Mr. President, I rise

today to call attention to the devastating

conflict in the Darfur region

of Western Sudan. Over the past 14

months more than 1 million people

have been displaced by the scorched

earth campaign waged by the Sudanese

armed forces and ‘janjaweed’ militia.

The number of refugees grows daily.

The situation is hardly improving, despite

recent attention.

I am pleased that earlier this month

the Senate was able to agree to S. Con.

Res. 99, which condemns the Government

of the Republic of Sudan for its

participation and complicity in the attacks

against innocent civilians in the

Darfur region. But I must caution my

colleagues that we cannot consider this

matter over and dealt with. We must

keep abreast of ongoing developments

in Darfur and continue to look for

ways to bring an end to the conflict.

With that goal in mind, I would like

to draw to the attention of my colleagues

an enlightening article by Laurie

Garrett, published in the May 10

edition of the Los Angeles Times. The

op-ed focuses on possible consequences

of the Darfur conflict which have largely

been overlooked. Ms. Garrett explains

that along with the horrid campaign

of rape and murder perpetrated

by the militia, those rapists and murderers

are likely spreading disease

among their victims and themselves.

When Ms. Garrett speaks of disease,

she does not mean the common cold.

She is talking about the most vicious

and deadly infections known to man.

Darfur is located in a region of Africa

believed to be the origin of diseases

like HIV, ebola, and West Nile virus, to

name only a few. The reason we know

the names of these diseases is not because

they stayed confined to remote

villages and tribes of Africa. These are

diseases which grew rampant and

spread across deserts and oceans to

reach the farthest outposts of our Nation

and the rest of the world.

While some may have difficulty

imagining the horrors of a conflict far

away in a remote part of Sudan, it is

much easier to imagine consequences

on our home soil. The possibility is

very real that the rape campaign in

Darfur could take a disease, previously

confined to a single remote village, and

spread it throughout the militia, their

victims, and the rest of the world. This

is a possibility which should not be ignored.

Along with many of my colleagues, I

have worked very hard to combat the

global epidemic of AIDS and will continue

to do so until we have conquered

that horrible disease. Laurie Garrett’s

warning is that our AIDS effort is not

enough. We must do everything we can

to prevent another AIDS or another

West Nile from ravaging people around

the world. Bringing a swift end to the

conflict in Sudan will reduce the

chance of a new and devastating infection

being introduced into the international

population.

I praise Ms. Garrett for bringing attention

to the role of disease in the

Darfur conflict and I hope that her article

serves as yet another reminder

that we must continue to push for

peace in Sudan.

I ask unanimous consent that Laurie

Garrett’s op-ed in the May 10 edition of

the Los Angeles Times be printed in

the RECORD.

There being no objectin, the material

was ordered to be printed in the

RECORD, as follows: