Mr. Speaker, I

thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend Mr.

LANTOS on his outstanding leadership

on this issue, as well as Chairman

HYDE and Chairman SMITH on this all important

issue. I commend their leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support

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

Act of 2006. I also want to

express my deep concern as well as the

concern of an overwhelming number of

my constituents over the situation in

Sudan.

The ongoing violence and humanitarian

disaster in Sudan has led to as

many as 400,000 villagers killed by militias

and left more than 2 million Sudanese

in refugee camps. This dire situation

has also strained the resources of

countries bordering Sudan.

In the past, I have supported measures

that call on the President to improve

the security in Darfur and increase

funding for peacekeeping forces

and humanitarian assistance. Today, I

am proud to be a cosponsor of H.R.

3127, which directs President Bush to

impose sanctions on the government of

Sudan as well as freeze the assets of

anyone responsible for acts of genocide,

war crimes or crimes against humanity

in Sudan. This measure also calls on

NATO to send a civilian protection

force to assist the African Union mission

in Sudan, which has been expanded.

Mr. Speaker, the plight of the people

in Darfur resonates with all of us, and

we should all be ashamed that the

atrocities that have taken place and

that are taking place right now are

happening in our time. Where is the

world’s outrage? Why have we not

learned from the mistakes of the past,

the Holocaust, Armenia, Cambodia,

Rwanda?

Mr. Speaker, now is the time to act.

It is our duty to end this humanitarian

suffering, and I will remain steadfast in

my commitment to stopping this conflict

and promoting peace in Sudan.