

women, and abduct children, and force entire families off their lands. These are not scenes from a war movie; these are slices of everyday life for ethnic African people living in the Darfur region of western Sudan.

Relief workers and U.S. officials have reported seeing thousands children whose round bellies and sunken eyes reveal a famine so severe that even the most well fed of the land would still be considered malnourished. And they are a stone's throw from fertile ground. The problem is that Janjaweed militiamen riding on horseback and carrying AK-47s, have driven families from their farms, destroyed their homes, cut them off from resources, and refused to let them prepare for the upcoming rainy season. The monsoons will likely overwhelm leaky huts and inadequate sewage systems and increase the risks of cholera, diarrhea, meningitis, measles, and possibly typhoid fever and polio. But this is not a natural disaster. It is a wholly unnatural, man-made disaster, brought about through the systematic efforts of the Janjaweed, and supported by the Sudanese Government in Khartoum. It is an effort to exterminate the ethnic African culture in Darfur—an international crime.

For the past year and a half, the Government of Sudan has supported and enlarged the interests of the Janjaweed militia. In the melee, more than 30,000 people have died and 300,000 more may die by year's end even if we contribute our best humanitarian effort. Now, in the twelfth hour, world leaders in Washington, at the U.N., and around the world are finally beginning to heed the cries of the people in Darfur. International aid and human rights organizations are stepping in to assess and meet the needs for humanitarian aid in both the Sudan and Chad where many displaced people of Darfur are seeking refuge.

Visits by Senator SAM BROWNBACK, Representative FRANK WOLF and, most recently, United States Secretary of State Colin Powell and United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan have done much to bring this issue to the forefront of world politics.

The world's attention and international media coverage are essential but insufficient to restore peace. To end this crisis, we must first acknowledge the scope of this crisis. What is happening in Darfur is genocide. In historic fashion, the House of Representatives, in an almost unprecedented show of bipartisanship passed legislation from my colleague in the Congressional Black Caucus DONALD PAYNE, H. Con. Res. 467—a formal declaration of genocide in Darfur, Sudan.

Today, I met with Secretary of State Colin Powell, and leaders from the Congressional Black Caucus, to discuss possibilities for future action in Sudan. Secretary Powell's passion and commitment to the cause of peace and justice for the Darfurians was obvious. But it is now time for similar dedication at the highest levels of government. I have written a letter to the President, co-signed by 30 other Members of Congress, both Republicans and Democrats, requesting a meeting as soon as practicable. United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan and President Bush must work in concert with us in the Congress to pressure the Sudanese to disarm the Janjaweed militias and end their reign of terror on ethnic-African peoples. If disarmament does not occur and if proper security measures are not taken to ensure that humanitarian workers will be able to

do their jobs on the ground, we need to explore other more aggressive options, with our partners at the U.N., especially those nations in the African Union.

Today, U.S. lawmakers and U.N. officials know too much about the horrors taking place in Darfur for this administration and government to repeat the fate of Rwanda in 1994. We now have the momentum to move forward and prevent thousands and, possibly, millions from dying. With such a narrow window of opportunity to avert tragedy and with the urgent warnings issued this week by the 9/11 commission, I believe Congress should cut our recess short, and come back to Washington, to immediately address the issues that face this Nation and our friends in the world. It is our moral duty to put an end to what has already become a human rights catastrophe. We must stop the suffering and the commission of blatant crimes against humanity.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation and ask that this body unite for its passage.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I would first like to commend my colleagues, DONALD PAYNE and TOM TANCREDO for working with the Senate to draft a bill that will hopefully be the beginning of the end of genocide in the Sudan.

Since February 2003, Sudanese government troops and their allied militia, the Janjaweed, have raped, tortured, maimed, and burned entire villages to cleanse the Darfur areas of African Muslims.

Seventy thousand have died. Over 200,000 have fled across the border into Chad and 1.6 million have been forced from their homes and into camps, where they remain vulnerable to attacks and lack basic services.

While the Sudanese government has done little to protect its people, the African Union has shown tremendous leadership in trying to stop the atrocities.

The African Union has led peace talks since August and sent hundreds of monitors and security forces to assist in stopping the atrocities.

It is my hope that the bulk of the assistance included in this bill will go to ensure that the African Union is successful in its mission to finally end the genocide in Darfur!

Additionally, we must continue to insist that the Sudanese government cease support for and disarm the Janjaweed militias by immediately utilizing sanctions against the government officials responsible for stopping the atrocities.

Darfur has waited long enough. We must act now.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this ill-conceived, counter-productive legislation. This represents exactly the kind of unconstitutional interventionism the Founding Fathers warned us about. It is arrogant and dangerous for us to believe that we can go around the world inserting ourselves into civil wars that have nothing to do with us without having to face the unintended consequences that always arise. Our steadily-increasing involvement in the civil war in Sudan may well delay the resolution of the conflict that appears to be proceeding without our involvement. Just today, in talks with the UN the two sides pledged to end the fighting.

The fact is we do not know and cannot understand the complexities of the civil war in Sudan, which has lasted for 39 of that country's 48 years of existence. Supporters of our intervention in Sudan argue that this is a

clear-cut case of Sudan's Christian minority being oppressed and massacred by the Arab majority in the Darfur region. It is interesting that the CIA's World Factbook states that Sudan's Christians, who make up five percent of the population, are concentrated in the south of the country. Darfur is a region in the mid-western part of Sudan. So I wonder about this very simplistic characterization of the conflict.

It seems as if this has been all reduced to a few slogans, tossed around without much thought or care about real meaning or implication. We unfortunately see this often with calls for intervention. One thing we do know, however, is that Sudan is floating on a sea of oil. Why does it always seem that when we hear urgent clamor for the United States to intervene, oil or some other valuable commodity just happens to be present? I find it interesting that so much attention is being paid to oil-rich Sudan while right next door in Congo the death toll from its civil war is estimated to two to three million—several times the estimated toll in Sudan.

At a time when we have just raised the debt-ceiling to allow more massive debt accumulation, this legislation will unconstitutionally commit the United States to ship some 300 million taxpayer dollars to Sudan. It will also freeze the U.S. assets of certain Sudanese until the government of Sudan pursues peace in a time-frame and manner that the U.S. determines.

Inserting ourselves into this civil war in Sudan will do little to solve the crisis. In fact, the promise of U.S. support for one side in the struggle may discourage the progress that has been made recently. What incentive is there to seek a peaceful resolution of the conflict when the U.S. government promises massive assistance to one side? I strongly urge my colleagues to rethink our current dangerous course toward further intervention in Sudan. We may end up hurting most those we are intending to help.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2781, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TREATING CERTAIN ARRANGEMENTS BY YMCA RETIREMENT FUND AS CHURCH PLANS

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5365) to treat certain arrangements maintained by the YMCA Retirement Fund as church plans for the purposes of certain provisions of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 5365

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,