Mr. Speaker, for three years

the Sudanese government and its armed militia

have been engaged in a violent conflict

against two major rebel groups in Sudan. This

struggle has evolved into an ongoing campaign

of government-backed violence and ethnic

cleansing, but the international community

has failed to take sufficient action to put an

end to these atrocities. Congress and the

Bush Administration have recognized the

slaughter in Darfur as genocide, but it is time

to also hold the government in Khartoum accountable

for the horrendous actions against

civilians and provide international assistance

to the victims in Darfur.

To date, more than two million people in

Darfur have been driven from their homes and

hundreds of thousands have been brutally

murdered. Many who have been fortunate

enough to escape the violence in Darfur have

sought sanctuary in the neighboring country of

Chad, but now acts of violence and genocide

are following them over the border. The New

York Times reported on February 28 that

Chadians are now becoming the target of

cross-border attacks by Sudanese militia.

These assaults are sending civilians from

Chad over the border to Sudan, directly into

the heart of the violence and bloodshed.

The African Union Mission in Sudan, AMIS,

is charged with monitoring an ineffective

ceasefire that has been consistently ignored

by both sides of the conflict. But the African

Union does not have the resources, training or

mandate to provide real protection for the people

of Darfur. The African Union needs support

from the international community, and

H.R. 3127 is the first step in this process. This

legislation directs the President to instruct the

U.S. representative to NATO to advocate for

NATO reinforcement of AMIS and to urge the

Security Council to adopt a resolution supporting

the expansion of AMIS.

Today I offer my support for the Darfur

Peace and Accountability Act, and I hope that

Congress, the Bush Administration and the

International Community can work together to

put an end to crisis in Darfur.