Madam

Speaker, I yield myself such time as I

may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in very strong

support of H.R. 3127, the Darfur Peace

and Accountability Act, and I want to

commend the gentleman from Illinois

(Chairman HYDE) of the International

Relations Committee for drafting a bill

that has the best chance of becoming

law and dealing with the genocidal situation

in Sudan. Despite sometimes

difficult and complex efforts needed to

move this legislation, Mr. HYDE has remained

steadfast in moving forward

and that is why I have continued to

support his efforts throughout this

process.

Madam Speaker, no single country in

Africa has been subject to greater partisan

and bipartisan attention and deliberation

by the United States Congress

than the Republic of Sudan. Over

the past 3 years, at least nine major

bills and resolutions regarding Sudan

have been passed by this body, including

an historic declaration that genocide

was occurring in the Darfur region

of western Sudan in September of 2004.

For its own part, the administration

of President Bush has led both humanitarian

and diplomatic efforts to address

the crisis in Darfur. The United

States has provided more than $617

million in assistance to help ease the

suffering of those most affected by the

conflict, and more than $150 million to

support the African Union mission in

Darfur.

I would say parenthetically, last August

Greg Simpkins, our expert on the

subcommittee, and I went to Darfur.

We spent several days in Khartoum and

then made our way up to Mukjar and

Kalma camp. Mukjar is a very remote

camp, where we saw the beneficiaries

of that aid, men and women and children,

who have suffered so much, lost

so many of their loved ones to this

genocide. But it was reassuring and

quite gratifying, to be blunt, to see

American aid providing them with

healthy and nutritious meals as well as

the medicines and at least some of the

security that they so desperately need.

We also knew, especially with

Mukjar, that if you traveled just a kilometer

outside camp, the Janjaweed

and other killers were waiting to continue

their genocidal deeds. It was very

sobering to know the risks and the security

fright that they face each and

every day knowing that they cannot go

past the perimeters of the refugee

camps.

We also met in Khartoum with not

only Salva Kiir, the Vice President,

who is doing an extraordinarily good

job to try to bring peace to the region,

but we also met with President al-

Bashir. He and his junta continue to be

largely responsible for many of the

crimes committed both in Darfur and

earlier in the south of Sudan.

Let me finally point out to my colleagues

that at the direction of the

President, President Bush, the United

States Ambassador to NATO has

pressed for NATO reinforcement of the

African Union mission. We all know

they do not have enough people to do

the job. The mission was designed and

configured in a way that almost

doomed it to failure despite herculean

efforts on their part. We are now pressing

for reinforcement of those AU

troops.

The U.S. Ambassador to the United

Nations, John Bolton, continues to

seek authorization to incorporate the

African Union Mission into a larger,

more robust U.N. peacekeeping mission.

As Mr. LANTOS knows when we

traveled to New York just a week ago

and met with Kofi Annan and others,

that was one of the key topics we

talked about: How do we get this AU

mission blue helmeted so they can

grow the mission, as well as boots on

the ground to try to mitigate this misery.

The United States also continues to

play a significant role in facilitating

peace talks in Abuja, Nigeria, between

the Government of Sudan and the

rebels of Darfur.

Notwithstanding the multiple legislative

initiatives and the best efforts of

this administration and many of our

friends in Europe, and despite the conclusion

of a peace agreement for southern

Sudan, the passage of six U.N. Security

Council resolutions and the deployment

of nearly 7,000 African Union

peacekeepers in Darfur and the conduct

of seven rounds of peace talks, the crisis

in Darfur continues with catastrophic

consequences. This conflict is

real. It is ongoing, it is every day, and

it demands our resolute attention.

Madam Speaker, as many as 400,000

people have died and more than 2 million

people have been forced from their

homes. Entire villages have been

looted and destroyed, and countless

men, women and children have been abducted,

murdered, abused and raped.

