Mr. Speaker, I rise today in

support and as a co-sponsor of H.R. 3127, the

Darfur Peace and Accountability Act of 2006.

Since February 2003, the Sudanese government—

through its proxy, the Janjaweed Arab

militia—has carried out a campaign to loot and

burn African villages in the Darfur region of

western Sudan. Hundreds of thousands of

people have been killed, and over 2 million

people have been displaced. This systematic

pattern of attacks against civilians includes arbitrary

killings, abductions, looting, torture, and

rape, and such attacks are supported by air

and land strikes by Sudanese government

forces. Congress declared in the summer of

2004 that genocide was occurring in Darfur,

and the administration followed suit in the fall

of 2004.

This bill strengthens the Sudan Peace Act

of 2004 by expanding sanctions, authorizing

funding for humanitarian and peacekeeping efforts,

and by taking additional steps to bring

international attention to this conflict.

First, this bill specifically targets individuals

in the government as opposed to punishing

the coalition government as a whole. It holds

Sudanese government officials and Janjaweed

officers accountable for genocidal acts. The

bill also targets oil revenues of the Sudanese

government by denying access to U.S. ports

to any ships involved in the Sudanese arms or

oil industries. It is important that we force

those responsible for the violence to account

for their actions and that we prevent the Sudanese

government from continuing to profit

while thousands are being killed.

Second, the bill increases humanitarian aid

to southern Sudan and other marginalized

areas, which are currently under the control of

the Sudanese government and thus sanctioned.

With this provision, our aid will more

efficiently reach those in need, even if they

live under the coalition government. In this

way, we can hope to protect those who have

lost their homes and their livelihoods to the violence

of the region.

Third, the bill reinforces the African Union

Mission in Sudan (AMIS) in order to protect civilians

and carry out humanitarian operations.

Currently, the African Union Mission in Sudan

consists of only a few thousand troops, and

AMIS will require a significant number of supplies

and additional troops to effectively carry

out its mission. The United Nations Security

Council should also consider authorizing a

separate, more robust peacekeeping force

under U.N. auspices.

I was pleased that the House appropriated

$500 million last month in emergency assistance

to southern Sudan and Darfur. I urge the

House to adopt this legislation today, which

takes important steps to stop the ongoing

genocide in Darfur.