Mr. Speaker, I rise today

on behalf of persecuted religious believers

in Sudan.

Mr. Faisal Abdallah, a 39-year-old

Christian convert from Islam currently

is imprisoned in Khobar Prison in

Khartoum. Though accused of evangelism,

Mr. Abdallah has not formally

been charged with apostasy. Instead he

has been charged with criminal violations

of, and I quote, ‘‘political conspiracy

against the Khartoum regime.’’

This charge requires the death penalty

upon conviction.

The Sudanese Government is attempting

to force extremist Islam on

the entire population of Sudan. Reports

are that authorities beat, torture,

sell into slavery, force to convert

to Islam in exchange for food and force

to fight against their own people, anyone

who disagrees with the Khartoum

government. Christians, Animists and

moderate Muslims suffer terribly.

Mr. Speaker, these horrifying atrocities

must not continue. The Sudanese

Government must be held to international

human rights standards which

protect religious and other fundamental

freedoms.