

around the schoolyard are other villagers, most of them women and children. Many of them, she says, experienced what she did.

Others suffer in different ways.

Adam Hassan, a weathered man in an equally weathered robe, described a dual attack. First it was Arab men on horseback, he said, who swooped down on his village, outside Kaliek. Then, he said, soldiers moved in.

In Mr. Hassan's case it was his two sons, ages 7 and 10, who were killed.

Mr. Hassan now stays with his wife and two surviving daughters at the Kas schoolyard. He wants desperately to return to his land and pick up again where he left off.

Like so many of the uprooted villagers, Mr. Hassan is a farmer. He relies on the heavy rains that come in June and add some life to the dusty earth. His sorghum and ground nuts keep his family alive.

But he and hundreds of thousands of other farmers in Darfur will miss this year's planting season. It is too unsafe for them to farm. That reality has aid agencies gearing up for what will be more and more hunger in the days ahead.

"I may have to stay here forever," he said at his campsite, looking glum. "There are too many Janjaweed."

The United Nations, which conducted its own tour of Darfur last week, said the crisis in western Sudan would last another 18 months—if the government managed to disarm the men on horseback soon.

But it remains to be seen whether the lawlessness will be tamed. On one recent day, men on camelback still lurked on the outskirts of an empty village outside Kas. They took off when visitors arrived.

Farther down a dirt track, a man on the back of a donkey approached another destroyed village, an assault weapon balanced on his lap.

His name was Ismael Abbakar, and he said he knew how the village had been emptied—he took, part, in fact—although he claimed to be protecting the villagers, not driving them away.

Last year, when the chaos in Darfur began spinning out of control, he was raising cattle for a living. Now, though, he is a government soldier who patrols alone with his government-issued weapon. He pulled out an identification to prove his affiliation.

In Darfur the distinction between soldier and outlaw has grown murky.

Ahmed Angabo Ahmed, the commissioner of the Kas region, acknowledged enlisting some armed robbers in the police and army to hunt down the rebels. He said his new recruits were on the side of the law now and were not Janjaweed.

"The Janjaweed are outlaws," he said.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. TERRY) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God, Enlightenment for the world, guide this Nation by Your wisdom. Lift up the prize of this Nation, our children, and our young people. Create for them a great future by providing them with good teachers.

As Members of Congress call to mind the many teachers You have given them through the years, make us all grateful for the women and men who have shaped our ways of thinking and opened for us avenues of learning and discovery.

The Scriptures tell us, "The learned will shine like the brilliance of the firmament and those who train others in the ways of justice will sparkle like the stars for all eternity."

Bless the teachers of these United States, and reward them for their noble work, now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MOORE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

PEER-TO-PEER SOFTWARE ENDANGERS OUR CHILDREN

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, peer-to-peer file-sharing software poses a danger to our children. At any given time, 22 million children are online sharing files on peer-to-peer networks. They usually trade music and photos. But another group of peer-to-peer users has a different agenda. Most parents do not know about it. Most kids do not have a clue.

Pornographers and child predators use these networks to expose young children to the crudest forms of pornography imaginable, much of it child porn, always disguised using innocent-sounding terms. Often, these predators attempt to arrange meetings with young people through this software. These contacts pose a significant risk to the safety of our children when they use the computer.

This week, the Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade, and Consumer Protection will take up this issue. Among the solutions to be discussed is my bill, H.R. 2885, the Protecting Children

From Peer-to-Peer Pornography Act. The bill addresses the cyberdangers of file-sharing programs, like KaZaA.

Congress must act to protect children from this threat. If left unchecked, peer-to-peer networks will become the worst base of operations which child molesters, pornographers, and predators use to attack our kids in our homes online.

SAUDI ARABIAN CROWN PRINCE BLAMING ZIONISM FOR TERRORIST ATTACKS BY SAUDIS

(Mr. LANTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah is blaming Zionism for recent terrorist attacks by Saudi groups in their own country. Zionism, the Crown Prince says, plays on the minds of terrorists and corrupts Saudi youth.

What an outrage. What blatant hypocrisy.

Mr. Speaker, 2½ years after the September 11 attacks, Saudi Arabia still cannot look in the mirror and face the truth. Its own extremist ideology is corroding Saudi society and exporting the damage to countless others. How ironic that Abdullah accuses Zionism, whatever he intends that word to mean, while the Saudi kingdom inculcates its young with hatred of Christians, Jews, and Western Civilization.

Mr. Speaker, I urge Prince Abdullah to retract his sickening and absurd statements, and I call on him to apologize. His real enemy is homegrown bigotry, which can only be battled by dragging Saudi Arabia into the 21st century.

CONGRESS SHOULD PASS PERMANENT AMT TAX RELIEF

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, this week we will vote on H.R. 4227, the Middle-Class Alternative Minimum Tax Relief Act of 2004. We need to pass this important bill, sponsored by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SIMMONS), to avoid 11 million taxpayers being hit with an average tax increase of \$1,520.

The AMT Tax Relief Act will ensure that this bipartisan tax relief will continue through 2005. As our economy continues its strong recovery, we must make sure that middle-income families keep more of their own money.

Without the AMT Tax Relief Act, millions of middle-income families will face a tax increase next year by being forced into paying the alternative minimum tax. Married couples will see their AMT exemption drop from \$58,000 to \$45,000. Single individuals will see their AMT exemption drop from \$40,250 to \$33,750.