Mr. President, the

crisis in Darfur demands a more robust

response. In July 2004, more than 2

years ago, the United States Senate declared

genocide in Darfur. As the crisis

has continued, as the death toll has

mounted, it was hard to believe that

the situation on the ground could deteriorate

further. Unfortunately, it has,

and the realities today are even worse

than they were in July 2004.

As many as 4 million civilians have

been uprooted from their homes, and

by some accounts 400,000 people have

been killed. Countless women and

young girls are being violently and sexually

abused. Escalating violence is

forcing the evacuation of many vital

relief workers. These realities are well

documented. We have United Nations,

U.N., reports, State Department reports,

reports from our colleagues who

have traveled to the region, and countless

other reports that tell us what has

happened, what is happening, and who

may be responsible.

In the face of this crisis, the response

of many citizens, officials, relief workers,

and journalists has been impressive

and inspiring. Their courageous efforts

are testimony to the great work

that can be done by individuals who

act on their moral duty to end atrocities.

The Senate also has taken important

steps. We have provided funding to African

Union peacekeepers and to humanitarian

workers; we have urged

NATO assistance; we have encouraged

the establishment of a no-fly zone; we

have supported sanctions against the

perpetrators of violence; we have established

Presidential accountability by

requiring regular reports on Darfur;

and we have demanded the appointment

of a Presidential Envoy to Sudan.

We must continue to shine a spotlight

and to take action wherever possible.

But like many of my constituents, I

am disturbed that the killings and

rapes and violence continue. I fear that

our efforts and those of many Americans

are not being complemented by

equal efforts from our President. I

again urge the administration to be

more proactive and to turn the tables

on Khartoum.

Khartoum repeatedly has committed

to disarm the Jingaweit. In fact, the

Government of Sudan committed to do

so long ago, in the summer of 2004. To

date, this promise remains unfulfilled.

And this Spring, Sudanese officials said

that U.N. peacekeepers would be allowed

into Darfur once a peace deal

was agreed. This commitment has been

broken also. These abandoned promises

may not be surprising in light of

Khartoum’s long history of intransigence.

What is astonishing is that

Khartoum has faced few consequences

for these massive failures, and worse,

that Khartoum still is being allowed to

dictate the terms of peacekeeping and

humanitarian efforts in Darfur.

I implore the administration to learn

from this grim history, and to get one

step ahead of the leaders in Khartoum.

We must prepare for all scenarios, not

just those we seek.

Going forward, our agreements with

Khartoum must include some ‘‘teeth’’

to incentivize compliance. We should

remind Khartoum that we already have

good records of the crimes committed

in Darfur and of the suspected perpetrators.

We also should pursue without

delay all points of pressure that

have been authorized by the U.N. Security

Council. We must demonstrate to

Khartoum that continued intransigence

will be more painful than cooperation.

As we pursue these measures with

Khartoum, we should remind rebel

groups that they will be held accountable

for violations of international law.

In addition, we should work urgently

with partners to stabilize eastern Chad

and the Central African Republic.

I suspect that history will pass exacting

judgment on all parties who have

acted insufficiently to end the suffering

in Darfur. But history is a long

way off for the people of Darfur, and I

will continue to work urgently with

colleagues towards peace in Sudan and

the region. I urge the President to

work more proactively to end this unconscionable

crisis.