Mr. Speaker, I join today

with many of my colleagues in strongly supporting

H.R. 3127, the Darfur Peace and Accountability

Act of 2006. As a co-sponsor of

this measure since July 2005, I am extremely

pleased this measure is finally being considered

by the full House.

I traveled to Sudan in 1989. I did not know

much about the Horn of Africa at the time. But

I knew this: 280,000 people starved to death

the year before and it was not because there

was not enough food. There was a tremendous

outpouring of support from people all

over the world, and I am proud to say that it

came primarily from the United States of

America. But that food did not get through to

the innocent civilian populations because of

this civil war.

I went to Sudan with the late Mickey Leland

and the late Bill Emerson and my colleague

GARY ACKERMAN. I watched in awe as Mickey

Leland negotiated with tyrant Sadiq al-Mahdi

and with the leader of the SPLA John Garang,

and even that unsavory character next door

President Mengistu of Ethiopia to create’’ corridors

for peace.’’ He was successful that

year. And in the following year, deaths due to

starvation dropped dramatically.

But in the time since then, we have focused

our attention elsewhere. We have looked

away from this tragedy, and the situation

today continues to deteriorate.

Over 2 million people have already died

over the past two decades due to war-related

causes and famine in Sudan and millions

more are internally displaced—more than any

other nation on the face of the Earth. And we

continue to look the other way.

As we approach the 91st anniversary of the

Armenian Genocide, we must also recognize

that what has been happening in the Darfur

region of Sudan is also genocide. On July 22,

2004, the House of Representatives declared

that the atrocities occurring in the Darfur region

of Sudan are genocide. This bill, H.R.

3127, also includes this declaration.

We need to get our priorities straight. Let’s

stop this war and end this human suffering.

We can start by passing and implementing the

provisions of this important measure, the

Darfur Peace and Accountability Act.