Mr.

Speaker, I too want to add my recognition,

more than appreciation, but my

recognition for the gentleman from Illinois

(Chairman HYDE) and the ranking

member, the gentleman from California

(Mr. LANTOS), who never turn

their back on the issues of human

rights. The gentleman from New Jersey

(Mr. PAYNE), who was right continuously

as he, I would like to say,

plugged ahead on being persistent in

dealing with this question of Sudan

and the direction that we should take

in this Congress. The gentleman from

Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) and the gentleman

from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER)

and, of course, the gentleman

from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), who has

had a series of meetings that we have

been participating in over a number of

weeks.

Let me suggest to you that this

should be a night of action. The vote

on this resolution is in fact a statement

that is long overdue. I might

refer you to the language of this resolution

and its first resolve, and that is

that we declare that the atrocities unfolding

in Darfur, Sudan, are genocide.

Let me cite to you Amnesty International,

which indicates the horror

that is happening in West Darfur: ‘‘I

was sleeping when the attack started. I

was taken away by the attackers. They

were all in uniforms. They took dozens

of other girls. They made us walk for 3

hours. During the day, we were beaten

and they were telling us, you the black

woman, we will exterminate you. You

will have no God. All night we were

raped several times.’’

I do not want to bring back the horrors

of life that we led as slaves in this

country. I simply want to say many of

us have had these experiences, and

when I say that, historically.

It is important for this Nation now to

stand up, and I would appreciate as

this resolution is passed and passed in

the Senate, that our government now

will stand and join us and say that

genocide is occurring in Sudan.

Yes, the government did offer a 10-

point manifesto. I received it. They

said they were willing to deal with the

Janjaweed. They were willing to disarm

them. They were willing to give

humanitarian aid.

Well, let me tell my colleagues, I

took that piece of paper, but they did

nothing. There are human rights violations

going on, there are rapes, there

are abductions, there are destruction of

villages and property.

I would simply say this resolution

lays out the road map. We declare tonight

that genocide is occurring in

Sudan, and I would ask the President

of the United States to so declare so

that we can move forward and protect

lives. Let not another Rwanda occur.

We are in fact our brothers’ and sisters’

keepers.

Mr. Speaker. I rise in support of this

resolution. I commend my colleague

Mr. PAYNE for his foresight and courage

to put forward his bold resolution,

when many in the Congress were hesitant.

I also commend the Chairman

and Ranking Member, Congressmen

HYDE and LANTOS for their leadership,

in recognizing the crisis unfolding in

Sudan and moving rapidly to bring this

resolution to the floor before the recess.

As it moved so efficiently toward the

Floor of the House, I know compromises

were made on specific phrases

and statements. Although I do not

agree with every line, I firmly support

the resolution. It is time that this Congress

sends a strong message to Sudan

and the world, that the United States

is ready to move boldly to stop the

death and destruction in Darfur.

It truly is time for an aggressive

American and international response

to the crisis in Darfur, Sudan. For the

past year and a half, ethnic-African

communities have been under strategic

attack by the Arab-based Government

of Sudan based in Khartoum and the

Janjaweed militias. The most recent

campaign, fueled by vicious ethnic rivalries

and the Janjaweed’s desire for

territorial expansion, is having devastating

results. 30,000 people have already

been killed by systematic raids

and deadly famine, and up to 1 million

more are expected to suffer the same

fate if the United States, the United

Nations, and other international leaders

continue to take the same dangerously

passive role in addressing the

Government of Sudan and the

Janjaweed militia forces. We must

move aggressively to stop the bloodshed

and suffering.

Over the past weeks, my colleague

from Michigan JOHN CONYERS, has been

bringing together a growing bipartisan

and bicameral group of Members of

Congress committed to moving aggressively

toward creating peace in Sudan.

I was pleased to be a part of that

group. As we discussed the situation

and learned from Senator BROWNBACK

and Congressman WOLF about their recent

trip to Sudan, where they saw the

ravages of the violence and the ongoing

rape, intimidation and terrorization of

the ethnic African people, it became

obvious that indeed we were seeing

genocide.

Formally labeling a situation as

genocide, should trigger actions and

commitments that will protect potential

victims, and punish perpetrators of

this war crime. We will need a strong

collaborative effort between the legislative

and executive branches, to put

the force of the U.S. government to

work to help the people of Darfur.

We must be committed to pushing

through normal election-year political

barriers, and working together to save

lives. This will only be possible if the

executive and legislative branches of

our government work in concert, to increase

humanitarian relief, to galvanize

international support and coordination,

and explore all possible options

to end the bloodshed in Darfur. We

have a small window of opportunity to

help the men, women, and children in

mortal peril in Sudan. Ongoing

Janjaweed violence combined with the

upcoming rainy season, may soon

make relief impossible. If ever there

were a case for swift action to liberate

a suffering people, it is now in Darfur.

A group of thirty of us in the House,

from both sides of the aisle, sent a letter

yesterday to President Bush, asking

him to meet with us, to discuss

how we can work together, put politics

aside, and move swiftly to rescue the

people of Darfur. I hope the President

will heed our call to meet, to push for

a stronger U.N. resolution that acknowledges

that this is genocide in

Darfur, and to gather and lead a true

multi-lateral coalition to help make

peace and then keep peace in Darfur as

necessary.

As we look toward forging that

multi-lateral coalition, I must say that

I am concerned that the tone of parts

of this resolution may not be helpful in

reaching out to the partners that we

will ultimately need in Sudan. I think

using the word ‘‘deplore’’ in referring

to the failure of the Human Rights

Commission to act appropriately in

Darfur, is unnecessary. Just as we are

putting aside politics to work together

to save lives, I hope we can put aside

our international grudges in order to

better lead an international collaboration.

I am not arguing whether each

statement is true or false, just questioning

whether it each is helpful in

achieving the result we are hoping for

in Sudan. We are still trying to undo

the damage done by some of our rhetoric

in the march to war in Iraq. I hope

we do not repeat that error. We should

reserve such language for our enemies,

rather than casting it at our potential

friends.

Regardless, the most important part

of this resolution is acknowledging

that this indeed is genocide in Sudan,

and agreeing that it is time that the

United States and the international

community start dealing with Sudan

and the Janjaweed as such. I am

pleased that this action is being taken.

I hope we can continue to work together

so effectively as we shape the

actions of this nation to save lives in

Darfur in the days to come.