war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Mr. Speaker, there comes a time when we have to say enough is enough. That is why Congressmen FRANK WOLF, MIKE CAPUANO, and I are reintroducing today the Sudan Peace, Security, and Accountability Act.

Khartoum's abuse of its own people is nationwide, and this bill focuses on Sudan as a whole. It requires a U.S. comprehensive strategy to end serious human rights violations in all of Sudan. It would provide genuine accountability for persons who have committed or assisted in serious human rights abuses. The bill supports the aspirations of the Sudanese people for peace and democratic reform. It encourages other governments and individuals to end support and aid to the Government of Sudan. And it reinvigorates genuinely comprehensive and sustainable peace efforts to end Sudan's multiple crises.

We must send a clear message to Khartoum that the time for change is now, that these abuses must stop, and that peace and genuine participation in the future of Sudan are rights that belong to all of the people of Sudan, no matter their race, ethnic or tribal background, religion, or political affiliation.

I urge all of my colleagues to join us on this legislation. It is past time to put an end to the pain, suffering, and genocide taking place in Sudan. It is time to support peace, security, and accountability.

SUDAN PEACE, SECURITY, AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 2013

SUMMARY OF LEGISLATION

Purpose: The ''Sudan Peace, Security and Accountability Act of 2013'' would create a comprehensive U.S. strategy to end serious human rights violations in Sudan, provide genuine accountability for persons who have committed or assisted in serious human rights violations, support Sudanese aspiration for democratic reforms, encourage other governments and persons to end support of and assistance to the government of Sudan, and to reinvigorate genuinely comprehensive and sustainable peace efforts that can end Sudan's multiple crises.

Background: 2013 marks ten years from the start of crimes in Darfur that the U.S. government found to constitute genocide. Previous legislation was passed to address the genocide in Darfur, but abuses have continued and expanded to other areas of Sudan. Aerial bombardment of civilian areas of South Kordofan and Blue Nile states and continued blocking of humanitarian relief by the Government of Sudan has led to over 900,000 Sudanese in need of humanitarian aid. Violence and aid restrictions also remain in Darfur where some 130,000 people have been newly displaced in the first months of 2013 alone. Reports by the UN and independent monitors have documented ongoing abuses by the Government of Sudan and those it supports that ''may constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity''.

HIGHLIGHTS OF LEGISLATION:

Requires the Administration and all relevant agencies to work together and create a comprehensive strategic plan to end serious human rights violations, provide genuine accountability for crimes committed in Darfur and other parts of Sudan, support the path for democratic transformation, and create peace throughout all of Sudan;

Demands free and unfettered access for international humanitarian aid and, absent such agreement, requires the Administration to seek other mechanisms to mitigate the effects of lack of such humanitarian aid;

Promotes free and transparent democratic reform in Sudan, including exploring technical support and funding for civil society and others seeking sustainable democratic change;

Increases engagement with other stakeholders with influence in Sudan;

Creates a broad-reaching sanctions regime to target any government or individuals whose support assists the Sudanese government in committing serious human rights violations or who fail to execute international arrest warrants against Sudanese officials;

Seeks more effective enforcement of existing sanctions including adequate resources and personnel and extends to all of Sudan existing sanctions regimes included in prior enacted legislation that were specific only for ''Darfur''; and

Provides genuine accountability for crimes committed in Darfur and encourages other countries to expand international accountability efforts to include crimes committed in other regions in Sudan.

[From Reuters, Apr. 12, 2013]

SOME 50,000 FLEE SUDAN INTO CHAD AFTER DARFUR CLASHES

N'DJAMENA.—Some 50,000 Sudanese have fled into southeastern Chad in the past week following fresh tribal conflict in the restive Darfur region, U.N. and Chadian officials said on Friday.

Melissa Fleming, a spokeswoman for the U.N. High Commission for Refugees, said the fighting had spread as each side received reinforcements from tribal allies and had become more violent, with entire villages being razed.

A total of 74,000 refugees had fled to Chad in the past two months, she said.

''People are arriving wounded and telling us their houses are destroyed and their villages completely burned down, with many people killed,'' she told a news conference in Geneva.

The refugees have fled to an arid area along the Chad, Sudan and Central African Republic border.

