

rise of freedom in the world, and its advance is ever to be heralded. And may we ever add to the calendar of this planet, until each and every month is filled with the anniversary of such freedom days.

Until that great day comes, and the veil of tyranny is lifted from the four corners of planet earth, two independence days in the next 7 days. Let freedom ring in the United States of America and in a free and Democratic Iraq.

ACT NOW TO STOP HUMANITARIAN CATASTROPHE IN DARFUR, SUDAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEARCE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, 10 years ago, as bloated corpses floated down Rwanda's rivers, the international community debated whether the atrocities being committed in Rwanda fit the legal definition of "genocide." By the time the world stopped debating, it was too late. Over 800,000 men, women, and children had been killed. The failure of the world to act in Rwanda remains a stain on our collective conscience.

We must learn from the tragic mistakes of the past. Today, just 1,000 miles north of Rwanda in the Darfur region of Sudan, more than 30,000 people have already been killed by the Sudanese military's aerial bombardments and the atrocities being committed by their ruthless proxies, the Jangaweed militia. Gang rapes, the branding of raped women, amputations, and summary killings are widespread as we speak.

More than a million people have been driven from their homes as villages have been burned and crops destroyed. The Sudanese government has deliberately blocked the delivery of food, medicine, and other humanitarian assistance. More than 160,000 Darfurians have become refugees in neighboring Chad. Conditions are ripe for the spread of fatal diseases such as measles, cholera, dysentery, meningitis and malaria. The United States Agency for International Development estimates that 350,000 people are likely to die in the coming months and that the death toll could reach more than a million unless the violence stops and the Sudanese government immediately grants international aid groups access to Darfur.

Here in Washington and at the United Nations headquarters in New York, many officials are again debating whether this unfolding tragedy constitutes genocide, ethnic cleansing, or something else. This time let us not debate until it is too late to stop this human catastrophe. Let us not wait until thousands more children are killed before we summon the will to stop this horror. America and the international community have a moral duty to act. The United States and 130

other signatories to the Genocide Convention also have a legal obligation to, and I quote, "undertake to prevent and punish" the crime of genocide.

The Convention defines genocide as actions undertaken "with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group, as such." The actions include "deliberately inflicting on members of the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part." By all accounts, including reports of U.N. fact finders and the USAID, it is the African peoples in the Darfur region who have been targeted for destruction by the Khartoum-backed Arab Jangaweed death squads.

In the middle of an unfolding crisis like that in Darfur today, there will always be debate over whether what is happening constitutes genocide. But it is important to remember that the Genocide Convention does not require absolute proof of genocidal intentions before the international community is empowered to intervene. The Convention would, after all, offer no protection to innocent victims if we had to wait until there were tens of thousands or more corpses before we act. A key part of the Genocide Convention is prevention, not just punishment after the fact.

The United States has already done more than any other nation to call attention to and respond to this tragedy. But our efforts to date have not brought an end to the growing crisis. We must take additional measures, and we must take them now.

The May 25 Security Council statements expressing grave concern about the situation in Darfur does not provide any authority for international action. The United States should immediately call for an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council and introduce and call for a vote on a resolution that demands the government of Sudan take the following steps:

First, allow international relief groups and human rights monitors free and secure access to the Darfur region; second, the government of Sudan must immediately terminate its support for the Jangaweed and dispatch its forces to disarm them; third, the Sudanese government must allow the more than one million displaced persons to return to their homes.

This resolution must include stiff sanctions if the Sudanese government refuses to meet these conditions, and it must authorize the deployment of peacekeeping forces to Darfur to protect civilians and individuals from CARE and other humanitarian organizations seeking to provide assistance.

It is also critical that United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan exhibit strong leadership on Darfur. I was pleased to join with the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) in urging him to go to Sudan to address the crisis there, and I am pleased that Mr. Annan will finally be going next week.

However, this visit must be more than just an expression of concern. Secretary General Annan must make it clear that if the Sudanese government does not cooperate fully in stopping the killings and the destruction, he will push for immediate international sanctions.

And he must let the Sudanese government know that the welcome progress in reaching accommodation with the south in Sudan will not prevent the world from taking action to stop the horror in Darfur. The U.N. ignored warnings of mass murder a decade ago in Rwanda. It must not stand idly by again.

We should not allow other members of the U.N. Security Council to engage in endless negotiations and delay a vote on a strong resolution. Every day that goes by without action means more lives lost. Let's vote on a resolution. If the rest of the world refuses to authorize collective action, shame on them. Failure to pass such a resolution would not represent a failure of American leadership; it would be a terrible blot on the world's conscience.

Whether or not the United Nations acts, the United States should take steps on its own. We should make it clear that if the Sudanese government does not meet the demands in the proposed resolution, the United States will impose travel restrictions on Sudanese officials and move to freeze their assets. Even apart from U.N. action, we can immediately urge other nations to join us in taking these and other measures.

I commend Secretary of State Colin Powell for his decision to travel to Sudan next week and visit the Darfur region. It is critical that the Secretary's visit do more than simply call attention to the tragedy unfolding there. He must make it clear that the failure of Khartoum to fully cooperate in ending the destruction and killings will result in a concerted American effort to punish the Sudanese government and harness international support to intervene in Darfur.

Mr. Speaker, we must not look back on Darfur 10 years from now and decry the fact that the world failed to stop the crime of genocide. Rwanda and other genocides should have taught us that those who knowingly fail to confront such evil are themselves complicit through inaction. We are all God's children. These are crimes against humanity. Let us respond to this unfolding human disaster with the urgency it demands.

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

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

SAUDI ARABIA: THE NEED FOR AMERICAN ENGAGEMENT

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

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, the NBC Nightly News broadcast a segment in which the Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah was quoted as telling Saudi television that "Zionists" were behind May 1 attack on contractors at the Saudi oil facility in Yanbu. That attack killed five westerners, including two Americans.

