

more dedication, and has been more courageous in going into places that have been a danger to him personally in order to represent the American people with great distinction and effectiveness. I thank you, Mr. PAYNE, and look to you for your ongoing leadership on this important issue.

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The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GARRETT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

WHERE DO WE STAND?

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remind my colleagues that Dr. King was right when he proclaimed that the measure of a person is not where a person stands in times of comfort and convenience, but, rather, where a person stands in times of challenge and controversy.

I have a question for my colleagues, Mr. Speaker. The question is: Where do we stand on one of the great challenges and controversies of our time? Where do we stand, Mr. Speaker, on the question of genocide in Darfur? A question that transcends race because there really is but one race, and that is the human race; a question that transcends gender because what is happening in Darfur is happening to persons of both genders. Where do we stand on one of the great questions, one of the great controversies of our day?

It has been said that hundreds of thousands have been killed. Nobody really knows how many; millions displaced, but nobody really knows how many. Where do we stand on this great challenge and controversy of our time?

I have been to Darfur. I was there in the month of August. I have seen the throngs of humanity living in huts made of straw, living on the ground and off of the land, persons living under conditions that we would not want animals and lower life forms to live under. I have seen these conditions. No running water, no electricity, no sanitation facilities. Where do we stand on one of the great challenges and controversies of our time?

I met with the general of the AU forces. He made it very clear that they were being outgunned, that they were being overpowered under certain circumstances, that they needed help, and he would welcome the presence of the U.N. forces. Where do we stand on one of the great challenges and controversies of our time?

We met with NGOs. They told us of how 11-year-old babies had been raped, and how the government would not allow an offense report to be filed. File an incident report, say that it happened, but don't give enough details so that a proper prosecution could take place. Where do we stand on one of the great challenges and controversies of our time?

I met with former rebel leaders who are now part of the government. They want the U.N. forces. They understand that genocide is still taking place in Darfur. They understand that unless we have outside intervention, it will continue. Where do we stand on this great challenge and controversy of our time?

A superpower has to have super vision. Where there is no vision, the people perish. And when a superpower doesn't have super vision, you have super deaths, super atrocities. Where do we stand on one of the great challenges of our time?

Mr. Speaker, Mr. PAYNE, members of the CBC, Leader PELOSI, we stand with the people of Darfur, the indigenous population. We stand for justice, for the least, the last and the lost. We stand for making sure that no decent, self-respecting company does business with Darfur. Any company that does business with Darfur commits a sin. This is one of the great tragedies of our time. We stand for standing against those businesses that are allowing this tragedy to continue, because if you do business with this country, you are doing business with those who are perpetrating genocide.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want you to know that there are good people in this House, and we are calling on people of goodwill to take a stand against one of the great challenges and controversies of our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. HULSHOF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. HULSHOF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SKELTON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

GENOCIDE IN DARFUR

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative PAYNE for his leadership, and for being that lone voice many, many years ago, calling to our attention the atrocities, the genocide, that has been taking place in Darfur.

We have debated this genocide for nearly 2 years now. It is time for action. As we speak, the violence in Darfur escalates while the hands of the United Nations, quite frankly, are tied by Sudanese President al-Bashir.

Mr. Speaker, this is the moment of truth. The world is watching. Just yesterday, the President announced at the United Nations General Assembly that Andrew Natsios will serve as the President's Special Envoy for Sudan. A special envoy is long overdue.

The situation in Darfur has deteriorated rapidly over the last few months. Rapes have increased. There were about 500 rapes over the summer in one camp alone. Twelve humanitarian workers have been killed, including two in the last 4 weeks.

Mr. Speaker, 26,000 Sudan armed forces are headed to Darfur for major offensive. There has been renewed aerial bombardment. Twelve years ago, the world stood by when almost 1 million people were slaughtered in Rwanda. And for the most part the only thing our government did was say "I'm sorry," and that was after the fact.

Now we have said, "Not on our watch. We will not have another Rwanda," so our credibility, quite frankly, is on the line. We cannot let Darfur become another Rwanda. Already too many people, we are hearing upwards of 400,000 to 450,000 people have died. Too many women have been raped, too many villages have been burned, and too many people have been displaced.

I witnessed this ongoing tragedy on two occasions. The first time was in January of 2005 in a bipartisan delegation under the leadership of Chairman ED ROYCE. We visited the refugee camps in Chad and went into Darfur with two great humanitarian leaders, Don Cheadle, the brilliant Academy Award nominee, star of "Hotel Rwanda," and also Paul Rusase-bi-gee-na whose courage in Rwanda saved many, many lives.

During that visit we saw children and we talked to the children who were traumatized. Everyone was traumatized. You could see it in their eyes. They were dazed. The children painted pictures when we said what happened. They painted pictures of airplanes and helicopters with bombs dropping on the villages. Then at the bottom of picture, what was there but men on horseback with guns and with machetes burning down the villages and killing the people. This is what children saw and what they were communicating with us and begging and pleading us to stop.

Most recently, under the great leadership of Minority Leader NANCY