Mr. Speaker, I rise in support

of H.R. 3127, the Darfur Peace and Accountability

Act. Passage of this bill, which is long

overdue, will help fulfill the U.S.’s role in ending

the genocide in Sudan.

More than a year and a half ago, Congress

voted unanimously to condemn the genocide

in Darfur. Then-Secretary of State Colin Powell

declared the atrocities in Darfur to be genocide,

a statement that was hailed as significant

and meaningful coming from the highest echelons

of the U.S. government. Despite these

clear pronouncements, however, more people

die every day and the slow genocide in Darfur

persists unabated.

It is beyond imagination that the collective

might and concerted will of the nations of the

world cannot find a way to end this daily toll

of human misery. I hope and pray that Sudan

will allow the proposed UN peacekeeping mission

to move forward so that we can end this

devastation. While we wait, however, we must

find ways to make the African Union Mission

in Sudan (AMIS) stronger, and to bolster these

efforts with a NATO support.

We must also send the message to those

who perpetrate genocide that there will be

consequences. The Darfur Peace and Accountability

Act would impose harsh sanctions

against those who are complicit in or responsible

for acts of genocide, freezing their assets

and restricting their ability to travel, and would

block the Government of Sudan’s access to

the oil revenues used to fund the ongoing

genocide.

The bill also properly recognizes that ending

the genocide in Darfur is not a challenge to be

solved by the United States alone. It provides

clear support for efforts to establish a U.N.

peacekeeping presence in Darfur and other

multilateral initiatives to pressure the Sudanese

government to end the genocide.

My colleagues, ‘‘Never Again’’ is a phrase

we have all heard before. We have all said it

before. It is one of the most powerful expressions

of the natural human inclination to stop

suffering, to end the death and destruction

that stems from senseless hatred and indifference

to human life.

Never Again will we let 6,000,000 Jews perish

under the noses of the civilized world.

Never Again will we let Rwandans be rounded

up and indiscriminately killed because of their

tribal affiliation. Never Again will we allow ethnic

cleansing in the Balkans.

The problem with the phrase ‘‘Never Again,’’

however, is that it is usually uttered after the

violence is over, as a rallying cry against history

repeating itself. We have seen, time and

time again, that history does repeat itself, and

it is simply not enough to say that we will prevent

it next time. We must end the genocide

in Darfur now.

The Darfur genocide is not a Sudanese

problem or an African problem. It is a human

tragedy, and it is ours to solve. If we are serious

about ‘‘Never Again,’’ let passage of the

Darfur Peace and Accountability Act today be

just one step along this long and arduous

road.