Weapons continue to flow into the region

unabated despite the existence of

an arms embargo, and attacks against

civilians, humanitarian convoys, and

African Union peacekeepers increase

almost daily as peace talks in Nigeria

flounder.

Despite 14,000 aid workers that make

up some 82 NGOs, 13 U.N. agencies and

the International Committee for the

Red Cross, a lack of security and reliable

transportation means that food

aid and other humanitarian assistance

is becoming increasingly more difficult

to deliver. While it is clear that something

must be done, it is also clear that

we cannot legislate an end to the

atrocities and no number of forces from

the African Union, NATO, U.N. or even

the U.S. can impose a permanent peace

without the commitment of the Sudanese

themselves to lay down their

arms.

Still, as humanitarians we cannot

stand by idly as the Sudanese government

officials and rebel commanders

jockey for power while tragedy continues

to unfold in Darfur and threatens

to return to the rest of Sudan.

According to a recent International

Crisis Group report, Sudan’s ruling National

Congress Party lacks the will to

implement the North-South peace

agreement and has frustrated the

Darfur peace process by ‘‘facilitating

increased chaos on the ground and promoting

divisions within the rebels.’’

We are all aware of the complexity of

the situation in Sudan and must respond

accordingly to all of its facets

and manifestations. This legislation, I

believe, attempts a comprehensive effort

to deal with the tragedy of that

country. The committee amendment

before you, which is the result of 8

months of bipartisan collaboration,

contains the following measures:

One, while it does not authorize the

use of United States Armed Forces in

Darfur, it confers upon the President

the authority to provide assistance to

reinforce the deployment and operations

of an expanded AU mission with

the mandate, size, strength and capacity

to protect civilians and humanitarian

operations.

Two, it encourages the imposition of

targeted sanctions against the

Janjaweed commanders and coordinators.

Three, it calls for the extension of

the military embargo established pursuant

to U.N. Security Council Resolutions

1556 and 1591 to include the government

of Sudan.

Four, it amends the Comprehensive

Peace in Sudan Act of 2004 to impose

an asset freeze and travel ban against

individual perpetrators of genocide,

war crimes, or crimes against humanity

in Darfur.

Next, it asserts that existing restrictions

imposed against Sudan shall not

be lifted until the President certifies to

the Congress that the government of

Sudan is acting in good faith to:

One, peacefully resolve the crisis in

Darfur;

Two, disarm, demobilize and demilitarize

the Janjaweed;

Three, adhere to U.N. Security Council

resolutions;

Four, negotiate a peaceful resolution

to the crisis in eastern Sudan;

Five, cooperate with efforts to disarm

and deny safe havens to the Lord’s

Resistance Army; and

Six, fully implement the terms of the

Comprehensive Peace Agreement.

The legislation also amends the

International Malaria Control Act to

enable the United States Government

to continue providing assistance to

southern Sudan and other marginalized

areas and lift restrictions on imports

and exports for those same areas.

It also adds a section regarding the

preemption of State laws that prohibit

investment of State pension funds in

Sudan.

Madam Speaker, Sudan is a very sensitive

and emotional issue for Members

of this body. While Sudan may be providing

the United States with valuable

information relevant to the global war

on terror, or so it says, it is still on the

State Sponsors of Terrorism list. It is a

country where the government has unleashed

campaigns of terror and genocide

against its own citizens.

It is a country where slavery still exists.

Back in 1996, I chaired the first

hearing ever on the continuing use of

chattel slavery in Sudan, something

that we thought was abolished in the

1860s.

For many, the National Congress

Party-led faction of the Sudanese government

represents pure evil. Although

we may differ on our views on how best

to confront the regime in Khartoum,

the need to promote peace and accountability

throughout Sudan is not a

partisan issue. Members, such as the

gentleman from New Jersey (Mr.

