Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for calling this

very important hearing; and let me commend my good friend, Mr.

Lantos, for the interest that he has taken in the issue in Darfur.

Being a Holocaust survivor, he knows better than anyone here the

daunting challenges and the commitment that must be made by all

of us so that we can perhaps at one time say never again; and I

appreciate your commitment to this and to Ms. Lee who, as was

mentioned by our Ranking Member, was arrested this past—several

days ago with six other Members of the Congressional Black

Caucus.

And, of course, I am very pleased that this issue is finally getting

the attention it should get. I was arrested a year or so ago and had

to spend time in jail and also to court for a long day explaining

why I continued to trespass on the property. As a matter of fact,

I was told by the judge that if I went back on the property I would

get 6 months in prison, period.

But I guess we are in a democracy, and I guess justice says that

you can’t trespass. But anyway, I am pleased that we are moving

this agenda item to the fore.

Let me first express my appreciation for all of you and the millions

of Americans and other citizens who tirelessly fought against

genocide and stood with the helpless people of Darfur. Irrespective

of the enormous challenges and difficulties, we stood together and

called the atrocities in Darfur by its rightful name, genocide.

I would also like to welcome the representatives of the Darfur

people who are at the hearing today. Senior members of the Sudan

Liberation Movement, I might ask them, why don’t you stand for

a minute? They have come here. Thank you very much. They are

the ones who have been fighting and trying to protect their people

and their women and their children. Several came here from Abuja

talks, and we have had some talks yesterday.

Many of their families, many families of these young men here

died in the genocide and many of their friends died fighting the

brutal regime in Sudan and their Janjaweed allies. Let me thank

you, men, for your courage for defending your helpless friends and

neighbors and families.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to submit a statement from the SLM

for the record so that their perspective is known to all.

Let us thank you. Let us remember the victims of the

Rwanda genocide. Twelve years ago today, to this day, innocent

citizens in Rwanda were butchered and maimed, raped, hacked to

death, same kind of atrocities we witnessed over the past 3 years

in Darfur.

Almost 2 years ago, the United States Congress declared the

atrocities genocide. How we were so elated and proud believing

that we were going to do something to save lives. I was so sure

that this time around it was going to be different, assuming that

we learned from Rwanda. I must confess that I never thought I

would even succeed in getting the resolution passed through the

House; 421 to zero declared that genocide was going on. So we did

the right thing in 2004.

But I must also make admit publicly today that we have failed.

We declared genocide. We gave hope to people of Darfur that it was

going to be different. Instead, what do we have? Those that could

have been saved are dead. Those that are in camps continue to suffer,

irrespective of this declaration.

And we have done a lot. However, it is not enough. We declared

genocide, but we continue to wine and dine the architects of genocide.

As we speak today, one of the architects of the genocide is

here in Washington, DC, Ali Ahmed Karti, the former PDF coordinator,

right here today.

In 2004, I met a woman in a refugee camp on the border of Chad

and Sudan. I wanted to ask her what happened to her and her

family. She told us how she witnessed her neighbors being put in

a hut and sealed and burned. She talked about the Janjaweed and

government security people killing a pregnant woman. She talked

about the fact and showed the mark on her chest where a

Janjaweed hit her with the butt of a rifle and said, that is because

your children are black and you gave birth to black children. And

we looked at the despair in this woman.

She also said could I help find her sons that were somewhere?

Of course, an impossible task, but I went back 6 months later to

look for her to tell her we believe we were unable to find her sons.

But these are the human stories that occur day in and day out

and day in and day out, but the beat just goes on.

So, hopefully, we will see some change.

What does this agreement that was recently signed in Abuja or

the declaration of genocide mean to her and her family? Very little

now, because they are dead.

But imagine being told that the Janjaweed killed your brother

the same day being pressed to sign an agreement. That is what

happened to Minni Minnawi. The leader of the SLA at the Abuja

talks got the word that he was being pressed to sign the agreement,

but his father had already been killed and his sister died in

an accident trying to reach the father. So these human tragedies

are what we have to remember when we talk about never again.

As United Nations pulled its peacekeeping force out of Rwanda

at the height of the genocide in Rwanda, the people of Darfur have

seen very little of the UN over the past 3 years. In fact, there are

9,000 troops currently in Sudan, but not one of them did a single

thing to save a life in Darfur because they were assigned to the

south. Even though my late friend Dr. John Garang requested that

the UN go to the Darfur region, they were not.

Yet they still debate about what type of force to deploy to Darfur.

Once again, too little, too late.

So as we move forward, I am sure Darfur will face the same fate

as other tragedies did in the past. I fear that it will soon be forgotten

and abandoned. Only a few dedicated people will remain to

fight to protect the helpless.

Agreement or no agreement, we must continue to demand accountability.

Those who committed those atrocities in Darfur are

the same ones who killed hundreds of thousands of people in the

south in the Nuba Mountains and currently in Eastern Sudan. We

must also help the displaced and the refugees to go back home so

that they can once again start to have their lives reconstructed.

So, Mr. Chairman, once again, I thank you for having this hearing;

and I look forward to hearing the testimony of our witnesses.

Thank you very much.

I really value Mr. Tancredo’s support. As indicated, his first trip

as a freshman Member of Congress, within, I think, the first few

months of his tenure to the U.S. House, was to go to southern

Sudan with us. And I really commend him for that and for his interest

right along in capital market sanctions, that we really wanted

to hit the Government of Sudan very hard, but we were unable

to keep capital market sanctions in our legislation.

But like I said, I would like to commend him for his strong support—

and Congressman Wolf who, over the years, has really been

a voice there, very clearly.

On the agreement, as we know, the Sudan Government is known

best for its lack of living up to agreements. The Comprehensive

Peace Accord, revenue sharing, troop deployment, many of the

issues have not happened in the CPA.

Now we have a new agreement here. So if we follow logically, we

have a logical syllogism, then we would almost certainly conclude,

therefore, we will not have any more cooperation in this than we

had for the South-North Accord.

However, you said that 8 of the 10 commissions will be headed

by insurgent forces’ leadership and that this transitional Darfur

Regional Authority that the fourth person, Senior Assistant to the

President.

Now, these—I understand that there was an interest in a position

that would seem to be stronger, perhaps on a vice president

level, which was rejected by the Government of Sudan, but do you

feel that the government will, in your opinion—or what could be

done to make the government, if we assume already that they will

not comply, to allow these commissions that sound good on paper

to really function, this Senior Assistant to the President and these

10 AID chairpersons of these 10 commissions?

Very good. Thank you.

What about the disarming of the Janjaweed? That is really going

to be very interesting. We are asking the Government of Sudan to

disarm the people that they have armed, where they even denied

they armed them—not only armed them but encouraged them.

And what kind of integration has been proposed for a military

component in Darfur?

All right.

Well, since we are running out of time, I will just ask Mr. Pierson,

what are your prospects for the immediate 6 months as relates

to food security for the IDPs and refugees in Darfur and Chad?

And I understand there are about 200,000 new displaced people

from January 1 of this year that are also in need. Will there be

enough provisions to get them through the rainy season and back

into next year, in your opinion?

Thank you very much.