Mr. Speaker, once

again, the world is standing by, silent

and passive, while the Government of

Sudan wages war on its own people.

We have been here before when hundreds

of thousands of people perished in

Darfur before the international community

finally woke up and took action

to try to protect innocent civilians

from their own government’s brutality.

The humanitarian crisis continues

in Darfur. There is no peace, and

villagers, refugees, and humanitarian

personnel still live and work under the

constant peril of attack. President

Bashir has expelled many humanitarian

workers from Darfur—and even

today, threatens to shut down their

lifesaving operations.

Last May, we witnessed the ruthless

ethnic cleansing of Abyei by the Sudanese

people. More than 100,000 people of

the Dinka indigenous population were

forcibly displaced. They fled to South

Sudan, seeking safe haven, where they

remain today in very, very poor conditions.

When Sudanese President Bashir

saw that the world was indifferent to

this brutal assault, he began military

operations in June against insurgents

in South Kordofan and, more generally,

against the Nuba people.

And still the world stood silent.

So, in September, Khartoum

launched attacks on another border region.

This time, the state of Blue Nile

was under siege with attacks by the

Sudanese Army and the bombings of civilians.

Thousands fled to the neighboring

countries of Ethiopia and South

Sudan for safety, joining the desperate

refugees from South Kordofan.

So Sudan has undertaken a bloodbath

against its own people in the

states of South Kordofan and Blue

Nile—house-to-house arrests and

killings, rape, the merciless bombings

of civilians.

For nearly 8 months, Khartoum has

blocked all humanitarian aid to South

Kordofan and Blue Nile. It has not only

continued to bomb in those states, but

it has crossed the border and has

bombed refugee camps and towns inside

South Sudan, where tens of thousands

had hoped to find food and shelter.

Here are some photos of some people

in refugee camps in South Sudan:

Saleh Kora is from the Angolo tribe

in South Kordofan. The government

dropped bombs on her fields when she

was trying to plant. Then the government

dropped six bombs on her village.

This poor woman here grabbed her children

and hid in a nearby ditch. After

the bombings stopped, Sudanese soldiers

moved into the village and burned

several homes. When they began shooting

people, Saleh ran and hid with her

children. The soldiers didn’t care if you

were an unarmed civilian, a woman or

a child. She fled with her children

across the border in January to the

Yida refugee camp in South Sudan.

This woman over here to my far right

and her little girl are from the Nuba

Mountains. She is married to a man

who fled the nightmare of Darfur in

2005. Both were suffering from malnutrition

when they arrived at the refugee

camps.

The people of South Kordofan and

Blue Nile are being subjected to bombings,

murder, rape, scorched earth, and

starvation. This should come as no surprise

when Ahmed Haroun, the Sudanese

official wanted by the International

Criminal Court for crimes

against humanity in Darfur, is now the

governor of South Kordofan.

Mr. Speaker, we are fast approaching

the month of March, the point at which

the Famine Early Warning Systems

Network, or FEWS NET, has predicted

that South Kordofan and Blue Nile will

reach emergency levels of food insecurity.

This is just one level short of allout

famine. Yet Khartoum still denies

food and medical relief to the suffering

people of these regions.

Last week, the United Nations Security

Council called on the Sudanese

Government and the armed rebels to

allow unhindered access for humanitarian

aid and for both sides to return

to talks and to cease hostilities.

President Bashir said ‘‘no.’’ The

United States and the international

community, including China, Russia,

and others, must increase the pressure

on Sudan to allow the delivery of aid to

the suffering people of South Kordofan

and the Blue Nile, and to reach agreement

on a cease-fire. The safety and security

of the Sudanese people, whether

in Darfur, Abyei, South Kordofan, Blue

Nile, or elsewhere, must be our first

priority.

Mr. Speaker, we have been silent for

too long.