Mr. President, I

will not take my colleagues’ time for

long, but I draw attention to a situation

that has further developed—or devolved

and deteriorated—and that is

the situation in Darfur. It is a situation

this Senate has spoken to often.

We have spoken on resolutions, on

amendments; we have added funds.

What we have feared is now upon us.

We are now seeing in the IDP camps,

the individuals that are displaced internally,

diseases such as asthma, malaria,

cholera and dysentery. We have

had 12 humanitarian workers killed in

the last 2 months. That is driving a

number of the humanitarian groups

out of the region. The NGO, the nongovernment

organizations, currently

now serve only 60 percent of the people

they were serving. The Government of

Sudan has reportedly resumed aerial

bombings taking place in the northern

and southern parts of Darfur.

The situation is growing worse. We

don’t know how many people have died

already, but it is set to escalate rapidly.

NGOs are fleeing because people

are getting killed. The people are concentrated

in the camps. They are now

not getting food and clean water.

Now we have cholera, more misery,

malaria and the numbers of people getting

killed escalating dramatically. It

is going to escalate further and more

dramatically if we do not act.

We have the government in Khartoum

saying they want the African

Union troops out.

We do not have a big enough force

there now. They are scheduled to leave

the end of September. We have a

United Nations group that is forming

to go in, and the government in Khartoum,

Sudan, is saying, We are not

going to let them in.

We have African Union troops preparing

to leave. We have the U.N.

troops not yet prepared to come in or

being allowed in. And we have chaos.

There are a lot of people dying in this

region. It is escalating. It is time we

step up and push again.

This Senate has been excellent on

this issue. The administration has been

very good. I cite particularly Assistant

Secretary Zoellick who spent a lot of

time working on this issue, trying to

bring people together, getting a peace

agreement signed a couple of months

ago. It was an important peace agreement.

The problem that has taken place

now, after the peace agreement was

signed, the African Union troops were

starting to organize to pull out, the

government of President al-Bashir in

the Sudan decided: This is our time to

take over because the rest of the world

is looking at Lebanon, they are dealing

with Hezbollah, the United States is focused

on its election cycle. This is the

time for us to move.

This is a very difficult, dire situation

for people on the ground. I met with a

number of the aid organizations today.

Their people are getting killed, so they

are pulling back, as I cited.

When this situation first started developing

about 3 years ago, the very

situation we are most concerned about

is a lot of people getting into the displaced

camps, not having access to

clean water, disease spreading in the

camps, spreading because of the concentration

of individuals and the lack

of sanitation and clean water, and we

really get a mess. That is now where

we are.

Yes.

I thank my colleague

for her interest. I wish her Godspeed

in New York with the U.N.

My colleague in Connecticut will address

this same topic. It is very important

to speak. We need to pass the

Darfur Accountability Act. It has

passed here and in the House. We need

to resolve the issues.

It is important that the President, in

his meetings at the U.N. for General

Assembly meetings, raise this issue. It

is important to press the Sudanese

Government to stop the aerial bombings—

they can do that first and foremost—

and that the African Union

forces stay until a U.N. force is put in

place, we pressure the Sudanese Government

to accept a U.N. force, or, if

not, put in targeted sanctions toward

Sudanese officials preventing traveling,

dealing with their own personal

accounts.

There are a series of recommendations

of a number of Senators addressed

in a letter to the President. It

is a bipartisan effort. It is a genocide

already. It is one that is set to become

a far worse situation.

We really need to act.

I yield to the floor to the set of

speakers listed.