

PELOSI, she led a bipartisan delegation, we once again visited refugee camps in another region of Darfur and saw the same suffering. This was a year and a half later, and it was escalating and getting worse. We talked to people and saw once again, genocide is taking place right during our watch. We have to be more about action and not just about talk. We have to use every tool available to end this genocide. That is why we are doing everything we can do.

We are frustrated by the slow action of this Congress and especially the Senate. The House passed the bipartisan Darfur Peace and Accountability Act in April. Who knows how many lives would have been saved had that bill been moved out of the Senate quickly?

Yes, I believe we have to hit Khartoum where it hurts, and that is in their pocketbook, and allow States to divest of their pension funds in companies with blood on their hands, companies that have invested and are doing business in the Sudan. You may remember that divestment was a successful tool in ending the apartheid regime of South Africa.

Today, young people, State legislatures, colleges, universities, States, Illinois, New Jersey, Oregon and Maine, have all passed legislation mandating divestment of State funds from companies that conduct business in the Sudan. The divestment legislation in California awaits signature of our Governor. States like Massachusetts, Rhode Island, North Carolina, Kansas, Wisconsin, Indiana, Georgia, Maryland, New York, Iowa and Texas, all of these States have legislation, they are drafting it or it is in place, to divest of State funds from companies that conduct business in the Sudan. It is a shame that we can't get this provision in the bill or keep it in the bill as it moves out of the Senate.

Additionally, Students Taking Action Now: Darfur (STAND) are driving their respective colleges and universities to divest from companies doing business in the Sudan.

And yes, we have introduced the Darfur Accountability and Divestment Act which applauds the divestment efforts and provides preemption language to protect their divestment activities.

And we also believe in this bill that we are going to go a little bit further and say the United States Government prohibits contracts with any multinational company doing business in the Sudan if the nature of the business relationship is with the national, regional, and local Government of Sudan, and many other aspects of really calling out those companies who continue to hide behind the shield of their business operations and investment operations, but really what they are doing is contributing to the Sudanese Government in their efforts to wipe out a whole group of people.

We are not without options to stop this genocide and the suffering in Darfur. If we have the political will, we

can end the suffering. It is a desperate situation. It is a humanitarian catastrophe. We must insist upon a real political settlement, a peace agreement that goes far beyond the May 6 agreement.

We have to ensure that Darfurians return to their villages quickly and reclaim their lives. We have to bring the perpetrators of this State-sponsored genocide, and that is what it is, State-sponsored genocide; we have to bring them to justice. I thank Mr. PAYNE for his leadership.

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

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

□ 2000

BLAME AMERICA FIRST CROWD; CONDEMN OUR TROOPS

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to address the House for 5 minutes.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, there are some that come before this body, come to this floor and like to play the blame America first. Let us play the blame game, blame America first. We have had people come here, and even a former marine came to this floor and called Active Duty marines cold-blooded killers who had not been tried, who had not been even charged, and, as I understand it, not even charged today, accused people of coverups.

There is so much good in the United States military services. It deserves to be addressed. The members of our military deserve accolades. Having spent 4 years in the United States Army, I can tell you that these members serving now are some of the best that have ever served in the United States armed services.

So rather than blame America first, as so many want to do, I thought it would be more appropriate to come to the floor and talk about heroes of our American military, people of whom we are proud.

Now, you are going to end up hearing me do this quite a bit from here on. We have asked for information from the Department of Defense about people who have won honors for their heroic acts, and so I want to present to you tonight about Sergeant First Class Paul Smith. He served with Bravo Company, 11th Engineer Battalion, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division out of Fort Stewart, Georgia, during the invasion of Iraq in March of 2003.

On April 4, 2003, Sergeant Smith was setting up a temporary enemy prisoner

of war holding area during the seizure of Saddam International Airport when his unit came under attack. Smith kept his soldiers focused during the fight while engaging the Iraqi force of around 100 men with his M16, one hand grenade, and an AT4 antiarmor weapon.

At one point in the battle, Sergeant Smith manned a .50-caliber machine gun in the exposed turret of a damaged M113 armored personnel carrier and began firing at the main force of the enemy. He fired about 400 rounds of ammunition, which gave his soldiers time to regroup, time to mount an attack of their own. And when the shooting stopped, the Iraqi force had been defeated. Unfortunately, that was not before Sergeant Smith suffered an enemy bullet to the head.

Two years to the day later, Sergeant First Class Paul Smith's 11-year-old son David was presented this Nation's highest honor, his father's Medal of Honor, by President Bush. The President did not fall short on recognizing the significance of Sergeant Smith's heroic actions. He said, "Sergeant Smith gave his all for his men. Five days later Baghdad fell, and the Iraqi people were liberated. We count ourselves blessed that we have soldiers like Sergeant Smith."

Jesus said, "Greater love hath no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends." Sergeant First Class Paul Smith laid down his life for all of his men, for his country, and we are the better for it.

May God bless Sergeant Smith, his soul, his family, his soldiers. And may God continue to bless America.

DARFUR PEACE AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

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

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, we are at a very dangerous point in time in our fight for human rights and human dignity as the atrocities in the Sudan continue to spiral out of control and hundreds of thousands of lives are held in the balance.

Millions of Sudanese have already been brutalized, raped, murdered, and displaced as the world stands idly by and waits to decide whether they are going to intervene or not on behalf of those victims.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot afford to wait any longer. This Nation, our Nation, America must reclaim its role as the world's moral leader and the world's greatest defender of the oppressed. At a time when we are asking others to trust our judgment and join us against tyranny, there is no other call as just as the one we face in Darfur.

