Mr. President, I rise

to join my colleagues in expressing my

continued grave concern about the situation

in Darfur, Sudan. For months

now, Members of Congress have come

to the floor to express their outrage at

the situation in Darfur. All credible

evidence indicates that what is unfolding

in Darfur is genocide. Already, an

estimated 30,000 civilians have been

killed. More than 130,000 refugees have

fled to Chad, and more than 1 million

people have been displaced.

Numerous credible reports document

the widespread use of rape as a weapon

against female civilians. Entire communities

have been razed, mosques destroyed,

and wells poisoned, guaranteeing

that a grave humanitarian crisis

will continue to unfold for many

months or even years. And now reports

indicate that terrified survivors are

being forced to return to their homes,

which have been utterly destroyed, in a

context of serious insecurity by Government

officials who apparently view

their own suffering citizens as something

like a source of embarrassment.

Those of us who have followed developments

in Sudan for many years see a

horrifying familiarity in this crisis.

The Government of Sudan has deliberately

provoked a humanitarian catastrophe

before in an attempt to repress

dissent, and so for months now

Members have come to the floor to

speak out about this crisis.

I have written and spoken to administration

officials, to U.N. officials, and

to European officials to call for action

and a firm unified message to Khartoum.

I have raised the issue, as have

many colleagues, in numerous Senate

Foreign Relations Committee hearings.

This April, my colleague, Senator

BROWNBACK, and I introduced S. Con.

Res. 99 condemning the actions of the

Sudanese Government. I have joined

many of my colleagues in supporting

Senator DEWINE’s effort to direct urgently

needed funds to Darfur for humanitarian

relief, and I am a cosponsor

of S. Con. Res. 124 acknowledging the

genocide that is unfolding in Darfur,

and I commend the leadership of Senators

CORZINE and BROWNBACK, the

sponsors of this legislation.

This is a tremendously difficult and

complex situation. I commend the Secretary

of State for traveling to Darfur

to raise the profile on this issue. I commend

the efforts of the USAID to respond

to the urgent humanitarian

needs in CHAD and IDPs in Darfur.

The administration can and must do

more. First, the President needs to put

in charge a senior official who can

speak authoritatively to Khartoum and

to key regional players, someone who

is focused on Sudan exclusively each

and every day. It is almost inexplicable

that this has not been done to date.

Since our former colleague, Senator

Jack Danforth, left his post as the

President’s special envoy for Sudan to

serve as U.S. Ambassador to the United

Nations, it appears that no one has

been in charge of this issue on a dayto-

day basis while this genocide

unfolds. What kind of signal does this

send about our seriousness? We need

someone senior, with knowledge of the

African and Arab worlds, put in place

today to coordinate U.S. policy and deliver

authoritative U.S. messages on a

daily basis, to seize on fleeting opportunities,

eliminate any confusion,

match available resources with urgent

needs, and constantly hold the Sudan

Government’s feet to the fire.

We also need serious thinking today

about how to improve the security situation

in Darfur. To date, the Government

of Sudan has utterly failed to

honor its commitments to disarm the

janjaweed and to stop their brutal campaign.

Our strategy cannot simply consist

of waiting for them to act. This is the

same regime that orchestrated this

misery in the first place. We cannot

leave them in the driver’s seat. So even

as we push diplomatically for meaningful

action from Khartoum, even as we

do the hard work of building a strong,

unified multilateral coalition to send a

clear message about the serious consequences

that will result from continued

intransigence, we must develop

plans to help people in spite of the Government

of Sudan’s policies. That

means finding a way to provide security

for Darfur’s vulnerable populations

and for the humanitarian organizations

working to assist them.

We need to be working now to collect

testimony and evidence so that those

responsible for atrocities in Darfur can

be held accountable for their crimes.

This must not be an afterthought. It is

a central part of our obligation. And in

addition to appropriately and sensitively

collecting testimony, we should

be making plans today to develop

strategies to reach the survivors of

rape in Darfur with medical assistance,

counseling, and community-based support

strategies to help address issues of

stigma.

Ultimately, we need to think about

underlying issues of political disenfranchisement

that stoked the initial

conflict in Darfur. The North-

South peace process made real

progress, and I applaud the efforts of

the many African, European, and

American diplomats who worked so

hard to help the parties come to agreement.

But the process only created real

political space for two entities, the

Government of Sudan and the Sudanese

People’s Liberation Movement of

the South. Neither the South nor the

North are monolithic. We need to think

today about political accommodations

that can give the disenfranchised a

voice in determining their own destiny.

I share the outrage of my colleagues.

But I know that the people of Darfur—

the malnourished children, the victims

of rape, the broken families struggling

to survive—this people need more than

our outrage. They need our action.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.