''The area they are arriving in is very remote. They left with nothing: there is no water, no food. They are sleeping under trees,'' Fleming said, adding there was a risk of disease.

General Moussa Haroun Tirgo, the governor of the Sila region of southeastern Chad where the refugees have fled, told Reuters that about 52 wounded had arrived since Thursday.

''The situation is worrying given that the zone does not have enough medical infrastructure,'' Tirgo said. ''We're evaluating the needs with the help of NGOs but the situation is very serious.''

Conflict has ravaged Sudan's western Darfur region since 2003 when mainly non-Arab rebels took up arms against the Arab-led government, accusing it of politically and economically marginalizing the region.

Violence has subsided from its peak in 2003 and 2004, but a surge has forced more than 130,000 people to flee their homes this year, according to the United Nations.

OUR NATION'S MISSILE DEFENSE ISN'T A BARGAINING CHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TURNER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, once again, President Obama and his administration have offered up America's missile defense shield as a bargaining chip. Just the other week, Secretary of State John Kerry flew to China and offered to remove our recently added defenses in the Pacific to encourage them to counter the increasingly belligerent tone and actions by North Korea.

This is the same failed strategy that the administration offered up to the Russians in exchange for them engaging with Iran. If it failed to work then, how could it possibly work now?

At a time when our missile defense system is the only defense that we have to the threat from North Korea and the emerging threats from Iran, I am greatly concerned that our Nation's missile defense strategy is languishing. The end result is increased risk to the United States, increased cost to the taxpayer, and needless alienation of our allies.

Our enemies around the world have sought nuclear weapons and missile technology, yet the Obama administration has consistently reduced missile defense funding, abandoned previous Bush administration strategies that sought to respond to these emerging threats, and has compromised the implementation of current missile defense programs. Meanwhile, they have sought elusive Russian, and now Chinese, approval of the right of the United States to defend itself.

Most recently, the administration has abandoned its own missile defense strategy, known as the ''phased adaptive approach,'' in favor of a stopgap measure of finally placing the additional ground-based missiles in Alaska that they had previously canceled. I welcome the administration finally completing the missile field which it has attempted to close. Although, this reveals that they have no plan to reasonably respond to the real and foreseeable threats from North Korea and Iran.

This announcement leaves the United States without an articulated missile defense strategy. This deficiency is compounded by the effects of the administration's clumsy handling of our relationship with our NATO allies. The abrupt cancellation of the Bush administration missile defense commitments, coupled with the announcement of the abandonment of the President's phased adaptive approach, have left our allies to stand alone in the face of domestic criticism and Russian opposition.

Our relationship with the Polish Government has yet to fully recover, and I am concerned that this administration may repeat the same relationship-straining affront with our Romanian allies. The President and his administration must address the damage done to our relationships with our NATO allies as a result of their failed missile defense strategies.

In addition, I am concerned that the administration fails to recognize the significance of the emerging threats

from North Korea and Iran which places the United States at risk. The administration should inform Congress of the effects of the abandoned and failed Obama administration phased adaptive approach and of their plan to complete the Bush administration's Alaska missile defense strategy.

Further, since completion of the Alaska missile field alone is insufficient for the full protection of the United States, I am calling upon the administration to support the site selection and completion of a United States east coast missile field to complement the Alaska site.

The world is not becoming a safer place. Offering to weaken our defenses in hopes of irrational nations suspending their weapons programs is not an effective strategy to protect the United States. Simply put, these offers are of greater benefit to our adversaries than to the protection of the American people. They are to the detriment of the American people.

THE PASSING OF HELEN L. DOHERTY APRIL 17, 2013

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU) for 5 minutes.

Ms. CHU. This month, the San Gabriel Valley lost a wonderful leader, the Native American community lost a true champion, and I lost a dear friend. Helen Doherty wore many hats throughout her years of public service, but one thing remained constant among them all: she fought to make life better for those around her. All people were her family; all children were her children.

Helen's actions were always guided by the needs of younger generations. An educator at heart, she spent four decades in public school classrooms. She taught where she was needed most—where the value of a lesson learned would have the greatest impact—places like the Bridges Community Day School, where she worked with young people who had worn out their welcome in the traditional school system through expulsion, drug use, or family problems. None of that mattered to Helen. What mattered was helping kids build a brighter future for themselves, one new lesson at a time.

