

Washington, DC – Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) released the following statement in reaction to the Genocide in Sudan Resolution, H.Con.Res. 467. H.Con.Res.467, considered on the House Floor last night, declaring that the humanitarian crisis in Darfur, Sudan should be considered “genocide”.

“Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy in permitting me to speak on this resolution, and I appreciate the gentleman from New Jersey bringing it forward.

“I think it is important that we are stepping forward to call what is happening in this troubled country by what it is: genocide. As has been referenced, over 30,000 people have already been killed. The best estimate is that at a least a third of a million people will be killed; tragically, that number could easily grow to a million or more.

“I hope that this resolution will be an important first step for us to do things differently than when we stood by 10 years ago in Rwanda, a dozen years ago in Bosnia, or sadly, a generation ago during World War II. But I think those experiences have chastened and, I hope, sensitized us; I hope the language we have put forward here is just the beginning. By all means, we need to call it by what it is: genocide. By all means, we need to move forward with the United Nations.

“I would hope that after spending approximately \$200 billion in Iraq against Saddam Hussein, who, while undeniably evil, did not inflict damage on this scale we are able to put forward the energy and interest needed to address the genocide in Sudan. We need to use the full military, diplomatic, and moral power of our resources to tip the balance and help resolve this crisis.

“I commend all of my colleagues who have stayed late into the evening to share their concerns and craft a bipartisan approach. I hope that this is but the first of many steps we take to highlight this humanitarian crisis for as long as it continues. We cannot ignore it; we cannot afford to let it slip by, unnoticed and unheeded.”

H.Con.Res.467 will be voted on later tonight.