Mr. Speaker, I ask

unanimous consent to speak out of

order.

Mr. Speaker, millions

of Americans and millions of people

around the world are outraged at

the genocide taking place in Darfur.

Hundreds of thousands of people in

Darfur have been murdered by the Sudanese

military and government-supported

militias.

Millions have been forced from their

homes, their villages destroyed. Men,

women and children left homeless have

died from hunger and disease as they

are forced to wander, hoping to find

someplace that will keep them safe.

Women and girls, many of them children,

have been raped. International

workers providing humanitarian relief

have been abused, and some have even

been murdered. The world calls it genocide,

the United States of America

calls it genocide, and still it is allowed

to continue.

Mr. Speaker, we are once again at

yet another critical crossroads in how

we deal with ending the genocide in

Darfur.

On Tuesday, in his speech before the

General Assembly of the United Nations,

President Bush appointed Andrew

Natsios as his Special Envoy for

Sudan, providing the U.S. once more

with a high-ranking official charged

solely to focus on the crisis in Darfur.

President Bush also called on the

U.N. to act on Security Council Resolution

1706, authorizing a U.N. peacekeeping

force in Darfur. Yesterday the

African Union Peace and Security

Council voted to extend the mandate of

the AU peacekeeping force into Darfur,

which had been set to expire at the end

of next week.

I wish I could celebrate, Mr. Speaker,

but we can’t. The situation in Darfur

grows more desperate every day. Fighting

has intensified. The Sudanese Government

has renewed aerial bombing.

Many humanitarian aid groups have

had to pull out, leaving hundreds of

thousands of people without food and

water.

Appointing a U.N. envoy is an important

step, but only the deployment of a

U.N. peacekeeping force will bring

some measure of security to the suffering

people of Sudan. We cannot afford

to let the AU peacekeeping force

to remain underfunded, underequipped

and undertrained. But the AU forces

only have 7,000 boots in the ground, and

the region of Darfur is about the size of

France. We need a U.N. force with a

strong, clear mandate to protect the

defenseless people of Darfur on the

ground as soon as possible.

Security Council Resolution 1706 does

not say that we have to wait for

Khartoum’s permission to deploy it.

We need an enforced no-fly zone over

Darfur, most likely coordinated by

NATO, so we can put a stop to

Khartoum’s aerial bombing and its air

support of Janjaweed militia attacks

against villages and refugee camps. We

need the United States Senate to support

the House-passed Darfur Peace

and Accountability Act so that we can

get that critical litigation to the President’s

desk as quickly as possible.

We need universities and State and

local governments to divest their public

funds from company stocks that do

business with the Sudanese Government.

The Senate should not strip this

provision from the Darfur Peace and

Accountability Act, and I encourage all

of my colleagues in the House to cosponsor

the bill in support of divestment

that Congressman BARBARA LEE

of California introduced today.

Mr. Speaker, the House has acted and

spoken in a unified bipartisan voice to

end the violence and genocide in

Darfur.

I would like to thank my House colleagues

Representatives DONALD

PAYNE, FRANK WOLF, MIKE CAPUANO,

and TOM TANCREDO and so many others

who have been leaders in calling attention

to and taking action on the crisis

in Darfur.

But most of all I want to thank the

American people, who, in their churches,

synagogues, temples and mosques,

on college campuses and the local community

centers, have organized and

mobilized to make sure that the President

and this Congress get the message

that we have not done enough so long

as the killing continues.

Mr. Speaker, we must do more. We

must end the genocide. We must protect

the people of Darfur, and we must

do it today.