But being an educator meant more to Helen than teaching in schools. It meant being a good colleague as well. She was a devoted member of the California Teachers Association and won their California Teacher in Politics award.

Helen's compassion for others led her to speak out and fight for those in need. Much of her activism was rooted in who she was as a member of the Cherokee Nation. She had personal insights into the needs of Native American communities, and she fought tirelessly to have them addressed. By the time she was in college at UCLA, she had personally felt the pains of intolerance directed at her and her heritage.

□ 1030

Determined to change the wrong she faced, Helen boarded a bus and rode clear across the country to hear Martin Luther King deliver his ''I Have a Dream'' speech. That dream was her dream. His message was her message, and she fulfilled it each and every day for the rest of her life.

Helen worked side by side with the Gabrielino Tribe to help them gain recognition and joined the Morongo Nation in promoting human rights. She took those challenges and struggles that are unique to reservation life and raised awareness for solutions.

Her efforts helped ensure those facing difficult conditions on reservation land had the education to build a brighter future. She held workshops on tribal lands to help people develop the skills needed to improve their quality of life, and she worked hard to ensure that textbooks in California accurately reflected the true history of the Native people. As her advocacy led to public service, Helen was a founder and chair of the Native American Caucus for the California Democratic Party—one of the first Native American caucuses for a State party.

Helen left us not long ago, but her impact lives on. The lives she touched are forever changed for the better as are the communities she fought to empower. Her life's work provides an inspiration for all of us. So, today, I bid farewell to a friend, a mentor, and a true role model to so many.

And I say thank you for all that you've done for us, Helen Doherty.

UKRAINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the recent actions taken by the President of the Ukraine, Mr. Yanukovych.

On April 7, President Yanukovych pardoned former Interior Minister Lutsenko, former Environmental Minister Filipchuk, and four others. These pardons demonstrate Ukraine's desire to integrate democratic policies and reform their justice system as the expanding Eastern European nation continues its transition towards democracy.

This action is a concrete step in the right direction for President Yanukovych's administration, but there remains much to be done in order for Ukraine's judicial system to be considered in line with Western standards. This would include an end to all political persecutions; and, today, I reiterate my call for the release of Ms. Yulia Tymoshenko, the former Prime Minister.

I have long been a supporter of our Nation's ability to assist new, emerging democracies as they develop the pillars for building successful and lasting governments. I am encouraged by these recent steps and hope that Ukraine continues on its path towards full European integration. The United States Government welcomes President Yanukovych's decision to pardon Mr. Lutsenko and Mr. Filipchuk and hopes that such actions signal an end to the political persecution of other opposition figures.

KEEP YOSEMITE TOURIST-FRIENDLY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. I rise today in strong opposition to a proposal by the National Park Service to remove longstanding tourist facilities from Yosemite National Park, including bicycle and raft rentals, snack facilities, gift shops, horseback riding, the ice skating rink at Curry Village, tennis courts and swimming pools, the art center, and the historic stone Sugar Pine Bridge.

These facilities date back generations and provide visitors with a wide range of amenities to enhance their stay at and their enjoyment of this world-renowned national park. To add insult to insanity, all of this comes with a quarter-billion-dollar price tag to American taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, Yosemite belongs to the American people, and the Park Service's job is to welcome them and accommodate them when they visit their park, not to restrict and harass them. Indeed, Yosemite was set aside nearly 150 years ago by legislation signed by Abraham Lincoln specifically for ''the public use, resort and recreation for all time.'' This proposal fundamentally changes the entire purpose for which Yosemite was set aside in the first place.

Tourists don't go where they're not welcomed. Yosemite competes with thousands of vacation destinations; and the more inconvenient and unpleasant Park managers make it for Yosemite visitors, the fewer visitors they're going to have. Now, that might be convenient to them, but it will devastate the economy of all of the surrounding communities whose economies depend upon tourism.

The Park Service is attempting to justify this as a court-ordered response to the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act. This is disingenuous. The settlement agreement they refer to simply requires that a plan be adopted consistent with current law. It does not mandate such radical changes in longstanding visitor services and amenities.

Former Congressman Tony Coelho, who authored the act that designated the Merced under provisions of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, has just released a strong letter condemning the proposal, saying in no uncertain terms:

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act was never intended to apply to the Merced River within