Mr. Speaker, I rise today

because, as we speak, genocide is occurring

in Darfur in the western

Sudan.

And let me just thank our ranking

member, the gentleman from California

(Mr. LANTOS), for his sense of

outrage and morality on this issue, as

well as the gentleman from Colorado

(Mr. TANCREDO) for his consistent work

to expose the atrocities as genocide.

Also, let me just recognize and thank

the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr.

PAYNE) for his efforts as our ranking

member of the Subcommittee on Africa

for always keeping African issues at

the front of our congressional legislative

agenda. For so many years he has

been sounding the alarm, and finally

tonight we are here. So I just want to

thank him for his constant sounding of

the alarm for this and for the people of

the Sudan.

The murders, the rape, and the

scorched-earth campaign in Darfur is

genocide. We call it what it is by supporting

this resolution.

As a member of the Subcommittee on

Africa, there has been no evidence presented

to indicate that this is not

genocide. It is. It has been 10 years, Mr.

Speaker, and the international community,

particularly the United States,

must learn from the Rwandan tragedy.

Like Rwanda, the warning signs in

Darfur were obvious. But we did nothing,

and now the international community

is watching once again as millions

of Black Africans are wiped out of

western Sudan.

The Bush administration has raised

concerns and the United Nations has

denounced the ‘‘ethnic cleansing’’ executed

by militias supported by the

Khartoum government, but this is beyond

ethnic cleansing. This is systematic

and calculated genocide. Hundreds

of thousands are fleeing Darfur, fearing

that they will become yet another statistic

in a malicious plan to rape, torture,

and ultimately wipe out all

Blacks in the southwest region of

Sudan.

As in other conflicts designed deliberately

to humiliate and eliminate people

because of their identity, we have

seen women and girls targeted for rape

in Darfur. How can we allow this travesty

to continue and not be outraged?

The inaction of this administration I

think is unconscionable, especially

when we consider that one word, one

word, ‘‘genocide,’’ can make the difference

between humanitarian assistance

and international justice for

Darfurians.

Let us pass this resolution.

Why would the Bush Administration argue

over the definition of genocide, while murderers,

rapists, the janjaweed, and the Khartoum

government have the blood of the Darfur

people on their hands?

The government of Sudan is not our partner

in peace.

Our sense of morality requires us to do everything

possible to stop this carnage. This bipartisan

resolution will help save hundreds of

thousands of lives.