Mr. Speaker, I

want to commend all of those who have

shown leadership on this issue.

I have been told that the only way

that evil can triumph is that good people

do nothing. I believe it was Dante

who suggested that the hottest places

in hell are reserved for those who declare

neutrality and do nothing in

times of great moral crisis.

We have all heard the atrocities that

are continuously being heaped upon

the people in the Sudan. It is time for

us to act, and to act convincingly.

We have to ask ourselves the question,

if not us, then who? If not now,

then when?

I commend the gentleman from New

Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and all of those

who have demonstrated great leadership

on this issue.

We are here tonight to sound the alarm,

once again, on genocide in Sudan. There is

no room for neutrality in the face of the crimes

being committed there each day.

Amnesty International has renewed its

charge that the international community is not

doing enough to protect women in the Darfur

region and the refugee camps in Chad where

mass rape is being used as a weapon.

Since 1983, more than two million Black civilians

have died during the Civil War in the

south of Sudan. That struggle was especially

brutal for the civilian population: slave raids resulting

in the enslavement of women and children,

gang rape, ethnic cleansing, and the imposition

of famine conditions for hundreds of

thousands.

On October 21, 2002, the President signed

the Sudan Peace Act which stated, in part:

That bill requires President Bush to certify,

every six months, that the government in

Khartoum is negotiating in good faith for an

end to that Civil War. According to some

sources, we may be close to a framework for

peace in that region.

On May 12th The New York Times carried

this report:

However, at the same time, Khartoum has

launched a massive ethnic cleansing of Black

Africans in Darfur, in the western region of

Sudan. The same article in the New York

Times reported:

Human Rights Watch and investigators for

the United Nations have documented widespread

ethnic cleansing and have characterized

the situation there as ‘‘crimes against humanity.’’

More than 100,000 have fled the region

and are now refugees in neighboring

Chad.

As the seasonal rains begin to set in, it is

becoming more and more difficult to move refugees

to relative safety and to provide even

minimal subsistence. Malnutrition is at acute

levels in the camps especially among children.

So, while our diplomats expressed their

‘‘grave concern’’ to the UN Human Rights

Commission response to the murder, rape and

forced removals in western Sudan, the President

gave his certification that Khartoum was

negotiating in ‘‘good faith’’ to end the decades

old struggle in the south.

If the President had chosen to withhold that

certification, it would have instituted a program

of significant economic sanction against

Sudan.

How, one might ask, can the government of

Sudan negotiate in ‘‘good faith’’ to end genocide

in one region, and openly engage in

genocide in another region?

And how, it is reasonable to ask, can our

own government accept the notion of negotiating

in ‘‘good faith’’ in one region of the

Sudan, while conducting a ruthless genocide

in another?

Mr. Speaker, only a short time ago we

paused here to mark the tenth anniversary of

the genocide in Rwanda. More than 800,000

died while the world watched, and did nothing.

Once again genocide is unfolding before us.

Those who have taken note have expressed

their horror at what they have seen. But where

is the public outcry? Where are the front page

pictures? Where is the response of our government

on behalf of the American people?

The ominous sign is that our government is

willing to turn its eyes away from genocide in

the West of the Sudan in favor of resuming oil

production in the oil rich Southern region.

The genocide in the South was characterized

by both racial and religious differences.

The genocide in the Western region pits Muslim

against Muslim but retains the racial character

of the genocide in the South.

Mr. Speaker. In the name of fighting terrorism

we have begun a campaign under the

rubric of the Global Peace Operations. Even

though President Bush has not formally announced

the initiative, U.S. troops are now active

from Djibouti on the Gulf of Aden to the

Atlantic including Mali, Mauritania, Chad and

Niger.

The question we now confront is this: is the

slaughter of hundreds of thousands, even millions

of Africans, terrorism? If our struggle

against terrorism is truly global, can we be

truly engaged in a global war on terrorism,

and not engage genocide in Africa?

Mr. Speaker, funding for State Department

programs in Africa such as the African Contingency

Operations Training and Assistance

program and the Enhanced International

Peacekeeping Capacities have languished for

years.

If we are to engage in a new anti-terrorism

initiative in Africa, I would hope the President

would consult with the Congress and with the

Congressional Black Caucus as to how the

struggle against terrorism will be shaped so as

to protect the people of Africa as well as the

peoples of the Americas, Europe, Asia and

Australia.

Mr. Speaker, on June 24 the U.S. Holocaust

Museum here in Washington took the dramatic

step of closing access to its main exhibitions

to call attention to the horror underway in

Darfur.

Around that same time U.N. Secretary General

Koffi Annan and U.S. Secretary of State

Colin Powell paid a visit to the western Sudan.

Secretary Powell expressed his deep concern

over what he saw with his own eyes as an humanitarian

crisis. But he failed to place the

events in the Sudan in their proper historical

context: the world is once again facing the onslaught

of genocide.

When asked, Secretary Powell, speaking on

behalf of this administration, was asked if this

was genocide responded, ‘‘Let’s not put a

label on things.’’

Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that is exactly

what we need to do. Our failure to acknowledge

genocide in the Sudan led directly to the

abdication of the G–8 leaders in their responsibilities

to intervene to save the lives of tens

of thousands of African men, women and children

as called for by the International Genocide

Convention.

Mr. Speaker, if America cannot remember

the great lessons of history, cannot confront

genocide, or if we do not count the deaths of

tens of thousands of Africans as genocide

then the days ahead are sure to be some of

the saddest and most difficult we have ever

confronted.