The Crown Prince's remarks were echoed by Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayef, who said that, "al Qaeda is backed by Israel and Zionism." Prince Abdullah's comments were scurrilous and inflammatory; unfortunately, they are part of a persistent pattern by the Saudi government of saying one thing to the United States and the west and another thing altogether to its own citizens, 15 of whom participated in the September 11 attacks against our Nation.

Indeed, the fact that three-quarters of the 9-11 terrorists were Saudis and that their leader, Osama bin Laden, was a member of a family that long enjoyed close ties to the Saudi royal family, should have spurred the Saudi government to immediate action. Instead, Saudi officials engaged in a protracted effort to deny that any of their citizens had been involved in the 9-11 attacks and instead blamed Israel for terrorism.

Saudi double-talk has had the effect of undermining the efforts that Kingdom has belatedly made in combating terrorism. In the wake of the May 2003 bombing of the housing compounds in Riyadh, the Saudi government began to take steps to cut off sources of terrorism funding, but much more needs to be done. A new report from the Council on Foreign Relations notes that while Riyadh has enacted new laws, regulations, and institutions dealing with money laundering, charitable donations, and financial operations, those new measures have not been fully implemented and there have been no arrests of prominent Saudis who have supported al Qaeda financially.

While we must work with the Saudis to ensure they are continuing to move forward in their efforts in counterterrorism, the war against Islamic terrorism requires the United States to engage Saudi Arabia on a broad range of issues. As the Council on Foreign Relations noted, our relationship with Saudi Arabia over the past 7 decades was built on a bargain in which the Kingdom would ensure stability in the world's oil markets and would play a constructive role in regional security. In exchange, the United States would guarantee Saudi security and would not interfere or raise questions about Saudi domestic issues.

The events of September 11 compel us to challenge the Saudis to change the conditions in the Kingdom that have made it a breeding ground for extremism. We must do this for our own security, but also to help ensure the stability of Saudi Arabia and of the entire

Arab world. A stable, moderate and reforming Saudi government is in America's national interest, and we must push for reform in Saudi Arabia without destabilizing the country further and throwing it into chaos.

Saudi Arabia's problems did not arise overnight. They are the product of decades of tension between the Saudi royal family and the Wahhabi clerics, whose ultra-conservative brand of Islam predominates in the Kingdom. When the House of Saud came to power, it sought to bring electricity, modern communications, and infrastructure to a traditional nomadic desert society.

In November 1979, these contradictions exploded when a group of Islamic militants invaded Mecca's Grand Mosque and took hundreds of pilgrims hostage. Government forces retook the Mosque and executed dozens of Islamic extremists. Instead of working to root out extremism throughout the country, the government sought accommodation with the extremists and handed over control of many aspects of Saudi life, including education, the Judiciary, and cultural affairs to the clerics. As a Saudi businessman tellingly told Newsweek's Fareed Zakaria recently, "Having killed the extremists, the regime implemented their entire agenda."

Thus, at the height of the Saudi oil boom of the 1970s and 1980s, Saudi Arabia took a sharp conservative turn. Even as thousands of young Saudis were being educated in the west, the majority of their countrymen were being fed a diet of religious and cultural bigotry. The rights of women, already almost nonexistent, were even more circumscribed.

By September 2001, the Saudi economy had faltered, its cities were filled with large numbers of undereducated, underemployed, and unmotivated young people who had both tasted modernity and were steeped in an ideology that preached hatred toward the west.

While the Saudis have begun to address the terrorist financing issue, Riyadh has yet to begin the more difficult task of recapturing the country from the extremists. This battle will be long, it will be difficult, and it will be bloody, but we must keep the pressure on the government of Saudi Arabia to do this. Our security and their future depends upon it.

TRIBUTE TO LAGRANGE GRANGERS, GEORGIA'S 2004 AAA HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL CHAMPIONS

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the LaGrange High School Grangers, Georgia's 2004 AAA high school baseball champions.

To win the State championship, LaGrange had to beat one of Georgia's greatest baseball powerhouses, the

Cartersville Purple Hurricanes, a program that captured State titles for the past 3 years in a row. I am proud to say that the runner up and defending champion, Cartersville High School, is also in Georgia's 11th congressional district.

The Grangers' crown did not come easily. They split a double-header to force a decisive game three. In that final game, LaGrange jumped out to a big lead, going ahead 9 to 2. But the Purple Hurricanes were not done yet. They crawled back, and then notched three runs in the sixth inning to tie the game at 10 to 10. That is when the Grangers proved they had the heart of champions.

In the bottom of the sixth, LaGrange knocked in three runs, and senior Josh Edmonson took the mound in the seventh inning to snuff out any more comeback hopes for the Purple Hurricanes.

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After winning game three of the series, the Grangers finished the year 31-6. I am proud for the team and I am proud for the coaches, Donnie Branch and Jon Powell, who have been together with the team since 1989. Their teams had advanced far in the tournament in previous years, but the ultimate crown had remained elusive until now.

As Coach Powell explained his excitement to the LaGrange Daily News, "You can't put it into words. You dream about it and you work and you work and you work."

Coach Branch, congratulations on a dream come true and a job well done.

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

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

EVENTS IN SUDAN AND IN MEMORY OF MATTIE STEPANEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Allow me, Mr. Speaker, to join in with a number of my colleagues and as well the Congressional Black Caucus on this question of the people in Sudan. I add my appreciation to the leadership of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) and Senator BROWNBACK on recognizing the enormity of the genocide that is occurring in Sudan. I know that if the nation of Sudan wants to do better, it can do better.

Right now we have 400,000 Sudanese being displaced and thousands being killed every day. As some of us said