Mr. Speaker, I want

to begin by thanking Chairman HYDE,

Ranking Member LANTOS, Africa Subcommittee

Chairman SMITH and my

good friend and long time collaborator

on Sudan related legislation and issues,

DONALD PAYNE of New Jersey.

Mr. Speaker, we all know the numbers:

the genocide in Darfur has

claimed 400,000 lives and displaced over

2.5 million people. More than 100 people

continue to die each day; 5,000 die

every month.

Led and supported by their puppet

masters in Khartoum, the Janjaweed

militia have raped, pillaged, killed and

according to this Congress, have committed

acts of genocide against

Darfur’s innocent inhabitants.

Mr. Speaker, despite the efforts of

this Congress and the numerous governmental

and non-governmental organizations

who are active on the ground

in Darfur, the situation continues to

deteriorate: atrocity crimes are continuing

and people are still dying in

large numbers from malnutrition and

disease.

The humanitarian situation remains

catastrophic, due to layers of aid obstruction,

the lack of an overall humanitarian

strategic plan, and the

weakened state of displaced Sudanese.

Refugees and internally displaced civilians

(IDPs), a disproportionate number

of them women, are in terribly weakened

states, subject to sexual abuse

and without adequate shelter. The

numbers of at-risk civilians continue

to increase. And as need far outstrips

the ability of agencies to deliver aid,

localized famine is feared.

To be perfectly frank, I find it reprehensible,

Mr. Speaker; simply reprehensible

that the international community

has failed to act on the promises

made after the Holocaust that

never again would genocide occur on

this planet.

While I stand here today as a Member

of Congress and applaud my colleagues

for their efforts, I also stand here outraged

that the United Nations and

NATO have allowed despicable war

criminals in Khartoum, the same

criminals that once provided safe harbor

to Osama Bin Laden and as of Monday,

have denied a senior U.N. official

from entering Darfur, to dictate the

method by which the international

community may respond to acts of

genocide.

Despite my sadness Mr. Speaker, despite

my outrage, I come to the floor

today slightly uplifted over the fact

that later today this body will vote on

and hopefully pass H.R. 3127, the Darfur

Peace and Accountability Act.

As I have stated repeatedly during

the various markups of this legislation,

the final version of this bill is certainly

not what I had hoped for; despite the

best efforts of my staff and others,

there is no authorization of force language;

the sanctions could have been

stronger; there was no mention of a no

fly zone; the list goes on.

Despite these shortcomings, Chairman

HYDE’s legislation provides the

President with the necessary authorization

authority to help alleviate the

suffering of the people of Darfur;

It denies entry to U.S. ports to certain

cargo ships if the Government of

Sudan fails to take specified peace

measures in Darfur; prohibits, with

waiver authority, U.S. assistance to a

country that violates U.N. Security

Council Resolutions that prohibit military

sales to Sudan; and while the bill

provides the President with the authority

to direct our Ambassadors to NATO

and the U.N. to take various action to

stop the genocide in Darfur; and while

those Ambassadors have acted accordingly;

as I mentioned earlier, both of

those organizations have been sluggish

and as of now ineffective in taking

proactive action to prevent further

atrocities.

Mr. Speaker, no matter how stringent

this piece of legislation could

have been, it would not have ended the

killing, the rape and the pillaging that

continues to occur in Darfur.

While the President has taken some

action to alleviate the suffering of innocent

Darfurians, some is simply not

enough when a genocide is occurring on

our watch.

As I conclude, it is my hope that this

piece of legislation sends a signal to

Khartoum that this Congress will not

stand by idly while the innocent are

slaughtered; in addition, I hope the

President will increase his pressure on

the international community to take

decisive action to end the genocide and

bring those responsible to justice.