America cannot and the world cannot continue to turn a blind eye to the atrocities taking place in Sudan. History would judge us harshly for allowing these acts of brutality to fester,

and this purge on humankind will forever and ever stain our collective memories.

President Bush, in looking back on these same atrocities that took place in Rwanda, once a very long time ago declared, "Not on my watch."

Indeed, all decent, responsible people now look back in disgrace and horror as we recall how genocide was passively allowed to take place in our modern and civilized world, and we did nothing, absolutely nothing, to stop it.

Today, as we face the same predicament, it is imperative that we act quickly and decisively to stop the brutality before it spreads any further, stop the rapes, stop the murders before they spread any further, because this type of mass murder and brutality not only hurts those who are being oppressed, but it also damages the souls and the psyches of those who stand by and provide no help. If we are the true leader of the free world, then America has the added responsibility and the duty to stand up and fight for the oppressed. We have the power. We have the prominence. We have the influence to act, and that is what we must do. We do not have to use brute force in Sudan to fight these atrocities, but at the very least, we must, we must, we must rally the world to this cause. We must show honor. We must show courage. We must lead others in this struggle for human dignity and respect.

My friends, this is not a Republican or a Democratic issue. This is not even an American issue. This is a human issue. And we all have a stake in the outcome, because if we live in a world where people are allowed to be mutilated and raped, where people can be pushed out of their homes and murdered indiscriminately and without reproach while the powerful just stand by and watch, then we are losing the war against terror, and the world we are leaving for our children will be one not worth fighting for.

We must act. We must act now. We must stop the murder and the genocide in Darfur.

THE WORSENING GENOCIDE IN DARFUR

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

Mr. JEFFERSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman PAYNE, Congressman MCGOVERN, and Congresswoman BARBARA LEE for their leadership and for their commitment to bring peace and security in the war-torn region in western Sudan that we have talked about today as Darfur.

I rise today to echo what my colleagues of the Sudan Caucus have already said. We all know what is going on in Darfur and what needs to be done. What else needs to be said or done for the United Nations to act effectively?

The situation in Darfur has deteriorated rapidly over just the last few

months, with increased rapes, 500 rapes over the summer in one camp alone; renewed attacks on innocent victims, 12 humanitarian workers killed, including 2 in the last 4 weeks; 26,000 Sudan Armed Forces headed to the Darfur region to engage in a major offensive; renewed air bombardments; the peace agreement not working; continued integration of the Janjaweed into the security forces of the national police of the government; government-sponsored terrorism against innocent victims.

How many lives need to be affected, Mr. Speaker, before we say it is enough? Two point six million, is that not enough?

How many people need to be displaced, Mr. Speaker? Two million? Two million is not enough?

How many people need to die? Four hundred thousand women and children, innocent people?

How many women need to be raped before we say enough is enough in that region of the world, and our Nation will not stand for it?

Someone said the death of any person diminishes each one of us. If that be true, and if we are truly involved in the global world, then all of us, every life in this country, every life in America, every life in the world, is made smaller and less significant by the suffering we let others endure and by the suffering we tolerate of them in Darfur.

The people of Darfur are suffering a slow and painful death, and it is a catastrophe that doesn't have to take place. We have options. We can do things about this. And as other speakers have said, it doesn't involve brute force. It doesn't involve going to war. It involves making sure that the United Nations does its job, that America does its job, that we engage the government there, but that we don't wait for the government to give permission to come into the region, that we do what needs to be done. Because that region is so vast and so large and so difficult to patrol, it takes a lot of forces in there to make it work. And it takes, also, people on the ground feeling confident and hopeful enough to take some things into their own hands. Right now they don't have any idea what tomorrow is going to bring, and they cannot have hope in that sort of situation.

So, Mr. Speaker, we are here tonight to urge the American people to become engaged with us in the Congress, with the voices that are here that are now trying to tell the people in this country how important Darfur is to all of us, to our country not because it has a lot of oil or a lot of sugarcane or a lot of other things that we are using in this country, not because it has a lot of people there who are committed to democracy and to America, but because there are human beings there who are suffering needlessly, and we can stop it. We can do something about it. And if we don't, it makes us smaller in our efforts to increase our stature in the world.

There is no way, as some have said, that we are going to take America's credibility seriously on the issues of human rights and the issues of democracy if we do not do it where it is taking place in the worst and most flagrant fashion. So that place today happens to be Darfur.

We watched in astonishment when we saw the atrocities in Rwanda. We watched in other places around the world. But the major place right now where we have so much going on in one place, one little corner of the world where innocent people are dying and we can do something about it, is Darfur.

So I hope the American people get this name in their minds, look this country up on the map, and come to understand what is going on. It is important to us. It is important to us as human beings that we do something about this. And we are here tonight almost just as voices in the wilderness crying about this thing. Look, it is time for America to act. It is time for our President to act. It is time for our Congress to act. It is time for all of us to engage in this.

So that is why we are on the floor tonight, to make sure that those who are at home now around their dinner tables, who are sitting and watching some show on television might take a minute just to think about the people in Darfur and try to find a way with all of us to join hands with them to help to end their suffering.

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

(Mr. SHERMAN 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 Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CUMMINGS 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 California (Ms. ZOE LOFGREN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

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

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

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