Mr. President, this

morning I rise to speak about the tragedy

and human crisis—yes, the genocide—

in Darfur, Sudan, and the failure

of our Nation to do everything we can

do to stop the killing and save the lives

of the well over 2 million people who

are displaced in Darfur. Just a few

weeks ago on the Senate floor, we

passed the Darfur Accountability Act

offered by Senator BROWNBACK and myself,

an amendment to the supplemental

appropriations bill which we

will be voting on, and I will be supporting

today, or in the next several

days as it comes out of conference.

The Darfur Accountability Act provided

the tools and sets out the policies

needed to confront this grave humanitarian

crisis that exists in the Sudan.

It also had broad bipartisan support

and 30 cosponsors from both sides of

the aisle.

It passed by unanimous consent on

the floor of the Senate. Yet,

inexplicably, the amendment was

stripped from the bill in conference—

all of it, including support for African

Union forces, the call for a military nofly

zone, the extension of the arms embargo

to the Government of Sudan, and

the authority to freeze the assets and

deny visas to those responsible for

genocide and crimes against humanity.

Even the Senate’s statement that the

atrocities in Sudan are genocide was

removed.

Mr. President, I find it hard to comprehend

how these policies, which hold

the possibility of saving thousands, if

not hundreds of thousands of lives,

could be opposed by the House, the administration,

or whoever. Sadly, the

people of Darfur will be paying for the

indifference and, in turn, we will be ignoring

the values of the American people

who hold us accountable for calling

genocide what it is and pushing to stop

it.

The contrast between our words and

deeds seems to grow almost by the

hour. Just today, in Georgia, President

Bush stated:

I guess that is not happening in the

Sudan. At the same time we are challenging

autocrats around the world, it

seems we are seeking accommodation

with what I consider a barbarous government

in Sudan.

At the same time we are saying we

are standing with those who stand for

freedom, we are turning our backs on

the human rights of the people of

Darfur. It is not enough to say that because

the Sudanese Government shows

some signs of cooperation on some

fronts, this justifies our turning our

backs on that Government’s criminal

attacks on their own people. It sounds

almost like a speech I heard over the

weekend. How can we ignore our own

values when it comes to Africa? Is not

every human life of equal worth?

One of this generation’s great moral

voices, Elie Wiesel, understood that

our values are universal. Speaking on

Darfur last year, he asked:

Mr. President, I just returned from

the region. Unfortunately, the Government

of Sudan denied me the visa that

I needed to visit the camps inside

Sudan. Instead, I went to Chad, where

there are about 200,000 displaced refugees

from Darfur.

What do the Sudanese have to hide?

Why would they prevent a U.S. Senator

from visiting. In the camp I visited in

Chad, I received reports of continued

attacks on civilians, as well as a growing

fear of an imminent humanitarian

crisis afflicting the 2 million displaced

Darfurians. But it is when monitors are

denied access, when there are no reports,

that the atrocities are always

the most grave and can continue.

We need transparency. This is not

about one Senator. The Sudanese have

obstructed access by African Union

monitors. Human rights advocates and

journalists have been denied entry. Humanitarian

organizations have been

harassed and, when they actually get

there, some have actually been killed.

We need to shine a light on this problem.

I visited some of the victims last

week in eastern Chad. Here is a picture

of some of the folks in one of the

camps. Hundreds of these men and

women desperately want to go home.

They were in Chad because of the brutal

violence in their own country,

brought on by the Sudanese Government.

They were chased from their villages.

None of them felt safe to return.

None of them would return.

This sentiment matches what we

hear in Darfur, where we were last fall.

Hundreds of thousands of civilians were

in these IDP camps, approaching 2 million.

Meanwhile, the Darfur refugees in

Chad are barely getting by. I can tell

you that the conditions are difficult.

U.N. agencies and humanitarian organizations

are doing everything they

can, a heroic job of getting assistance

to these camps. But I have to tell you,

there is a serious shortfall between a

quality of life that is just sustainable

and reality. The terrain in eastern

Chad is dry, infertile and, frankly, the

environment is bleak. It barely supports

the Chadians who live in the

area. There is not enough water and

certainly limited amounts of food. It

needs to change.

That is why we need to speak out and

we have to be forceful. That is why one

of the provisions in the Darfur Accountability

Act I think is most important,

and that is the appointment of a

special envoy.

Mr. President, stopping genocide is a

moral challenge that requires courage

and resources. But it also requires attention

every day—real diplomatic engagement

to make sure we are moving

the ball forward in this process. In

Chad, I met with President Deby and

also with members of the joint commission—

Chadians engaged in diplomatic

negotiations between the Government

of Sudan and the Darfur

rebels. We met with the rebels themselves.

People want peace. We met with

people in the African Union in Addis

Ababa, Ethiopia.

Bringing these players together—not

to mention the parties in the northsouth

agreement in Sudan, the EU,

NATO, and U.N. Security Council

members—is a full time job. It needs

the attention of an individual to make

sure that those negotiations don’t go

adrift. We need that attention now. It

is critical. The Darfur Accountability

Act asked for this, encouraged this,

and it is not happening. It is not sufficient

enough to have a one-time trip by

the Deputy Secretary of State to

Sudan to think that we are paying

enough attention or putting on enough

pressure. In fact, we don’t have an ambassador

in the Sudan. We don’t have

an official representative to the African

Union. We need to be paying attention.

That is why Senator BROWNBACK

and myself offered the amendment to

the supplemental. That is why we have

asked for additional funding, some of

which was included in the supplemental,

and I am grateful for the fact

that Senators DEWINE and BROWNBACK,

DURBIN, LEAHY, and OBAMA were able

to provide $50 million more for the African

Union. But some of the humanitarian

assistance was pulled back for

reasons allocated to other difficult

places that also demand need.

It is essential if we are going to stop

this killing, stop the genocide, that we

react now, that we pay attention, that

we do the things that will allow the African

Union’s deployment to be successful—

only 2,200 people in an area the

size of France. We need to have a minimum

of 6,000, maybe as many as 10,000.

That mission needs to be financed. The

supplemental was where we could do

much of this. Some of that we stepped

back from. Our values as a nation and our national

security require us to speak up

and confront these problems.