Mr. Speaker, 57 years

ago, nations stunned by the Nazi systematic

acts of genocide declared,

‘‘Never again.’’ Ten years ago, confronted

with the death toll of the

Rwandan genocide, leaders of the same

nations again declared, ‘‘Never again.’’

Today, tens of thousands of women,

men, and children have been murdered

and hundreds of thousands continue to

suffer. Today, again, people are being

targeted and killed because of their

ethnic identity only 1,000 miles north

of Rwanda in Darfur, Sudan.

Mr. Speaker, 800,000 innocent people

lost their lives in Rwanda. We hesitated,

and nearly a million people died

for our hesitation. On the 10th anniversary

of the Rwandan genocide this

April, world leaders again expressed

their determination to prevent future

humanitarian catastrophes. Tragically,

only a few short months later, we find

ourselves standing by again, unwilling

to take the necessary steps to end the

crisis in Darfur. Ten years ago, we

failed the people of Rwanda. We must

not fail again.

I join my colleagues in calling upon

the administration to apply sustained

pressure on the government in Khartoum.

I call upon the President to

speak out against the atrocities in

Darfur, to use both economic and political

leverage. Every day we delay,

every day we think, every day we consider

the best course of action and the

most appropriate definition for the crisis

is another day innocent people are

being killed, tortured, and watching

their families lose their lives.

International cooperation and support

of the United Nations is essential,

but the most direct path to limiting

the threat is increased pressure from

the United States. Experience has

shown that we must not delay in

classifying the loss of life in Darfur as

genocide. Otherwise, by the time we

have prepared our definitions, it will be

too late. The facts on the ground and

in the ground will have removed all

doubt, and we will be left to murmur,

without confidence or conviction,

‘‘Never again.’’

Mr. Speaker, 57 years ago, nations stunned

by the Nazi’s systematic acts of genocide declared

‘‘Never Again’’. Ten years ago, confronted

with the death toll of the Rwandan

genocide, leaders of the same nations again

declared ‘‘Never Again’’. Today, tens of thousands

of women, men, and children have

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identity, only 1,000 miles north of Rwanda

in Darfur, Sudan.

Eight hundred thousand innocent people

were murdered in Rwanda. We hesitated and

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On the 10-year anniversary of the Rwandan

genocide this April, world leaders expressed

their determination to prevent future humanitarian

catastrophes. Tragically, only a few

short months later, we find ourselves standing

by again, unwilling to take the necessary steps

to end the crisis in Darfur. Ten years ago, we

failed the people of Rwanda. We must not fail

again. Ten years ago we were preoccupied

with our mission in Bosnia, Somalia was fresh

in our minds, and we were wary of getting involved

in Rwanda. Today we are preoccupied

with the aftermath of the conflict in Iraq and,

again, we are wary of committing American resources

to end the bloodshed in Sudan.

As we have hesitated, some 30,000 people

have already been murdered in Darfur and another

million have been displaced from their

villages and farms. Hundreds of thousands of

individuals are caged in concentration camps

where women are systematically raped and

men are killed for scavenging food. Government-

sponsored Arab militias continue to systematically

terrorize the African Muslim inhabitants

of the region—destroying villages, raping

and murdering civilians, and poisoning precious

wells with the bodies of the dead. Although

the administration has taken some important

first steps to confront the crimes being

committed in Darfur, much remains to be

done.

The administration has rightly called for humanitarian

access to the region and for the

deployment of international cease-fire monitors.

The administration has denounced the

atrocities in Darfur. Still, a catastrophe of

these proportions requires a deeper commitment

to action; we must treat the problems at

the root of this crisis. The thousands of people

who have been displaced from their homes

and land must be given safe and voluntary

passage to return. More cease-fire monitors

must be deployed to the region. The government

in Khartoum must be persuaded to stop

blocking international humanitarian assistance

to the 2.2 million people of Darfur in desperate

need of food and medicine. President Al-

Bashir must be required to control the

Janjaweed militiamen who, even now, continue

their campaign of terror against the innocent

people of Darfur. It is intolerable that

these militias have not yet been disarmed and

demobilized.

I join my colleagues in calling upon the administration

to apply sustained pressure on the

government in Khartoum. I call upon the President

to speak out against the atrocities in

Darfur and to use both economic and political

leverage to elicit cooperation from the Sudanese

government. Every day that we delay,

every day that we think, every day that we

consider the best course of action and the appropriate

definition for the crisis in Darfur is

another day that innocent people are being

killed, are being tortured, and are watching

their families being killed and tortured before

their very eyes.

International cooperation and support from

the United Nations will be essential to the

long-term resolution of the Sudanese situation.

Yet the most direct path to eliminating the

threat to African Muslims in Darfur is increased

pressure from the United States. Experience

has shown us that we must not delay

in classifying the loss of life in Darfur as genocide—

otherwise, by the time we have prepared

our definitions, it will be too late—the

facts on the ground, and in the ground, will

have removed all doubt. And we will be left to

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never again.