Mr. Speaker,

I would like 5 minutes to address

the body.

Mr. Speaker,

I, like other Members of this body,

am very reluctant to use inflammatory

rhetoric, and it is very, very inflammatory

to label what is going on in

Darfur as genocide. It is inflammatory,

it is accusatory, it indicts the government.

And, moreover, Mr. Speaker it

pricks our humanity, because if we

were to not deny that it were genocide,

there is no way that we could just sit

back and do nothing. If we deny that it

is genocide, it is just easy to walk

away and say that what is going on

there is somebody else’s business.

Well, the international legal definition

of the crime of genocide is found

in Article 2 of the Convention on the

Prevention and Punishment of Genocide.

It describes the two elements that

constitutes genocide as, one, a mental

element attempting to destroy in

whole or in part a national, ethnic, racial,

or religious group; and, two, a

physical element, which includes five

types of violence, Mr. Speaker: killing

of members of the group, causing serious

bodily or mental harm to members

of the group, deliberately inflicting on

the group conditions of life calculated

to bring about the physical destruction

in whole or in part; imposing measures

intended to prevent births within the

group; and forcibly transferring children

of the group to another group.

Now, if you look at what is happening

in Darfur, if you pull off the

blinders, you will find that more than

400,000 people have been killed by the

government forces and militias from

2003 to the present time, and the killing

continues.

Bodily and mental harm certainly

has occurred as young women and girls

are raped by soldiers and militias. Such

physical and mental harm will continue

to affect these women and families

for generations to come.

Hundreds of thousands of lives have

been lost to the deliberate destruction

of homes, crops, water resources; physical

displacement of over 2 million people,

resulting in conditions of famine,

disease, epidemics in both inaccessible

areas and in camps for displaced people;

the killing of pregnant women; the

use of rape as a weapon of genocide, as

many perpetrators have been arrogant

enough to state that their intent is to

change the ethnic identity of the child

conceived by rape.

2004, July, this House and the Senate

declared that the atrocities in Darfur

constitute genocide. 2004, September,

then-Secretary of State Colin Powell

announced that the killing, raping, and

other atrocities occurring in Darfur

was genocide. But 2 years and much

empty talk later, the violence continues,

Mr. Speaker.

The U.N. and humanitarian organizations

continue to report a continuing

deteriorating situation. Twenty-six

thousand Sudan Armed Forces are

headed to the Darfur region for a major

offensive against people. Humanitarian

groups have remained concerned that

their ability to continue to provide aid

to over 2 million displaced victims are

insecure as the violence continues.

The time for debating this genocide

or declaring it genocide is over. It is

time to do something now.

There are only two options, Mr.

Speaker, as I leave to go back to my

seat. One would be to extend the African

Union peacekeeping force mandate;

or, two, to send in the U.N. peacekeepers

in Sudan, even though the Sudanese

Government refuses to accept

them.

Of course, Mr. Speaker, there is one

other option: To continue to do nothing.

For evil to triumph, it is only necessary

that good men do nothing.