Mr.

Speaker, since February 2003, it is estimated

that the government-sanctioned violence in

Darfur has displaced 2 million people, forced

200,000 people into exile and led to the murder

of 300,000 civilians. In July 2004, the

United States Congress declared the atrocities

in Darfur genocide.

Mr. Speaker, I have a deep and personal

understanding of the horrors of genocide. My

mother, Renee Perl, was forced to flee Austria—

alone—at the age of 14 to escape the

Holocaust, leaving behind her family and

friends.

As my mother fled the Nazis, the world

stood by as Hitler sent Jews to their deaths at

Auschwitz, Dachau and Treblinka. Six million

deaths later, the world pledged ‘‘Never Again’’.

Yet, only years after the Nazi-era, millions

were sent to their deaths in places such as

Cambodia, Bosnia and Rwanda, and the world

once again took too long to act. And today,

millions of innocent Darfurian men, women

and children are being persecuted by the Sudanese

government and government-backed

militias. To date, however, the perpetrators of

these atrocities have faced little to no punishment

for their actions and the genocide continues.

The 20th century taught us how far unbridled

evil can and will go when the world fails

to confront it. It is time that we heed the lessons

of the 20th century and stand up to

these murderers. It is time that we end genocide

in the 21st century.

The bill we are considering today is an important

step in this direction. By imposing direct

penalties on those responsible for crimes

in Darfur, we are sending a strong message to

the Sudanese government. But, more must be

done.

The serious crimes by the Sudanese government

and the government-supported militias

must be met with serious consequences.

We must work for tough international economic

sanctions on the Sudanese government.

We must continue to support efforts to

bring those responsible for crimes against humanity

before the International Criminal Court.

And, most importantly, we must continue

pressing for a strong, international military engagement

with a robust mandate to protect civilians

in Darfur.

All across America, millions of Americans

are demanding that we take action. I urge my

colleagues to support this bill and I urge the

administration to do all it can to end this genocide.