Madam

Speaker, this week marks a critical

time for the people of Darfur and for

this administration’s role in ending the

3-year genocide in Sudan. Hundreds of

thousands of innocent civilians have

been murdered by the governmentbacked

Janjaweed, and the African

Union’s peacekeeping mission mandate

is set to expire within a couple of

weeks.

It has been 2 years since the President

declared that genocide was taking

place in Darfur, but we are still allowing

the Government of Sudan to act

with impunity and commit crimes

against humanity.

Today President Bush addressed the

crisis in Darfur before the United Nations

and appointed Andrew Natsios as

the U.S.’ Special Envoy to Sudan. This

is a step in the right direction, but it is

not enough. The United States must

push to keep an international peacekeeping

force in Darfur, and this force

must be stronger and more robust, with

the authority to use force to protect

the innocent civilians who are trapped

in this nightmare. This has to happen

as quickly as possible.

Would we be this complacent if the

genocide was not in Africa? Would the

administration act any differently if

claims of ethnic cleansing were in Europe

or the Middle East? What in the

world does it take for us to stand tall

against the evil of genocide wherever it

is taking place?

We have to act before September 30.

We have to require that President el-

Bashir stop the indiscriminate killing

and slaughter of the helpless and the

weak in his country.