Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong

support of H.R. 3128, the Darfur Peace and

Accountability Act of 2006.

Three years ago, the United Nations Security

Council declared its grave concern at the

widespread human rights violations in Darfur

and expressed its determination to do everything

possible to halt a humanitarian catastrophe.

Since then, at least 300,000 people

are estimated to have died in Darfur. Currently,

more than 3.5 million Darfurians depend

on international aid for survival and another

2 million have been driven from their

homes.

In 2004, pressure from Congress and American

citizens prompted the Bush administration

to become the first government to recognize

the mass killing in Darfur as a genocide. Since

then, the U.S. has played an important role by

pressing for an international response to the

crisis in Darfur at the U.N. supporting the deployment

and expansion of the African Union

Mission In Sudan (AMIS), and providing critical

humanitarian aid. Unfortunately, the U.S.

and the international community have yet to

muster the will or cooperative action necessary

to adequately protect civilians, end the

killing, and broker lasting peace.

Last week the U.N. Security Council issued

a resolution reaffirming that the situation in the

Sudan continues to constitute a threat to international

peace and security. In Darfur large

scale attacks on villages have been replaced

by rampant banditry, a campaign of sexual violence,

and the practical entrapment of civilians

in camps. Government backed militias

have not been reined in and rebel groups are

contributing to violence on the ground. Civilians

continue to be attacked, women and girls

raped, humanitarian workers harassed, and

critical aid supplies disrupted. For people of

Darfur, the situation remains one of daily violence

and insecurity, desperate living conditions,

and the persistent threat of hunger and

disease.

Sixty years ago, in the wake of the Holocaust,

the international community vowed,

‘‘Never again.’’ Ten years ago, confronted with

the death toll of the Rwandan genocide, leaders

of the same nations again declared,

‘‘Never again.’’ Today, tens of thousands of

women, men, and children have been murdered

and hundreds of thousands continue to

suffer in Darfur. The Darfur Peace and Accountability

Act reminds the administration and

the international community that the genocide

in Darfur demands urgent attention and action,

and calls upon the President to use both economic

and political leverage to elicit cooperation

from the Sudanese government.

Passing the Darfur Peace and Accountability

Act is a small, but important demonstration

of this nation’s commitment to human

rights. I hope that passage of this important

legislation will spur more concerted national

and international efforts to bring security and

stability to the people of Darfur.

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