Mr. Speaker, I

ask unanimous consent to claim the

time of Mr. DEFAZIO.

Mr. Speaker,

first of all, I want to commend Mr.

PAYNE of New Jersey and all of those

who have demonstrated tremendous

leadership on this issue.

I have been told time and time again

that the only way that evil can triumph

is when good people do nothing,

and I believe it was Dante who suggested

that the hottest places in hell

are reserved for those who declare neutrality

and do nothing in times of great

crisis.

We have all heard of the atrocities

that are continuously being heaped

upon the people in the Sudan. It is now

time for us to act, and to act convincingly.

We have to ask ourselves the

question, if not us, then who? If not

now, then when?

I am here tonight to help sound the

alarm once again on genocide in the

Sudan. There is no room for neutrality

in the face of the crimes being committed

there each day. Amnesty International

has renewed its charge that

the international community is not

doing enough to protect women in the

Darfur region and the refugee camps in

Chad where mass rape is being used as

a weapon.

Since 1983, more than 2 million black

civilians have died during the civil war

in the south Sudan. That struggle was

especially brutal for the civilian population.

Slave raids resulted in the enslavement

of women and children, gang

rape, ethnic cleansing and the imposition

of famine conditions for hundreds

of thousands of people.

On October 21, 2002, the President

signed the Sudan Peace Act, which

stated in part that the acts of the Government

of Sudan constitute genocide

as defined by the United Nations Convention

on the Prevention and Punishment

of the Crime of Genocide. That

bill requires President Bush to certify

every 6 months that the government in

Khartoum is negotiating in good faith

for an end to the civil war. According

to some sources, we may be close to a

framework for peace in that region.

Mr. Speaker, only a short time ago

we paused here to mark the 10th anniversary

of the genocide in Rwanda,

where more than 800,000 people died

while the world watched and did nothing.

Once again, genocide has unfolded

before us, and those who have taken

note have expressed their horror at

what we have seen. But where is the

public outcry? Where are the front

page pictures? Where is the response of

our government on behalf of the American

people? I can tell you there has

been some, but there has not been

nearly enough.

So I join with my colleagues here

this evening to call for the unequivocal,

absolute declaration that genocide

in the Sudan must end, and that it

must end now. Not next year, not next

month, but tonight.