Mr. Speaker,

I thank the gentleman for yielding

me time.

Mr. Speaker, in 1994, the U.S., along

with rest of the world, stood and

watched as 800,000 men, women and

children were slaughtered in Rwanda.

In April of this year, the world community

marked the 10th year of the modern-

day genocide in Rwanda and said

never again.

Today, we are in danger of failing to

honor that commitment, and this resolution

goes a long way to ensuring that

the United States will play a profound

role in stopping the genocide.

The Darfur region of western Sudan,

the largest country in Africa, is engulfed

in the worst humanitarian crisis

in the world. Since 2003, the Sudanese

government and their murderous Arab

militias, known as the Janjaweed, have

waged a deliberate and systematic

campaign of rape, of torture, of starvation

and murder of innocent Darfurian

civilians.

If genocide is the deliberate and systematic

destruction of a national, ethnic,

racial or religious group, then the

deliberate killings of tens of thousands

of black Sudanese happening right now

certainly qualifies. The U.S. Government

must call it genocide. The term

‘‘genocide’’ not only captures the fundamental

characteristics of the Khartoum

government’s intent and actions

in western Sudan, but it also invokes

clear international obligations, and

that is why this resolution is so important.

Mr. Speaker, on the ground, we are

trying our best to get aid to the

Darfurians during the rainy season.

U.S. Administrator Natsios from

USAID said that even if we are successful,

300,000 Darfurians will lose their

lives; and if we do not act immediately,

1 million Darfurians are sure to lose

their lives or be at risk.

The answer, Mr. Speaker, beyond the

declaration of genocide, is to ensure

that the AU, that the various Arab

governments in the region, along with

the United States, provide immediate

military relief so that aid can get to

Darfurians immediately. The United

States Government has 2,000 troops in

Jabudi; 2,000 troops. They are the closest

troops, the closest opportunity that

we have, to ensure that the Janjaweed

are disarmed, so that aid workers can

get aid to the people in Darfur.

So beyond the declaration of genocide,

we must move to provide the security

for the Darfurians and keep the

Janjaweed from continuing their murderous

efforts in Darfur.

Mr. Speaker, as parties to the Genocide

Convention, all permanent members of the UN

Security Council and more than 130 countries

worldwide, are bound to prevent, stop and

punish the perpetrators of genocide—a unique

crime against humanity in international law.

The international legal definition of the crime

of genocide is found in Articles II and III of the

1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment

of Genocide. Article II describes two

elements of the crime of genocide. A crime

must include both elements to be called

‘‘genocide’’:

1. the mental element, meaning the ‘‘intent

to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic,

racial or religious group, as such’’, and

2. the physical element, which includes: Killing

members of the group; causing serious

bodily or mental harm to members of the

group; deliberately inflicting on the group conditions

of life calculated to bring about its

physical destruction in whole or in part; imposing

measures intended to prevent births within

the group, and forcibly transferring children of

the group to another group.

Since 1993, the Sudanese government and

their militia have implemented a reign of terror

in Darfur. An estimated 30,000, have been

killed in the last year. More than one million

black Sudanese have been forced from their

homes. The attackers have raped civilians and

destroyed their villages. They have destroyed

the crops, livestock and farms upon which the

region’s people depend. They have poisoned

their water supply. They have launched systematic

and indiscriminate aerial bombardments

and ground attacks on unarmed civilians.

They have deliberately blocked humanitarian

assistance to the region.

If the Sudanese government continues its

brutality, or the international community fails to

adequately intervene, as many as 1 million

more Darfurians are at-risk of dying of starvation

and disease.

In the words of one New York Times columnist,

if the people of Sudan ‘‘. . . aren’t victims

of genocide, then the word has no meaning.’’

Mr. Speaker, there is a genocide taking

place in Sudan and we must stop it. We call

on the Administration to immediately lead an

international effort to stop the death and destruction

in Darfur.