I thank the

gentleman from Colorado for yielding

me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I stand tonight with

these distinguished Members in support

of House Concurrent Resolution

467, declaring genocide in Darfur,

Sudan. To date an estimated 30,000 civilians

have been murdered, more than

130,000 have been forced from their

homes and have fled to neighboring

Chad, and more than 1 million people

have been internally displaced. If the

international community fails to act,

what awaits these people is a terrible

season of prolonged suffering and painful

death. Even now, mothers who have

traveled miles fleeing their husbands’

murderers are watching their children

starve. They are helpless to end the violence.

We are not. We must act. We

cannot wait until thousands more have

died.

Mr. Speaker, the good news is that

we can prevent the loss of life. There is

a way that our actions can matter. We

have seen the faces of women holding

their emaciated babies to their chest

with tears streaming down their faces,

and we have seen the photos of burned out

villages. What is reflected in the

eyes of these women is at once utter

relief at having found the camp and unimaginable

grief in the tragic and

needless losses they have endured.

Some of them bear the physical scars

of beatings and branding, but many

more of them bear the emotional scars

of brutal rape by the evil Janjaweed

militias.

Mr. Speaker, even in the camps, the

people are not safe from harm. The

people in this crisis make an impossible

decision every day. They have to

decide whether to send the old men and

boys for firewood fearing that they will

be killed, or whether to send the

women and girls for firewood fearing

that they will be raped. Mr. Speaker,

this horrifying choice is unacceptable.

America and the world must demand

that humanitarian aid workers have

access to these suffering souls in order

to bring them the food that they need,

and further that credible peacekeepers

enter Sudan in order to provide the

critical and desperately needed security

so that their lives, their future is

not further marred by the horrible

choices they were forced to make in

order to survive.

Mr. Speaker, the people of Darfur

should have a future. We must pass

House Concurrent Resolution 467. Anything

less would be a disgraceful failure

before the eyes of God and humanity.