Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman,

and I would ask that my written statement be made a part

of the record.

Given the limited time just let me say a couple of things. First

of all, thank you for your leadership. We have worked very closely

on these issues for years. I chaired the Human Rights Committee

for 8 years and we have been raising issues relevant to Darfur first

on southern Sudan, of course, for all of those years, and so I very

much enjoy working with you.

I want to welcome Andrew Natsios, who is the right man for this

job. Many of us pushed very hard for the Special Envoy. Now that

we have it, I think we have the right person who can truly make

the difference in trying to effectuate peace if a peace can be had.

And you know, as we all know, had it not been for the work in the

United States, there would not have been a peace agreement, the

Comprehensive Peace Agreement for southern Sudan. So I think

the challenge that you face, Mr. Natsios, is probably one of the

most difficult jobs in the world. But you certainly have the right

skill set, the background and the tenacity to do it. So I am very

glad that you are on this.

Let me also say that like many of my colleagues I, too, have been

to Darfur. I have visited two camps. I was in the Musher Camp

and Kalma Camp and saw both the sense of relief on the part of

the refugees, the look of ‘‘we escaped a bullet but we have lost

many loved ones,’’ especially the women who have lost sons and

daughters and they themselves may have been raped, but there

was also that sense that any day now, any second now everything

could become unraveled. But for the time being, the camp still remains

a refuge, though a tenuous one at that.

I also met with President Bashir and was deeply disappointed.

All he wanted to talk about was lifting the sanctions and not solving

the crisis as it exists in Darfur, and it was a very, I can tell

you, very difficult conversation that I had with him, and I hope

other Members of Congress will meet with him and press the case

for human rights tenaciously with him.

Let me also say, like Tom Lantos, our chairman, I was deeply

disturbed by President Hu Jintao’s recent visit. I think we all know

that the only reason why the war in the south, which killed 2 million

people as Sharia law was attempted to be imposed upon the

south and displaced 4 million, was because it was enabled by Chinese

oil-weapons, the oil obviously going to China from Sudan and

the weapons and cash going the other way to enable that terrible

slaughter.

The same thing is true for the north in Darfur. China has been

an enabler in chief when it comes to the atrocities being committed

there and needs to be held to account, and Hu Jintao’s most recent

visit, despite some talk about maybe he ought to do something with

Mr. Bashir, all of his deeds certainly conveyed just the opposite.

When you are talking about debt forgiveness, when he talks about

building or helping to finance through a debt-free loan, palace construction,

that is so obscene compared to killing of human life there

in Darfur. We all know that Bashir needs to be held to account and

others as well.

Finally, many of us are concerned about this turn for the worse

in Darfur with the targeting of NGOs, especially those very brave

and courageous workers who are on the front line from Europe, the

United States, and from African countries, including Sudan, who

are targeted precisely because they are providing the safe haven,

wherever there is one, and a lifeline to those beleaguered refugees.

And perhaps, Mr. Natsios, you can speak to that, but I think that

is an ominous turn when NGOs, who are doing nothing but humanitarian

work, are targeted for work, sexual abuse, and death.

I yield back.