Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Like you, I have traveled

to Darfur and I have seen the results of the government’s genocidal

campaign, and when I say genocidal campaign, we took Don

Cheadle and Paul Rusesabagina, the hotelier who Don Cheadle

portrayed, and we went into a little town that had been attacked

by the Janjaweed and it had been bombed prior to that. The town

formerly had 30,000 inhabitants. There were only a couple hundred

left in that particular town.

We talked to a number of survivors of those attacks. Children

drew us pictures that looked an awful lot like Antonov bombers

dropping bombs on their village and it is hard to believe that since

those villages were bombed it wasn’t done by the government.

I remember one young boy who put out his arm, but there was

no hand. I asked him what happened to it and he said, the

Janjaweed, Janjaweed.

I am deeply troubled by the continuing violence in Darfur, which

is mostly the government’s responsibility and I look forward to

hearing from the Administration what it is doing to end the killing

and suffering and move the peace process ahead.

Again, I thank the Chairman for holding this hearing and I

thank you very much for being with us today. I appreciate it very much.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We have several hundred

thousand people wandering around the desert of Sudan without

any help. They have been run off of their land by the Janjaweed

and part of the strategy on the part of the government has been

to prevent any assistance from being delivered to those individuals.

It is a daunting task for the African Union, because this region,

Darfur, is the size of France, and when Diane Watson and I were

there earlier this year, in Darfur, Sudan, we had an opportunity

to be briefed by one of the African Union military units that are

there in order to record the attacks, and we got firsthand accounts

of these mysteriously coincidental attacks by the government and

the Janjaweed, where the government comes in and attacks the villages

and then the Janjaweed horsemen do the clean ups, seize the

property, do the pursuit of those who flee.

Allegedly, the volume of these attacks are down, but now I read

that the African Union, this week, have come forward and said, no,

they have documented yet another attack.

The government is working with the Janjaweed, it is their assertion,

on attacking a camp. So I would ask you to specifically tell

us about government support for the Janjaweed. How is it done?

Who is doing it?

The International Criminal Court is supposed to be undertaking

an examination. They are interviewing Janjaweed leaders who are

ratting out people in the government and vice versa, pointing fingers,

but how widespread is this backing? What do we know?

Another thing I would like to know is, President Bouteflika assured

us when we were there, I mean he had conversations with

the Government in Sudan in which they agreed no longer to engage

in the use of air power in attacks on villages. What air assets are

being utilized? I would like to know that. I saw recent press accounts

that the Sudanese Government was purchasing 34 Chinese

Bell jet fighters. So I would ask you if there is anything to that.

I certainly would want to know, and the Members of this Committee

I know what to know, if there is any more use of air power.

The reason I bring up the question specifically about these Chinese

fighters is because our past experience with the Government

of Sudan includes their use of helicopter gunships built in China,

deployed in attacks on civilians in Southern Sudan. These were not

only Chinese-made, but they were based on the Chinese-built airstrips,

controlled by the Chinese oil companies.

So if there is the introduction of these assets, I would like to understand

how that can be, because I remember some 7 months ago

the UN Arms Embargo that we were involved in shepherding

through, and the UN Security Resolution, I think that was 1591

that was passed, apparently has not been implemented if the discussion

now is to bring these Chinese fighters into the theater.

Lastly, in your testimony you note that we continue to make categorically

clear the responsibility of the Government of Sudan, now

the Government of National Unity, to both end support to the

Janjaweed and work actively to stop its actions while ensuring discipline

within the Government of National Unity’s own forces.

Those are the words from the testimony that we got today.

By the way, I know with the Administration, the Chairman and

his staff, his staff has worked diligently to try to get testimony in

advance so that we can read through the testimony, rather than an

hour before the hearing, but I just raise that as a procedural question.

My point is, what are we doing besides protests to get this message across?

. I fully suspect this has nothing to do with you. I

know you very well, Jendayi, Secretary Frazer. I know that your

testimony was submitted to the Administration for clearance.

The point I am raising is that so often in my Subcommittee and

in the Chairman’s Committee here, it is the day before and some

of us have the eccentricity of reading these things the night before,

and when we can’t go through it in order to really look at the statements

and the questions that we would like to ask, I think it

doesn’t allow Congress to as effectively do its oversight responsibilities.

That comment was not directed to you. It is directed to the Administration.

So, thank you.

According to the African Union, those troops are highly trained

and they are sort of our canary in the mine shaft

there warning about these attacks.

One other point, I would think that if we could increase or expand

their mandate to not just protection of their units and their

observer status, but also protection of civilian population, it would

give a deterrent effect in the region and might really encourage so

many displaced people, who are wandering the desert, to at least

come in close in order to try to get the support and defense they need to stay alive.

The numbers, too, because the week we were there,

there was an attack to the South of us in a village.

And because the AU troops were spread out so thinly

through this region, you know they weren’t able to deter that. So

we need support for a more robust force in the West.

I read it in *Aviation Week and Space Technology* and

it was the assertion that they had purchased these 34 new fighters.

If you could check that with those sources and also maybe we could

look at the budget on the Sudanese side. If there is transparency

in the budget, we will be able to see if that is budgeted.

Thank you.