Mr. President, I

ask unanimous consent to speak as if

in morning business for up to 12 minutes.

I thank the Chair.

Mr. President, I

want to bring to the Senate’s attention

something that, when I first saw it, I

found it just to be unbelievable, that

the type of situation that is going on is

happening in the world today, in 1999.

I am speaking of what is taking place

and the human rights abuses that are

occurring in the Sudan today. The

northern Sudanese Government is waging

a vicious war in the south against

its own people, who are suffering extraordinary

human rights abuses on a

massive scale. Slavery—slavery—and

Government-induced famine not only

exist but are increasing. It is

unpardonable that slavery continues in

the modern world today, that in 1999

we have slavery going on in the world.

And it does in the Sudan.

It is even more dismaying that this

offense against humanity is officially

tolerated, even perpetrated, by a national

government against its own people.

I believe that America has the

moral authority and the duty to protest

this outrageous practice.

Joined by other Members of Congress,

I will be introducing a resolution

which demands the end of slavery in

the Sudan. Legislation will also be introduced

which challenges the famineinduced

practices of the Government.

Consider this a modern-day abolitionist

movement, inspired by the legacy of

some of the great freedom advocates

such as Martin Luther King or William

Wilberforce who ended the slavery

trade in Britain nearly two centuries

ago.

Let the facts speak for the victims.

There are 1.9 million Sudanese who

have died at the hands of their own

Government, more people than Bosnia,

Rwanda, and Kosovo combined. Over 2

million people have been displaced,

driven from their ancient communities—

that is nearly 10 percent of the

population—and they now wander

homeless, without resources, education,

or hope for a decent future for

their children. This is the largest internally

displaced population in Africa.

Most alarming, 2.6 million risk starvation

this year—this year—because of

Government policies deliberately calculated

to produce food shortages.

Reportedly, 1998 was the worst famine

in 10 years because of the official

Government practices of denying food

distribution to its own starving people.

Experts warn that 1999 will even be

worse because of the now weakened

condition of the population. How could

this happen when so much aid stands

waiting for shipment? The answer is

because the Government denies humanitarian

aid organizations access to famine-

stricken areas in the south. They

deliberately withhold American-sponsored

aid from the starving population

to manufacture a famine.

Now, why would a government deliberately

starve its own people? They

have made starvation a weapon of war

to crush those fighting for self-determination

and religious freedom.

Through this weapon of starvation,

they can drive the people into refugee

centers, which they cynically call

‘‘peace camps,’’ and there break them

with humiliating treatment, deprivation,

rape, more starvation, and even

bombings in peace camps.

The Sudanese people suffer terrible

treatment in these so-called peace

camps; they are forced to renounce

their own deeply held religious beliefs

as a condition to being given food.

Christians and traditional tribal believers

report this is a routine practice.

The U.S. Committee for Refugees

issued a report recently which describes

the bombing of refugee centers

by the Government. The Government

bombs these unarmed refugees, the

women, the children, the sick, the

starving, the elderly, all of whom have

taken refuge in these camps as their

last resort for food.

Recently, reports on female refugees

state that virtually every woman

interviewed—virtually every woman

interviewed—was raped or nearly raped

during induction to the camps. Moreover,

young boys in these camps are

abducted into the northern cause and

used as front-line fodder. These are the

so-called peace camps.

Yet the most incredible crime

against humanity practiced in the

Sudan today is slavery. In 1999, slavery

still exists in this world, and it is officially

tolerated, even perpetrated, by

the National Government against its

own people. Tens of thousands of Sudanese

presently exist as chattel property,

owned by masters who force their

captives into hard labor and sexual

concubinage. They are branded, beaten,

starved, and raped at their master’s

whim. Forced religious conversion is

routine. Christian and tribal traditional

believers experience starvation

and whippings until they renounce

their own personal faiths. All slaves

with Christian or African names are

given new Arab names by their masters.

The girls undergo a terrible practice,

lightly referred to as ‘‘female circumcision,’’

better described as ‘‘female

genital mutilation,’’ which is permanently

disfiguring, extremely painful,

and physically dangerous. Some

Moslems also have this act forced upon

them.

I asked my personal staff to investigate

this situation in September.

That trip to the Sudan produced extraordinary

photos of children who

have been redeemed by John Eibner of

Christian Solidarity International.

Mr. Eibner is a modern-day abolitionist,

an American who redeems people

from slavery for about $50 a person—50

bucks a person to redeem a slave

today. He has rescued over 5,000 people

from slavery in the Sudan since 1995.

These photos from that trip show some

of those redeemed slaves. I want to

show those photos to the Senate. These

are people my staff went and met with,

who have been enslaved in the northern

part of Sudan. You can see young children

here in this picture who were

gathered together, beautiful young

children who have suffered the bonds of

slavery in 1999. Here is the broader

group, and a picture of the group they

met with who had all been enslaved.

Then I want to show you these next

two pictures up close. This is the face

of slavery today in the world, in Sudan.

This young boy, approximately the age

of my son, was a slave in 1999, in this

world today in the Sudan. You can see

he is holding his arm out here as they

were looking at his arm and his slave

brand that he had. We have a closer

picture of that brand that this young

boy suffered that was put on under his

slave master’s hand—slavery in the

world today. It still goes on. It still

goes on. And it is going on in the

Sudan.

Both victims and experts report that

the slave practice has actually even increased

since 1996. It appears that the

Sudanese Government employs slavery

as a deliberate means of demoralizing

the civilian population and fragmenting

communities. Slavery is also used

to reward government soldiers fighting

this civil war. These women and children

are captured as war booty, as a

type of salary for the soldiers. It is repugnant

that any country would permit,

let alone promote the demeaning

cruelties described here. Therefore I invite

anyone who is touched by this account

of suffering to join me in this

cause to end slavery before the next

millennium and stop this insane practice

of man-made famines in the

Sudan.

We have the capacity to do this. We

need to do this. And we must do it now.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.