Mr. President, I

have come to the floor to make a statement

about the situation taking place

in Darfur and to update my colleagues.

But I wish to speak briefly to my colleagues

and to others about the amazing

trial of Saddam Hussein that has

started.

This is a trial that is going to reveal

a great deal about what took place, the

carnage that happened under his rule,

and what he did to the people of Iraq.

I worked with a number of Iraqi dissidents

over a period of time. The

things they reported—the mass graves,

the persecutions, the intimidation by

this Government of Saddam Hussein—

is something that has not been well revealed.

Hopefully, that is going to

come out in this trial. We will see

change as it progresses.

Mr. President, I

wish to update my colleagues on what

is taking place in Sudan in the Darfur

region. This is something about which

I spoke several times in this Chamber.

It is a genocide as the Senate, the

House, and the President declared it a

genocide. Others at the U.N. call it

crimes against humanity. Under either

definition, it is a horrific set of circumstances

that has occurred in that

region. Yet the response to date has

still not been effective. People are continuing

to be killed and slaughtered

and run out of their villages, and the

African Union troops have not succeeded

in securing peace in that region.

I want to update my colleagues about

what is taking place.

The mandate of the African Union

troops—and this is the African countries

that have formed the African

Union force—is simply to monitor and

report on the current cease-fire. That

is insufficient. I am going to detail why

it is insufficient and what has happened

because of their insufficient

mandate and rules of engagement not

being appropriate for the circumstances.

To date, they have largely written

and filed away reports. Without a mandate

robust enough to protect the civilians

or prevent violence or assistance

robust enough to provide a well-sized

and equipped force, there is not much

hope for the people seeking safety in

Darfur.

A few weeks ago, the African Union

came out with their strongest statement

regarding the violence. This was

a clear call for the international community

to shine the spotlight on this

crisis and to realize the implications it

will have on the entire region.

While the parties are engaged in the

sixth round of peace talks—and that is

progress; we do have peace talks engaged

in by the people in Darfur, the

Government in Sudan, the jingaweit

militia that has been given equipment

by the Government in Sudan—violence

continues to take place even as these

peace talks move forward.

In the last few weeks, attacks have

been carried out by the jingaweit militia,

the Government forces, and the

rebel movement—all three. The African

Union announced:

You would recall that in the past one

month, we witnessed a series of violations in

Darfur, with widespread violence against villages,

commercial and humanitarian conveys,

and even IDP camps.

These are camps where individual

citizens are going to get away from the

raids and carnage.

This rendered the work of the humanitarian

agencies and NGOs in the area difficult

and, in some cases, they were forced to

suspend their activities.

There was an unprecedented move

against IDP camps and the first reports

of the Government of Sudan’s use of

helicopters since January. A number of

coordinated attacks has been reported

since mid-September involving hundreds

of jingaweit militia—this is the

militia armed by the Government of

Sudan—and Government forces working

together killing and injuring many

and displacing thousands more. Just

this week, a number of civilians were

killed in fighting that took place in the

town of Kutum after a rebel and Government

force clashed.

In addition to these violations, there

are reports that the Government of

Sudan has painted their military

trucks in the African Union colors,

making it extremely difficult for civilians

to distinguish between monitors

or attackers. All parties have violated

the cease-fire agreement on several occasions

since it was established in 2004.

Conditions for humanitarian organizations

remain extremely difficult. This

week, the United Nations announced

its plan to withdraw all nonessential

staff from Darfur.

In addition to an upsurge in violence

by the Government and the government-

backed jingaweit militia, I am

very troubled by the recent violence

aimed at the African Union by rebel

groups. In particular, the recent

kidnappings and killings of African

Union troops should be strongly condemned

and swift justice should be

brought to the perpetrators of these

crimes. The African Union has called

for these events to be brought to the

attention of the Security Council in

their communique of October 10 of this

year.

The New York Times reported yesterday

that some of the once-governmentbacked

militia groups are fracturing

and targeting government-run entities,

such as police stations. Infighting

amongst the rebels is another common

hurdle to achieving peace. This is the

chaos that has plagued Darfur.

Ambassador John Bolton’s recent decision

to block the UN Envoy on Genocide

from testifying before the Security

Council has undoubtedly raised

some eyebrows. However, if he means

what he says—that actions speak louder

than words—then I urge the Congress,

the administration, the United

Nations, and the international community

to do something. I applaud Ambassador

Bolton’s recognition of the fact

that the current arms embargo is not

adequate, it must be expanded, and

there must be compliance.

I urge my colleagues to consider

these recent events and to redouble our

efforts to bring an end to the genocide

that is happening as I speak. I urge my

colleagues and the chairman of the

Foreign Relations Committee to quickly

report out the Darfur Peace and Accountability

Act. I have not spoken directly

to it, but I will speak about getting

this act passed. We need to get it

put into law.

This legislation increases pressure on

Khartoum, provides greater support for

the African Union mission in Darfur to

help protect civilians and impose sanctions

on individuals who are responsible

for the atrocities, and encourages

the appointment of a U.S. special

envoy to help advance a comprehensive

peace process for Darfur and all of

Sudan. It also calls for the United

States to push for a strong Security

Council resolution, amongst other

things, that expands the arms embargo.

We can no longer remain indifferent

to the suffering Africans of Darfur. We

must move beyond the politics and

agree on the fundamentals that will

help save lives immediately. It is quite

simple. When the ‘‘never’’ is removed

from ‘‘never again,’’ it will happen—

again and again and again. We cannot

be silent and inactive on Darfur as people

die.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.