I thank Chairman Alexander for calling this

important hearing and I thank all the witnesses for being here

today.

I wish that I had been in a position to celebrate when the government

in Khartoum and the Sudanese People’s Liberation Movement

reached a set of historic agreements in late May that hold

great promise for a final comprehensive peace accord. I do commend

the administration for working tirelessly in this effort and of

course I welcome the prospect of an end to the north-south civil

war that has claimed the lives of millions and caused such intense

suffering to those who have survived.

But the relentless stream of appalling reports coming out of

Darfur makes it terribly difficult to celebrate. A brutal campaign

conducted by Sudanese military forces and government-backed militia

forces has left tens of thousands of dead, over a million displaced,

and hundreds of thousands at immediate urgent risk. The

massacres and widespread rapes, the destruction of villages,

mosques, and farms, all of this violence and horror has given rise

to a second, even more costly wave of suffering as civilians are left

with no capacity to sustain themselves as the rainy season approaches.

There seems to be some disagreement about whether what is

happening in Darfur is or is not genocide. Frankly, I believe that

to argue over the semantics is to miss the point. What is happening

is appalling. It is an affront to all humanity, to all faiths, and we

cannot stand by and simply watch this unfold if we are to be the

people and the country we wish to be.

We are a party to the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment

of the Crime of Genocide for a reason. We did not ratify the

convention so that we could confront a situation such as the one

unfolding in Sudan today and take our time reflecting on whether

or not the massacres and rapes in Darfur fit the bill. We ratified

the convention because doing so was an act that affirmed our commitment

to basic human decency and affirmed our understanding

of our own obligations to act to prevent genocide from occurring.

I look forward to hearing the concrete proposals of the witnesses

before us today and to working with my colleagues and with the

administration to move forward on policies that address the humanitarian

crisis, but also address the underlying political issues

that first ignited this conflict. I hope to work toward ways to address

the fact that some made a deliberate decision to unleash this

horror on the Sudanese people. These individuals should be held

accountable for their crimes.

Finally, Mr. Chairman, I want to take this opportunity to make

one point perfectly clear to the Government of Sudan. There can

be no normalization of relations between the United States and

Sudan while this crisis continues. That government should expect

no support, financial, political, or otherwise, from the U.S. Government

and the U.S. taxpayers until meaningful action has been

taken to stop the violence, to protect civilians, and to cooperate

with relief efforts rather than bogging them down with shakedowns

and obstructions disguised as petty administrative requests.

I do not understand what the Government of Sudan hopes to

gain by its actions right now, but I certainly do understand what

that government stands to lose.

Mr. Chairman, I look forward to the testimony and I also believe

that the ranking member of the full committee, Senator Biden,

would possibly like an opportunity to make an opening statement

later on. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

What relationship, if any, exists, Mr. Snyder,

between the SPLA and the forces in Darfur?

Could you describe the effect that the crisis

in Darfur is having on Chad and also on the Central African Republic?

Mr. Snyder, Mr. Winter made some interesting

comments a minute ago about other countries, donor countries,

Security Council, and others helping out with this. Why do

you think it is that the United States is not receiving greater support

from other donor countries and Security Council members in

our efforts to address the Darfur crisis? Does it have to do with

more analysis of the severity of the situation or does it have to do

with qualms about our approach? Your thoughts on that?

What support is the United States providing

to the African Union cease-fire monitors? How many monitors are

in place and how many are expected eventually to be on the

ground? If you could, please describe a little more about their capacity

to collect and share information and to be able to move

quickly to investigate reports of violations.

Thank you for that.

Quickly, it is my understanding that the administration seeks to

use some of the emergency funds that Congress provided for Liberia

for this purpose. Is that accurate?

Not the Liberia money?

Mr. Prendergast, if you could answer that as

well and just talk a little bit about whether you think the Government

of Sudan is actually unified on its positions and policies regarding

Darfur?

Thank you.

Ms. Flint, to what degree has the north-south peace process exacerbated

feelings of disenfranchisement among parts of Sudanese society

that are neither represented by the Government of Sudan nor

by the SPLM? And how exactly are these parts of Sudanese society

supposed to get a seat at the table and have a hand in determining

their own future?

Mr. Prendergast, we all agree that the situation

in Darfur is urgent. What deadlines exist for action by the Sudanese

Government that can give the international community a

mechanism to hold them to account?

Let me at this point recall the second

Sudan panel.

I want to thank both of you for your very compelling testimony.

I will review the transcript very closely.

Mr. Prendergast, before I go to some questions I want to thank

you for raising in your testimony the additional issue of Sudan’s relationship

with the Lord’s Resistance Army, a group that has terrorized

the people and especially the children of northern Uganda

for several years. I share your view that the United States needs

to address this issue as part of a comprehensive Sudan policy and,

joined by Chairman Alexander, I introduced legislation earlier this

year stating plainly that the overall relationship between the Government

of Sudan and the Government of the United States cannot

improve until we have confidence that no element of the Sudanese

Government is complicit in providing support to the LRA.

So thank you again for calling attention to this important issue.

And Ms. Flint, I thank you for traveling some distance to be here

today. Despite all the interruptions, I assure you that this hearing

will have a real influence on our thinking and our actions and that

many of us regard this as one of the most, if not the most, urgent

situations in the world at this time.

For both of you, can either of you help the committee to understand

the motives of the government of Khartoum as we look at its

actions in Darfur? What is its purpose behind these atrocities and

what is the government’s ultimate intent?