

ON SUDAN

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I commend the Foreign Relations Committee for its action today in reporting a resolution urging action by the United States and the international community to respond to the ongoing ethnic violence in Sudan. The Senate should act on this resolution as soon as possible.

It has been 10 years since the Rwanda genocide. A decade ago, 8,000 Rwandans were being killed every day, yet the international community was silent. We did not stop the deaths of 800,000 Tutsis and politically moderate Hutu, in spite of our commitment that genocide must never again darken the annals of human history.

Sadly, we may now be repeating the same mistake in Sudan.

In 1998, President Clinton made a special visit to Kigali, Rwanda's capital, "partly," he said, "in recognition of the fact that we in the United States and the world community did not do as much as we could have and should have done to try to limit what occurred" in Rwanda. His visit and strong words remind us that we must not hesitate to act, when the horror is clear and when so many lives may be lost.

Over the past few weeks, reports of severe ethnic violence have come from Darfur, a region of western Sudan. We have heard accounts of thousands or even tens of thousands of people murdered, of widespread rape, and of people's homes burned to the ground.

The Sudanese Government has refused to allow full access to western Sudan. International monitors and humanitarian workers have been prevented from reaching the area. We need immediate access to gather more information on what is happening and to provide urgent humanitarian relief to the one million people the United Nations reports have been displaced internally in Sudan or across the border to Chad.

Many of us hoped that the humanitarian ceasefire and agreement earlier this month between the Sudanese government and rebel forces in western Sudan would end the many months of violence against entire communities. It has not. The bombing of villages by the Sudanese Air Force continues, and so does the mayhem by the paramilitary forces unleashed by the Government of Sudan.

The burning of homes and crops of desperately poor villagers has left in its ashes a humanitarian disaster. Without immediate relief, experts predict deaths in the hundreds of thousands. The cruelty of the Government of Sudan and its paramilitary allies against other ethnic groups raises the very real specter of genocide.

The United States and the international community need to act now, to stop this brutality, to save lives.

President Bush should make a strong public statement alerting the world to the violence in Darfur. He should call the international community to ac-

tion, and increase pressure on the Sudanese Government. Doing so would send a strong signal that the international community will not accept these continuing atrocities. Sudan has been seeking better relations with the United States. It must be told that our nation will have no relations with a genocidal government.

The United States should propose a resolution in the United Nations Security Council to condemn the violations of international law being committed in Darfur, particularly the indiscriminate targeting of civilians and the obstruction of humanitarian aid by the government. The U.N. should demand immediate international access to the region to assess the full scale of the need for assistance. The U.N. should also insist on adequate support for international human rights monitors and for monitors of the ceasefire agreement reached last week.

The international community must demand that Sudan stop the violence now, and give full humanitarian access to Darfur without question or qualification.

To minimize the suffering of those affected by the violence, we should immediately identify funds and food aid to meet at least the traditional U.S. share of the \$110 million appeal from the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs to support urgently needed assistance for internally displaced persons and refugees. These internally displaced persons and refugees must also be allowed by the Sudanese Government and militias to return safely to their homes, to rebuild their lives and communities, as soon as possible.

The European Community, African countries and the rest of the international community should use their considerable influence to pressure Sudan to end the violence in Darfur, and end it now.

If the international community fails to act—and to act now—the consequences will be dire.

United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan was eloquent in his statement at the commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the Rwanda genocide. He said that he would not permit Darfur to become the first genocide of the 21st century.

There will be discussion in Washington and around the world about whether the ethnic violence in Darfur is, in fact, genocide, but we cannot allow the debate over definitions obstruct our ability to act as soon as possible.

It is a matter of the highest moral responsibility for each of us individually, for Congress, for the United States, and for the global community to do all we can to stop the violence against innocents in Darfur. We must act, because thousands of people's lives will be lost if we don't.

STAND WITH OUR NATION'S LAW ENFORCEMENT

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, this week mayors and police chiefs from across the country will join with the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence to urge President Bush and Congress to renew the federal Assault Weapons Ban.

The 1994 law banned a list of 19 specific weapons, as well as a number of other weapons incorporating certain design characteristics such as pistol grips, folding stocks, bayonet mounts, and flash suppressors. The assault weapons ban also prohibited the manufacture of semiautomatic weapons that incorporate at least two of these military features and which accept a detachable magazine. This law is scheduled to expire on September 13, 2004.

I support the efforts of the law enforcement community and local leaders who are calling for legislation extending the law. In 1994, I voted for the assault weapons ban and, last month, I joined a bipartisan majority of the Senate in voting to extend the assault weapons ban for 10 years.

Law enforcement support for the assault weapons ban is broad. It includes the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Major Cities Chiefs Association, the Police Foundation, the Police Executive Research Forum, the International Brotherhood of Police Officers, the National Association of School Resource Officers, the National Fraternal Order of Police, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, the Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association, and the National Black Police Association.

In addition, mayors and police chiefs from Detroit, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Miami, Seattle, Chicago, and Washington, D.C. have joined over 200 other local leaders in sending a letter urging Congress to immediately pass a 10-year extension of the assault weapons ban.

Despite broad support for this law, the National Rifle Association fought against passage of the assault weapons ban in 1994 and continues to oppose it to this day.

While President Bush has indicated that he supports reauthorizing the assault weapons ban, and a bipartisan majority in the Senate is on the record supporting reauthorization, the President has failed to urge Congress to act on this important legislation before it expires on September 13th. The ban is a major public safety measure that protects citizens and police officers and I urge the President and the Congress to act immediately to reauthorize the law.

OUTSOURCING AND CLOW VALVE

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, after 2½ years of a largely jobless recovery, the current administration is on track to be the first in over six decades actually