Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman. I too must join

with my colleagues, Royce and Payne.

I had the good fortune of traveling with Mr. Royce and I cannot

find a more committed and dedicated Member of our House for the

cause of eradicating this genocide, and Mr. Payne, who has a distinguished

record of fighting for the people of Sudan and who goes

often and reports back to us, formally and informally, and I want

to thank them.

But unfortunately, what I see right now when I look at the

United States’ policy toward Sudan is the willingness to tolerate

any behavior by the Khartoum regime in the interest of improving

relations.

I think there is something wrong about that. This Administration

has taken several actions, over the past few months, which send

the unmistakable message that Washington is pleased with the behavior

of the Sudanese Government. Well, not from my viewpoint.

I understand that Sudan’s trafficking in persons status has been

upgraded to title II watch list and it is a title II watch list country,

which would put it in the same company as Israel and Switzerland.

This, despite the fact that earlier this year the UN documented

abductions and sexual slavery by the Sudanese troops and we

heard the stories that were given when we were out among the refugees

and they were blood-chilling and blood-curdling.

We were able to spend time with Rusesabagina, the actual manager,

and he told us what really happened, and that movie did not

give you all of the ugliness and the pain and the tragedy that they

actually went through.

For an example, he said when they came into a village and they

would go to the Janjaweed to someone’s home and by the way, they

were high off of drugs and alcohol when they did this, and they

would go to someone’s home and they would get the father or the

head of the household and they would chop off his feet. They

wouldn’t kill him. They would chop off his feet. Then they would

come back the next day, chop off his arms. Then they would go

back to kill him, had he not bled to death before that.

That actually took place and he told us these stories and Don

Cheadle tried to enact them, some of them, in the movie. Well this

kind of madness and savagery is actually taking place and probably

as we speak.

The Administration has also issued a waiver to permit the Government

of Sudan to hire a Washington lobbyist to permit the architect

of genocide in Darfur to develop and sell a public relations

strategy on Capitol Hill.

Well let me tell you for one, they can’t sell that to me. They can’t

sell that to Payne and I know the rest of my colleagues will not

buy that.

They can come in and put whatever face they want on it, but

those of us who have been there and talked and been among the

refugees know that what they are selling us is bitter goods.

Meanwhile, the Sudanese Government in Khartoum continues to

arm and support the militias, who have murdered tens of thousands

of people and forced over 2 million out of their homes.

As the United States of America, we have an investment in the

Comprehensive Peace Agreement for the Sudan. We need to see it

work, but it will not work if we fail to press the Sudanese Government

to stop the genocide.

Unless the United States demands that Sudan end the violence

in Darfur, I fear we will be left with a Comprehensive Peace Agreement

that is neither comprehensive nor peaceful.

I will be listening to hear what specific measures the Administration

will take to first dispel the appearance that we are seeking to

rehabilitate Khartoum’s genocidal regime and second, increase the

pressure on the Khartoum regime to change its behavior and permit

all of its citizens to live in peace.

Once you are out there and you go among the people, you know

that we must move in a positive direction now. We cannot let another

child’s hand be cut off. We cannot let another mother go into

mourning over the loss of her husband, and we cannot let a people

be wiped out on this watch.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, very much. I yield back my time.

Thank you so much. We understand that during

the course of the Sudan civil war there were tens of thousands of

children who were employed by various armed groups as child soldiers,

and I guess that USAID or other aid agencies estimate that

20,000 of them have been demobilized since 2001.

Given the importance of restoring children’s access to education

in conflict and post-conflict situations, can you describe for us any

assistance that USAID is providing to address the needs of reintegrating

these child soldiers in the region and what would be the

future plans, if you are aware, for educating children in the Sudan?

I mean how can we bring these children back in so they can reenter

childhood?

Sure.

Sure, you can.

Yes. I would hope that the Chair would entertain

maybe another hearing on the positive steps of some urgent actions

that need to be taken now.

For the future, you know, how do we stabilize these young people?

It is not that I need the information this moment. I would like

to know what the plans are.

If the Chair would be so kind as to hold subsequent hearings, we

can get the information then. If not, I can take it in writing.

But there is no rush on it.

Yes.

Thank you so very much, Madam Secretary.

Thank you. I would like to emphasize that these

children need not only retraining in skill sets, but they are going

to need some psychological and emotional support.

I am a school psychologist in my other life and what I know

about these children, many of them are orphans, many of them

were probably forced into picking up these guns and many of them

were too young to understand the permanency of the death that

they cause, and so I would hope that in your plan in working with

the children, as we say, you work with the whole child.

And be sure that they have a mindset and a

thought process where they will not go back into this behavior

again. I am sure they were forced in probably the most gruesome

ways to take up arms and kill innocent people.

We have to administer to their psychological and

emotional side as well.

Thank you so very much and thank you, Mr. Chairman.