioning a solution commensurate with the scale of the problem. The way to do that is to develop a Marshall Plan for the Sudan. But the United Nations, and the international community, must draw a line in the sand and act to stop the genocide in Darfur. The words of President Lincoln speak to us from the ages:

[W]e cannot escape history. We, of this Congress and this administration, will be remembered in spite of ourselves. No personal significance, or insignificance, can spare one or another of us. The fiery trial through which we pass, will light us down, in honor or dishonor, to the latest generation.

It speaks volumes that H. Con. Res. 7 has 111 co-sponsors, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to

yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN), and that he may control that time.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ACKERMAN. I thank the gentleman for accommodating our Members on the majority side.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. CLARKE), the newest member of our delegation.

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 7, a resolution offered by the gentlelady from California calling on the League of Arab States to recognize the genocide that is currently taking place in Darfur, Sudan. The facts regarding the situation on the ground are indisputable. The Government of Sudan, through its proxy militia, the janjaweed, have been launching a scorched earth campaign in Darfur. More than 400,000 people have been murdered, and more than 2 million have been forcefully displaced.

This resolution calls upon the League of Arab States to acknowledge the genocide in Darfur and to pressure the Sudanese Government to take steps to bring the killings to an end.

The purpose of the League of Arab States is to coordinate the cultural and securities policies of its member states, of which Sudan is a member. If genocide or any atrocity is taking place in one member state, the other member states have a duty to recognize and act to end it.

Sudan has not moved to end the slaughter of its innocent civilians in Darfur. The international community, in particular the League of Arab States, must be united in its call for Sudan to end the genocide, stop the pilaging, stop the rape of women and girls, disarm the janjaweed and prosecute those responsible.

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, I strongly support this resolution calling on the Arab League to acknowledge the genocide in the Darfur region of Sudan and to step up their efforts to end it. The world collectively agreed to "never again" allow genocide after the 1994 mass murders in Rwanda. Tragically, genocide is again taking place.

The security, human rights and humanitarian situation in Darfur has continued to deteriorate since the Darfur Peace Agreement was signed in May 2006. Until a more effective U.N. peacekeeping force can be deployed to Sudan, we must continue to expand our support for the existing African Union forces on the ground in Darfur.

It is also critical the international community begin implementing and expanding the reach of some of the measures that have already been agreed in the Security Council including targeted sanctions, asset freezes and travel bans for Sudanese government leaders.

Unfortunately the concerns of the United States and many of our allies have fallen on deaf ears within the Sudanese government. It is especially difficult to convince a regime as callous and apathetic as Sudan of our determination to see the genocide end when other

nations are not supporting our efforts. I am very concerned China, Russia and Arab League states have thwarted attempts to enact stronger sanctions and more quickly deploy international peacekeepers. There is a genocide occurring in Sudan, and all Nations are duty-bound to end it.

In August of last year the Arab League supported Sudan's refusal of a U.N. peace-keeping force in Darfur, and then passed a resolution calling for more time for the Sudanese government to improve conditions there. Madam Speaker, how much time should we give them? How many lives will be lost in the meantime?

Stronger action to end the genocide must be swift and resolving this crisis must be one of our world's highest priorities. Having the assistance, or at least ending the willful neglect of the genocide by Sudan's Arab League neighbors, would be extremely helpful.

I thank Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, as well as other members who have championed this issue, including FRANK WOLF and TOM LANTOS, for bringing this important resolution to the floor, and urge its passage.

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I rise to support H. Con Res. 7, which strongly urges the League of Arab States to step up their diplomatic efforts to stop the genocide in Darfur. This resolution urges the League of Arab States and each individual Member State to:

(1) Declare the systematic torture, rape, and displacement of the people of Darfur a genocide;

(2) Pass a resolution at their next meeting to support and accept a United Nations-African Union peacekeeping force to enforce the ceasefire, protect civilians, and ensure access to humanitarian assistance in Darfur; and

(3) Work with the United Nations, the African Union and the United States Presidential Special Envoy for Sudan, Andrew Natsios, to bring about real and lasting peace and stability in Darfur, the refugee camps, and along the Chadian border.

