Mr. Speaker, I want

to thank the gentleman for yielding to

me, and I want to thank the gentleman

for his constant vigilance. I have often

said that the gentleman from New Jersey

is one who understands the dreams

of so many around the world and he

makes their dreams his dreams, and we

know that he represents his district extremely

well in New Jersey; but we

also know that he spends a significant

amount of time trying to address problems

all over the world, sometimes

taking up the time that he would normally

spend with his family and vacation

time, going to Africa, trying to resolve

differences between various peoples,

trying to make sure that children

and others are fed, trying to make sure

that peace is brought to that land.

So we take a moment, I take my moment

here, to salute him and to thank

him for his leadership. I think that

when history is written and the history

of Africa is written, it would have to

have the gentleman from New Jersey’s

(Mr. PAYNE) name written there in a

lot of places because he certainly has

touched so many people and so many

people who will probably never say

thank you, so many people who will

not even know that he has touched

their lives. But as I have said about

him so often, sometimes we are

unapplauded, unappreciated, unseen,

and unnoticed. And I just want him to

know on behalf of all those that he has

touched that I take this moment to salute

him.

Mr. Speaker, I want to rise this

evening with my fellow members on

the Congressional Black Caucus to

shed a light on the horrific humanitarian

crisis that the gentleman from

New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) has been talking

about which is taking place in

Sudan.

Mr. Speaker, although most people

are probably unable to locate this

country on the map, everyone should

care about the ethnic cleansing that

has dislocated over 1 million Sudanese,

killed thousands of Africans, and is literally

starving men, women, and children

to death. Essentially, the Arab

Muslim government in Sudan is

condoning and even promoting the

murder and displacement of the native

Black African Sudanese. As I speak,

the Sudanese Government is supporting

armed militias that are raiding

villages, raping women, and literally

killing everyone in sight. The basis of

the blood shed in Darfur, a region of

Sudan, is one that has been repeated

time and time again throughout history.

Clearly, at the root of this ethnic

cleansing lies the stubborn existence of

intolerance and prejudice. When will

we, as a global community, learn that

we promote bigotry at our own peril?

Mr. Speaker, the conflict in Sudan is

further complicated by the fact that

those who survive the attacks of these

militiamen are fleeing over the border

into the country of Chad. Women, children,

and fathers are being forced to

leave their homes and to move to refugee

camps where there are no doctors,

no permanent shelter, and no food.

It is a travesty of humanity, Mr.

Speaker, that children in these camps

are dying of preventable diseases or,

worse yet, diseases like diarrhea and

malnutrition that can easily be cured

with a little food and a little water.

Mr. Speaker, it is important for the

American people to understand that

what is taking place in this often-neglected

corner of the world is moving

closer and closer towards being described

as a genocide.

It is quite ironic that this year

marked the 10th anniversary of the

tragic genocide that took place in

Rwanda. The world stood idly by as the

Rwandan Tutsis and Hutus massacred

one another openly in the streets. The

world stood idle as the Germans attempted

to exterminate the Jews in

the Holocaust. And the world stood idle

as Europeans enslaved Africans and

ravaged their society. In hindsight, we

look at these atrocities and wonder

how would silence prevail in the presence

of human suffering.

Mr. Speaker, I beg the world community

to please let this not be one of

those situations that we reflect upon

years from now and say we should have

done more, we could have done more.

Let us all work together to stop the

suffering now. If not, we will be raising

a world of children who will grow insensitive

and immune to human tragedy.

They will view murder as an everyday

occurrence and joyously welcome

death as an end to suffering.

Mr. Speaker, just last week the Congressional

Black Caucus had a very

substantive and productive meeting

with Secretary of State Colin Powell.

During our meeting, the gentleman

from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) asked the

Secretary about the United States’s efforts

to end the crisis in Darfur. Secretary

Powell assured the entire caucus

that the State Department was

working to bring peace to the region

and was actively engaged in resolving

the crisis. But, Mr. Speaker, so long as

people continue to die and children

lack the hydration in their bodies to

shed tears, whatever we are doing is

simply not enough; and we must work

faster.

It is incumbent upon the United

States as a global leader to lead a massive

humanitarian intervention similar

to the intervention in Congo in 1994

and Somalia in 1992.

And for those watching in the world

community, I call on the Government

of Sudan to immediately stop the

bloodshed, stop supporting the

janjaweed militias, and enforce the

cease-fire in Darfur that was reached

last month.

Mr. Speaker, all too often it is easy

for us to distance ourselves from the

plight of people thousands of miles

away. But just as the pictures of the

abused Iraqi prisoners struck a chord

of disgust and anguish in all of us, we

should all be outraged and horrified by

what is taking place in Darfur.

Just picture, Mr. Speaker, thousands

of Sudanese fleeing to Chad, a country

with only 271 doctors to serve 9 million

people. Imagine the grief and sorrow

they must feel daily at the memory of

their children, grandmothers, and husbands

that were killed by the

janjaweed militias or left behind in villages

that they will never see again.

Mr. Speaker, if you could, feel their

hunger pain and hear the cries of the

parents who look for food for their

children in vain. Although we may not

have seen physical pictures of what is

taking place in Darfur, as humans we

should be able to relate to the pain of

the Sudanese refugees nonetheless. Let

us all work together to transfer our

empathy into action and end this crisis

now. Our humanity depends on it.

As I close, I would also like to encourage

our newspaper editors, television

producers, and friends in the

media to shine a bright light on this

horrific situation.

Put it on your front pages. Lead with

it on your news shows. Talk about it on

your talk radio shows. We need everybody

to join in this effort.