PAYNE) and the gentleman from Colorado

(Mr. TANCREDO), have been tenacious

on this. Of course the ranking

member, Mr. LANTOS, and all of us have

worked on both sides of the aisle to try

to ensure that this body remains focused

on Sudan in a meaningful and

constructive way. Their leadership has

been inspiring, and I want to thank

them all.

That being said, the bill that lies before

you today is the result of 8 months

of inclusive consultations and intense

negotiations, and represents a truly bipartisan

compromise on the efforts to

address genocide in Darfur while supporting

the consolidation of peace in

southern Sudan.

And while it represents a compromise,

don’t be mistaken. This is a

strong bill. It is an important bill. It is

an urgent bill. The people of Darfur

cannot afford to wait while we continue

discussions on how best to confront

Khartoum. They need our help

now.

I would also like to thank our esteemed

ranking member of the Judiciary

Committee, the chairman and

ranking member, Mr. SENSENBRENNER

and Mr. CONYERS, for acting so quickly

to allow us to get this measure to the

floor without further delay.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of

my time.

Mr.

Speaker, I yield myself such time as I

may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me just say, in closing,

how grateful I am to Members on

both sides of the aisle for working so

steadfastly on this legislation. There

were some glitches, there were some

areas where there was broad agreement

as well as disagreement. We worked

out those differences, and I want to

thank the Members, but also the staff.

Joan Condon has done an incredibly

good job in walking us through this

legislation and writing many parts of

it. Greg Simpkins, our Africa specialist

on the subcommittee, who also worked

on this legislation, as I said earlier, accompanied

me to Darfur last August.

We saw firsthand the devastating impact

of this horrific genocide on men,

women, and children in that beleaguered

land. Pearl-Alice Marsh is always

a great friend of the Africa Subcommittee,

who provides very good insights.

I want to thank her, as well as

Noelle Lusane, DON PAYNE’s lead staffer

who works very well with us, and

Ted Dagne. Together we were able to

work through these differences.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in

support of H.R. 3127, the Darfur Peace and

Accountability Act, legislation aimed at stopping

the ongoing genocide in the Darfur region

of Sudan.

As a longtime cosponsor of this critical legislation,

I’m pleased that this bill has been

brought before us today for a vote. With as

many as 400,000 killed by the orchestrated violence

in Darfur, it’s imperative that the U.S.

act quickly and decisively to put an end to the

crisis.

H.R. 3127 goes after the individuals both inside

and outside the Sudanese government

who are responsible for the ongoing bloodshed

by directing the President to seize the

assets of and refuse future visas to any individual

(or their family members) responsible

for acts of genocide, war crimes, or crimes

against humanity in Sudan. It also forbids any

U.S. port from accepting any goods or cargo

from Sudanese ships should the Sudanese

government continue to fail to take steps to resolve

the crisis. Furthermore, in order to give

military protection for victims on the ground,

H.R. 3127 authorizes the President to provide

assistance for an expanded peacekeeping

force in Sudan; the African Union Mission in

Sudan, AMIS, and directs the President to

seek NATO reinforcement of AMIS, upon the

request of the African Union.

Last month I voted for and the House

passed the Capuano Amendment to the

FY2006 Supplemental Appropriations Bill for

Iraq and Other International Activities, which

added $50 million in funding to expand the African

Union’s peacekeeping operations in

Darfur. This critical funding will help the African

Union forces provide humanitarian relief

and protection until further assistance arrives

from the U.S. and the international community.

For the past three years I have voted for

and cosponsored legislation condemning the

atrocities in Darfur and appropriately labeling

them ‘‘genocide.’’ Both Houses of Congress

have concurred with this assessment, but little

has been effective in stopping the killings and

displacement. We need to do more, and we

need to come up with new methods to target

those perpetuating the violence. The provisions

within the Darfur Peace and Accountability

Act will give us a fresh set of tools to

apply to the situation and deliver assistance to

those who need it. I urge all of my colleagues

to support H.R. 3127.