On August 20 of last year, the League of Arab States met in Egypt and supported Sudan's refusal to allow a United Nations peace-keeping force in Darfur. The following month, the League of Arab States called for the United Nations Security Council to give the government of Sudan more time to improve security conditions in Darfur. By that time, it had already been estimated that over 450,000 people had died as a result of genocide in Darfur. Since then the death toll has continued to mount.

Last year, I visited the Darfur region with my good friend, Speaker NANCY PELOSI, and I was deeply disturbed by what I saw. As far as the eyes could see, there were crowds of displaced people who had been driven from their homes, living literally on the ground with little tarps just covering them. It is unconscionable that this has been allowed to continue for yet another year.

There can be no doubt that what is taking place in Darfur is genocide, and the government of Sudan is responsible. The League of Arab States should tell the government of Sudan that their time is up. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution, and I urge the League of Arab States to take a firm stand against the crime of genocide in Darfur.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 7, 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. ACKERMAN. Madam 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 question will be postponed.

#### TORTURE VICTIMS RELIEF REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2007

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1678) to amend the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 to authorize appropriations to provide assistance for domestic and foreign programs and centers for the treatment of victims of torture, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1678

*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 "Torture Victims Relief Reauthorization Act of 2007".

##### SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR DOMESTIC TREATMENT CENTERS FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE.

Section 5(b)(1) of the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 2152 note) is amended to read as follows:

"(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for the Department of Health and Human Services for fiscal years 2008 and 2009, there are authorized to be appropriated to carry out subsection (a) \$25,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 and 2009."

##### SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR FOREIGN TREATMENT CENTERS FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE.

Section 4(b)(1) of the Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 2152 note) is amended to read as follows:

"(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years 2008 and 2009 pursuant to chapter 1 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, there are authorized to be appropriated to the President to carry out section 130 of such Act \$12,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 and 2009."

##### SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE UNITED STATES CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY FUND FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE.

Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for fiscal years 2008 and 2009 pursuant to chapter 3 of part I of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, there are authorized to be appropriated to the President for a voluntary contribution to the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture \$12,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2008 and 2009.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ACKERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation, and yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me first thank the distinguished ranking member of the Africa and Global Health Subcommittee, my very good friend, CHRIS SMITH, for his long-standing leadership in the fight against torture. I am very proud to be a co-sponsor of this very important piece of legislation before us today.

The Torture Victims Relief Act of 1998 is a landmark piece of legislation that enshrines the fundamental commitment of this Nation to assist all survivors of torture, wherever and whoever they might be.

The programs supported by the TVRA combat the effects of the most despicable of all human rights violations: The increasing use of torture around the world.

Although exact figures are difficult to ascertain, according to Amnesty International, a well-respected defender of human rights, more than 150 countries worldwide still engage in torture.

An estimated 400,000 to 500,000 foreign torture victims reside in the United States, and over 100 million may exist worldwide. More than 250 treatment centers operate internationally with the sole purpose of providing medical, psychological and social services to torture survivors. These crucial facilities provide a distinctive type of treatment to those victims.

In the U.S., the Center for Victims of Torture, located in Minnesota, was the first of its kind in the United States and the third torture victims treatment center in the world.

The personal ramifications of torture are beyond the comprehension of those who have not gone through it. Torture leaves no victim unscarred. It shapes the remainder of their lives. While physical wounds may ultimately heal, torture survivors need ongoing psychological services and therapy to cope with post-traumatic stress that afflicts them daily. Recovering from torture is a long-term process. It can take years before torture survivors can once again feel emotionally stable and comfortable in society.

The bill before the House today funds our very important fight against torture, both nationally and internationally. For international programs, this legislation authorizes \$12 million per