

poker with the people's money. Public servants should not be public serpents. These government bureaucrats should pay out of their own pockets the taxpayer money they squandered in Las Vegas.

And that's just the way it is.

TROUBLE BETWEEN SUDAN AND SOUTH SUDAN

(Ms. LEE of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, over the weekend, the situation went from bad to worse in Sudan, with military clashes erupting into a full-blown crisis along the troubled border region between Sudan and South Sudan. President al-Bashir, wanted by the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity, is directing this new round of bombings that threaten a fragile peace.

It was less than a year ago that the world's youngest nation was born in South Sudan, and already we are witnessing the disturbing return to violence and inhumanity.

Last month, I was joined by 67 Members of my House colleagues on a letter to President Obama expressing our serious concern for the ongoing human calamity in Sudan.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, let me just say half a million lives hang in the balance as the Sudanese Government attacks rebels and civilians alike with a methodical strategy to stop cultivation and block humanitarian aid. We must not idly stand by. So I call on my colleagues to sponsor legislation by our colleagues—Representatives CAPUANO, MCGOVERN, WOLF—and myself who have recently introduced H.R. 4169, the Sudan Peace, Security, and Accountability Act, to update the diplomatic tools in Sudan to reflect the current dangers on the ground.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
Washington, DC, March 30, 2012.

Hon. BARACK OBAMA,
President of the United States, The White House, Washington, DC.

CC:
Secretary of State Hillary Clinton
Ambassador to the United Nations Susan Rice

DEAR PRESIDENT OBAMA: We write to express our serious concern for the ongoing human calamity in the Sudanese border areas of South Kordofan, Blue Nile, Abyei, and Darfur, and in Yida and other refugee camps in South Sudan. The Sudanese government continues to target civilian populations through the use of indiscriminate bombing and the denial of humanitarian aid. These actions have left nearly half a million people at risk of starvation in the coming weeks and months. Sudan's impending rainy season, and resulting poor road conditions, will soon make the delivery of any aid extremely difficult, if not impossible.

We applaud your recent actions demonstrating your firm commitment to ending the humanitarian crisis in South Kordofan and the border areas. There are two upcoming opportunities for the United States to further support a humanitarian agenda em-

phasizing aid delivery and access to these border areas. First, the United States will assume the rotating presidency of the United Nations Security Council in April and secondly, the United States will host the G8 summit at Camp David in May.

We hope that the United States will take advantage of both platforms by demanding full and unimpeded access for international humanitarian organizations to the border regions, while calling on Khartoum to agree to a concrete timeline to implement the United Nations-African Union-League of Arab States Tripartite Proposal. Specifically, we request that the United States ensure that Sudan and South Sudan are placed as a priority on the U.N. Security Council agenda during the U.S. presidency. These efforts will complement and further advance the message on Sudan you delivered this week to Chinese President Hu Jintao during your bilateral meeting in Seoul.

Khartoum's notorious ability to delay and its failure to honor agreements suggest that a more robust, consistent and coordinated approach is needed to protect the lives of vulnerable populations. We have seen such sustained international coordination led by the United States in both negotiating the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed in 2005, and in helping to implement the successful South Sudan referendum in 2011.

Now is the time to act. Affected areas of South Kordofan and Blue Nile reached emergency levels of food insecurity in March, and the situation has continued to deteriorate. This is one level short of famine. The remaining areas within South Kordofan, as well as much of Blue Nile state, are facing crisis levels of food insecurity.

Recognizing the concrete steps your Administration has taken to spare the lives of vulnerable populations and prevent further conflict, we ask that you use the upcoming opportunities at the United Nations Security Council and the G8 summit in May to leverage multilateral pressure on the Government of Sudan and its supporters. We appreciate your ongoing commitment to that goal.

Respectfully Yours,

Barbara Lee, Michael E. Capuano, James P. McGovern, Al Green, Karen Bass, G.K. Butterfield, Judy Chu, Wm. Lacy Clay, James E. Clyburn, Keith Ellison, Bob Filner, and Howard L. Berman.

André Carson, Yvette D. Clarke, Emanuel Cleaver, Elijah E. Cummings, Chaka Fattah, Marcia L. Fudge, Raúl M. Grijalva, Sheila Jackson Lee, Rick Larsen, John W. Olver, Lucille Roybal-Allard, and Robert C. Scott.

Terri A. Sewell, Michael M. Honda, Hank Johnson, John Lewis, Cedric L. Richmond, Gregorio Sablan, David Scott, Bennie G. Thompson, Edolphus Towns, Frederica S. Wilson, John Conyers Jr., and Laura Richardson.

Corrine Brown, Jackie Speier, Peter A. Defazio, Melvin L. Watt, Lynn C. Woolsey, Donna M. Christensen, Alcee L. Hastings, Maxine Waters, Pete Stark, Carolyn B. Maloney, Aaron Schock, and Donna F. Edwards.

Maurice D. Hinchey, Russ Carnahan, Zoe Lofgren, Lois Capps, Michael H. Michaud, Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Stephen F. Lynch, Sanford D. Bishop Jr., Brad Sherman, Sam Farr, Jesse L. Jackson Jr., and Danny K. Davis.

Steve Cohen, Jan Schakowsky, Chris Van Hollen, Jerrold Nadler, Charles Rangel, Marcy Kaptur, James P. Moran, and Steve Israel.

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WE CAN DO BETTER

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise because I truly believe we can do better. I join my colleague from Texas to speak and raise the question of: What was the GSA, the General Services Administration, thinking? There are a lot of good workers and we should not attribute to them bad acts, but it was such poor judgment—\$800,000 to be spent recklessly on party hearty.

But I also want to raise the question of the contracts that the GSA sends out. In the instance of the stimulus dollars, my Federal building has been rehabbed under the stimulus moneys to create jobs, and we can't get the contractor, Gilbane, to address the question of diversity in the workforce or diversity in contractors. What a terrible shame. There has been some hard work and some attention, but not the hard press that should come about when you seek fairness.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to mention the fact that I'm supporting Mr. COURTNEY's bill, of Connecticut, because it is a shame to double, triple the interest rates on loans that college students need to provide for their education.

Finally, I want to say that NASA has sent the *Discovery* to the Smithsonian. I want a shuttle in Houston, and we're never giving up until we get it. We are the historic home for the shuttle.

HUNGER AND THE RYAN BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 5, 2011, the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, in tonight's Democratic Special Order, we will be highlighting the severe and immoral cuts made to antihunger and nutrition programs in the House Republican budget.

Right now, millions of American families and children are suffering from food insecurity. As the map here clearly shows, food hardship is a national tragedy. It is present in each and every congressional district. The districts that are highlighted in pink and in red have the most food hardships, while the districts in yellow are not far behind. Districts highlighted in blue have the lowest food hardship, but the national average is that nearly one in five Americans struggles with food hardship. Simply put, they are at risk of going hungry.

According to a study done by the Center for Budget Policy and Priorities, the Republican budget, composed by Chairman PAUL RYAN and endorsed by Presidential candidate Mitt Romney, would "impose extraordinary cuts in programs that serve as a lifeline for