Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman, for this opportunity

to express my feelings.

I stand in awe of my colleagues, starting with our Ranking Member,

Mr. Lantos, and Ed Royce, Barbara Lee, Joe, all the rest of you

who have put your, more or less, lives on the line. Those who went

to Darfur, those who stood out in front of the Sudanese embassy

and were arrested, that is really standing up for what we believe

in. Because we have failed, Mr. Chairman. Despite our years of repeating

the words, never again, we have permitted genocide to happen

right in front of our eyes.

And I know during the Second World War, Mr. Lantos, Americans

said they didn’t know. The people of Germany said they didn’t

know. Well, we know; and we cannot allow it to continue.

It is true that we have taken many actions over the last 2 years,

and we might pat ourselves on the back and say we have done all

that we can. But the reality is that we have not done all that we

should be doing.

Stopping the genocide now would be a relief to the Darfurians

left alive. But it would be a cold message and comfort to the quarter

of a million already killed and millions displaced and maimed.

We saw the drawings of the children when we were there, and

they showed very clearly the government planes in their drawings.

They showed us machetes with blood dripping from them.

We were told by the actual manager of the hotel that the

Janjaweed would go in, and they wouldn’t kill the people all at one

time. They chopped their feet off. Then they would come back the

next day and chop their arms off. And then they would leave them

there to bleed to death. This is the kind of atrocity that is existing

on our watch.

So we might have a peace agreement, and it is the product of

tireless diplomacy and fervent arm twisting. It is yet to be seen if

it is also a product of true compromise.

I hope that it is, but I fear it is an agreement built on sand, the

product of not weary combatants desperate for peace but of weary

western diplomats desperate for a piece of paper. We have got to

do more.

I hope that Mr. Zoellick’s agreement holds, but my greatest concern

now is this, that we do not let this agreement mean that we

deny justice for the millions of victims of this genocide. We must

not repeat the mistakes of the past and trust the architects of

slaughter as the defenders of peace, for they are not.

This agreement in no way absolves Omar Bashir of ultimate responsibility

for this genocide, and there should be no destination

for Mr. Bashir other than a criminal war court.

So I want to thank our panelists, because you are looking at the

future United States policy toward this nation as we are looking

at the policy as our obligation to the rest of that area, Middle East.

So I wish you well. I thank you for what you have done. We have

much more to do.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for the time.

I probably should address this to the Chair, but I

want to thank Donald Payne for driving this issue in front of Congress

and getting us all very much involved. Thank you for your

hard work. And, Betty, thank you for being a sister in these efforts,

and all of you who have shown such a tremendous heartfelt empathy

toward what is going on.

And my question is, could we ask our panelists to join us in a

codel? And I was very compelled by the fact that you have been

moving around, Ambassador Frazer, among the NGOs. I think we

ought to bring in some psychologists as well as educators and folks

that not only could address the physical ills but those internal.

When we saw the mothers with their children sitting out in the

desert, blank stares, the children with malaise, they have been so

traumatized, we need to do something about that. So my request

is, can we put together a codel at the end of the year or maybe the

beginning of next year to take some of the experts with us so we

can start the NGO activities?

Thank you very much. I will receive——