Mr. President, the United

States will very soon vote on a resolution

urging the international community

and the Government of Sudan to

end genocide in Darfur. Since March of

2003, more than 181,000 people have died

in the Darfur region, Darfur and the

country west of Sudan—Darfur is in

the western part of Sudan and the

country west of that, Chad, and the

neighboring towns in that region. One

hundred eighty-one thousand people

have died of violence and disease. They

are dying of malnutrition. More than 2

million people have been displaced

from their homes, many times without

their families, and remain scattered in

these refugee camps in the Darfur region

and in Chad.

I have had the opportunity to travel

to Sudan many times and to the Darfur

region, last year to Chad. Along the

border, there are a whole number of

refugee camps, each with anywhere

from 6,000 to as many as 12,000 people.

When you go into these refugee camps

and you sit down on a little mat with

all these little makeshift tents with

8,000 people who have had to leave their

homes, you hear the stories of murder,

the stories of rape from young women.

You hear those stories of violence,

many with descriptions of the Government

of Sudan’s jeeps driving through

these villages as they are pushed forward.

I have heard the stories myself. I

have talked to enough people on the

ground to know that this is, indeed,

genocide and that it is time for us, the

international community, to do something

about it.

I have said basically that same thing

on the floor of the Senate for the last

year; many of us have. It is embarrassing

to have to come back to the

floor to say it once again.

The Government of Sudan has failed

to take credible steps in terms of ending

this genocide. There has been a lot

of talk, but we don’t see any action. It

was clear, as I was there, as it is now,

that the death toll is going to increase.

It is going to increase unless we have

stronger action, unified action, but not

just by the Government of Sudan, because

they are not going to act, but the

entire international community

against Khartoum, where the Government

of Sudan is centered. President

Bush and former Secretary of State

Colin Powell and the Senate have all

declared that the Darfur crisis is, in

fact, genocide. It was the Senate that

officially condemned it as genocide.

Once again, we see no real response by

the international community.

This past Friday, the United Nations

High Commissioner for Refugees

warned that the situation in the Darfur

region of the Sudan is getting worse.

Where is the international community’s

response?

Innocent civilians continue to be targeted

by the Sudanese Government in

Khartoum and its allied Janjaweed militias.

The Janjaweed have even caused

the United Nations to temporarily suspend

some of its relief activities in

many areas of Darfur. In the words of

the High Commissioner, the situation

is ‘‘extremely nasty, with ugly

events.’’ Last month, 400 Janjaweed

Arab militia on camels and horseback

attacked a refugee camp killing 35 people,

wounding 10 others. More than 80

homes were burned to the ground. On

October 8, an African Union convoy

was ambushed in the southern part of

Darfur. Four Nigerian soldiers and two

civilian contractors were killed. The

very next day, a group of rebels abducted

38 African Union soldiers in the

border town of Tine, threatening the

African Union to stay out of the territory.

Today there are fresh reports of

heavy gunfire over the weekend in half

a dozen towns in the region. The African

Union forces deployed to the

Darfur region have done a professional

job and deserve praise for their determination.

But they are up against

ruthless opponents who attack and

maim and kill their opponents. Nearly

200,000 civilians are dead, 2 million

more displaced and suffering. The violence

must stop. Those who are responsible

for genocide for these war crimes

against humanity and these criminal

acts must be brought to justice.

I urge the United States to renew efforts

to implement additional sanctions

on the Government of Sudan

through the United Nations Security

Council. I also support an expansion of

the size and mandate of the African

Union mission in Darfur, and I encourage

my colleagues to continue to support

its efforts.

Time is running out. We cannot wait

and see. The international community

must live up to its declared responsibility

to protect innocent citizens targeted

for genocide. The credibility of

the international community is at

stake. Even more important than that

are the hundreds of thousands of innocent

people whose lives now hang in

the balance.

I yield the floor.