Mr. President, In reflection

of the New Year, I have thought

about what I wanted my New Year’s

resolution to be. I had a wonderful holiday

that I was fortunate to spend with

my family, and I thought about those

in the world who did not have that

same opportunity. World peace is our

ambition, but, today I want to speak

about our hope for the people of

Darfur, Sudan.

I rise to add my voice, and that of my

constituency, on the crisis in Darfur.

Everyday I hear from Arkansans concerned

about the escalating chaos and

destruction happening in Darfur.

Whether it is through church groups,

schools, the newspaper, Internet, or the

television, the reports from Darfur are

shocking and disturbing. Darfur,

Sudan, is 7,117 miles away from Little

Rock, AR, but it is not removed from

the thoughts and prayers of our citizens.

The statistics on this crisis are

heartbreaking. It has been estimated

that between 200,000 and 400,000 people

have been killed and thousands of

women have been raped. Over 2 million

people have been displaced. Their lives

have been completely uprooted, and

their only chance of survival is refugee

camps. These makeshift camps provide

little shelter and are subjected to raids

by armed militias. Aid workers and organizations

have recently pulled out of

the region due to safety concerns, and

the conflict is spreading to neighboring

countries, destabilizing governments

that may be ill-equipped to integrate

an influx of refugees. Moreover, the Sudanese

government has restricted

media and diplomatic access to the region.

While the United States has taken

considerable actions to support an end

to the horrible violence in Darfur, the

situation continues to deteriorate.

Darfur is the world’s crisis, and we

must do more to ensure that an effective

peacekeeping force is in place to

stem the escalating rape, murder, and

destruction.

I am hopeful that the United Nations’

most recent effort will work. I

am encouraged that so many humanitarian

organizations have worked tirelessly

to find a resolution to this matter.

It is my wish that peace and stability

will come to Darfur in 2007.

The people of Darfur have been deprived

of the most basic of human liberties:

the right to live in peace. It is

our responsibility as U.S. Senators, as

Americans, and as humanitarians to do

all that we can to bring about an end

to this world crisis.