Mr. Speaker, over the

past 20 years, over 2 million people

have died and over 4 million have been

driven from their homes in Sudan. Not

by famine, flood or pestilence, but at

the hands of people who claim a right

to govern.

Mr. Speaker, people who engage in a

systematic campaign of killing, terror,

starvation, destruction and expulsion

against the people of southern Sudan

are not the fearless leaders we hope to

see in power when times are rough.

Rather, they are the heartless leaders

who make times tough for their own

people.

The government in Khartoum continues

to brutalize the people in the

south. Why? While we cannot know the

darkness within their hearts, we know

the roots of their hatred. We know that

the Khartoum Government, known as

the National Islamic Front, consists of

those who are seeking to impose their

version of Islam on the black Christians

in the south, or destroy them if

they do not get along. This is a religious

crusade that uses genocide to

convert disbelievers. The government

wants to destroy the southern people

because they are of a different race and

religion.

We have one of the greatest humanitarian

crises of our time. Khartoum’s

self-proclaimed jihad against the

south, driven by religious and racial

hatred and a lust for oil, has killed

more people than died in Kosovo, Bosnia,

Rwanda and Somalia combined.

Yesterday, September 18, marked the

first day of the Vigil for Sudan. Thousands

of people will be gathering outside

the State Department at Galvez

Park here in Washington to pray for

the people of Sudan. We in Congress

and all Americans should join with

them. We cannot stand by. Let us finish

our work on the Sudan Peace Act

and be among those leaders who are

fearless and who are not heartless.