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Statement of Congressman John Lewis
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In Darfur almost half a million people have been killed. Countless women and girls have been raped and abused. And millions more have fled their homes leaving loved ones behind. This terror, this violence, this horrible abuse must end.

We cannot stand by, watch and wait. Almost ten years ago, my home town of Atlanta welcomed some of the Lost Boys, refugees of the civil war in the Sudan. These young men stole our hearts. We hoped that they would live the American dream. We prayed for their families, and we cried for all their suffering and pain. When violence erupted again, the world asked when will this end how many more have to pay this heavy price?

Three years ago, I stood here in front of this embassy with my colleagues from the Congressional Black Caucus demanding an end to this genocide. I don't understand it. How can a government meant to serve the people turn a blind eye to human suffering? How can those leaders reject humanitarian aid? I don't understand how the world can just stand by and watch the slaughter of innocent victims in Darfur. Haven't we learned the hard lessons of Rwanda and Bosnia, of the Holocaust?

The UN Security Council, the U.S. Congress, the administration, and our global neighbors must be united and they must be clear. We can send no more weapons to a government that is engaged in ethnic cleansing against innocent citizens. The world community must step in. We must use our power to demand that the Sudan chart a course toward peace. We cannot wait. The children of Darfur need peace, and they need it now.