Mr. President, I come

to the floor this evening to address the

ongoing genocide in Darfur. I have been

coming to the floor almost every week

to try to make certain we don’t forget

what is happening in Sudan, even as we

focus most of our energy on important

issues such as the war in Iraq, immigration

reform, and so many other

things on our Senate agenda. But the

crisis in Sudan is simply too great for

us to ignore. It has now been over 21⁄2

years since the President quite rightly

called the situation in Sudan what it

is, a genocide. It was September 9, 2004,

when the President made that courageous

statement, and we all know a

statement like that has historic importance.

The United States, under the 1948

U.N. Convention on Genocide, is committed

to providing effective penalties

against the killers if it deems that

genocide is taking place. We are compelled

to act. Yet sadly, we have done

precious little to change the situation

to this point.

It is true that Congress, the administration,

the private sector, and the

nonprofit community have taken some

steps to increase the pressure on the

Sudanese Government to stop the

killings and mass displacement of innocent

people. That is at least a start.

In Congress, Members have spoken out

against the killings. They have introduced

resolutions of condemnation, and

they have proposed legislation in an effort

to do something. I have introduced

legislation that would support state

governments which decide to encourage

public funds to divest from Sudanrelated

investments. That bill has attracted

strong bipartisan cosponsorship

from over 25 Members of the Senate.

Some of us have tried to make the

right personal decisions to divest from

Sudan-related investments in our own

savings as a gesture of solidarity with

the divestiture movement. But we have

to do so much more.

As for the Bush administration, the

Office of Foreign Assets Control within

the Treasury Department, working

with many agencies and departments,

has worked hard to tighten economic

and political sanctions against the

leaders and supporters of the Sudanese

regime. President Bush spoke out at

the Holocaust Museum a few weeks

ago. He has vowed to keep pushing for

change in Sudan. Yet the administration

must do more.

In the private sector, I was pleasantly

surprised to see that Fidelity recently

decided to sell part of its stake

in PetroChina, a company listed on to

the New York Stock Exchange, the

parent of which is a state-owned Chinese

oil company with massive operations

in Sudan. Fidelity sold 91 percent

of its PetroChina holdings in the

United States and even though that

only amounts to 38 percent of its global

PetroChina holdings, this is nonetheless

a positive sign. The divestiture

movement is under way. Other investment

firms such as Calvert have gone a

step further and promised to hold no

shares of any firm that operates to the

benefit of the Government of Sudan.

Yet the private sector must do more.

Within the nonprofit community, organizations

such as the Sudan Divestment

Task Force and the Genocide

Intervention Network continue to

apply pressure to governments and to

private firms to get them all to do

more to stop the genocide. Yet they

too must do more. All of us must work

together to do more in Congress, in the

private sector, among nonprofit organizations

and, yes, individuals and families

concerned about this terrible situation.

To that end, I am working with

my colleagues in the Senate and House

and with the Bush administration,

with private sector advisors, and with

the advocacy community to craft a

new bill that will apply even more economic

pressure on the Sudanese regime

and those who support it.

My bill, which I will introduce when

we return, is the Sudanese Disclosure

and Enforcement Act. It would do the

following: First, it expresses the sense

of the Congress that the international

community should continue to bring

pressure against the Government of

Sudan in order to convince that regime

that the world will not allow this crisis

to continue unabated.

Second, it requires more detailed

SEC disclosures by U.S.-listed companies

that operate in the Sudanese petroleum

sector, in order to provide

more information to investors that are

considering divestiture.

Third, it increases civil and criminal

penalties for violating American economic

sanctions in order to create a

true deterrent.

Fourth, it requires the administration

to report on the effectiveness of

the current sanctions regime and recommend

other steps Congress can take

to help end the crisis.

Fifth, it authorizes greater resources

for the Office of Foreign Assets Control

within the Department of Treasury to

strengthen its capabilities in tracking

Sudanese economic activity and pursuing

sanctions violators.

I will introduce this bill when we return.

I urge my colleagues to seriously

consider it, and I hope they will join

me.

I have recently written to President

Bush urging him to support the bill but

also to take the next step. He promised

5 weeks ago to take action. His speech

was at an auspicious location, the Holocaust

Museum in Washington, DC, a

museum which notes the terrible tragedy

that befell 6 million people during

World War II. The President said on

that day:

You who have survived evil know that the

only way to defeat it is to look it in the face

and not back down. It is evil we are now seeing

in Sudan—and we’re not going to back

down.

He went on to say:

No one who sees these pictures can doubt

that genocide is the only word for what is

happening in Darfur and that we have a

moral obligation to stop it.

Those are the words of the President.

They are words worth repeating. The

President declared that the current negotiations

between the U.N. Secretary

General Ban Ki-moon and President

Bashir of Sudan are ‘‘the last chance’’

for Sudan to do the following: Follow

through on the deployment of U.N. support

forces, allow the deployment of a

full joint U.N.-African Union peacekeeping

force, end support for the

Janjaweed militia, reach out to rebel

leaders, allow humanitarian aid to

reach the people of Darfur, stop his

pattern of destruction once and for all.

President Bush then declared that if

Bashir does not follow these steps, in a

short time the Bush administration

will take the following steps, in the

President’s words: Tighten U.S. economic

sanctions on Sudan, target sanctions

against individuals responsible

for the violence, and prepare a strong

new United Nations Security Council

resolution.

Five weeks later, a short time has

passed, and now it is time to act. In

these 5 weeks, President Bashir has ignored

the world. In fact, a spokesperson

for the Secretary General of the

United Nations has called recently renewed

bombing in Sudan indiscriminate

and a violation of international

law. While we wait, while we ponder,

while we think, while we work, while

we vacation, innocent people die, victims

of a genocide. How will history

judge us? Will it judge us for having acknowledged

this genocide and responding,

or will it judge us for having acknowledged

this terrible tragedy and

responded with nothing?

It is time to act. We must do more.

This is simply too important and too

historic to ignore any longer.

I yield the floor.