U.S. Department of Homeland Security
20 Mass, Rm. A3042, 425 I Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20529

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

[redacted]

FILE: [redacted] Office: TEXAS SERVICE CENTER Date: AUG 25 2004

IN RE: Petitioner: [redacted]
Beneficiary:

PETITION: Immigrant Petition for Special Immigrant Religious Worker Pursuant to Section 203(b)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1153(b)(4), as described at Section 101(a)(27)(C) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1101(a)(27)(C)

ON BEHALF OF PETITIONER:

SELF-REPRESENTED

INSTRUCTIONS:

This is the decision of the Administrative Appeals Office in your case. All documents have been returned to the office that originally decided your case. Any further inquiry must be made to that office.

Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

CC: [redacted]

identifying data deleted to prevent clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy

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DISCUSSION: The employment-based immigrant visa petition was denied by the Director, Texas Service Center, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office on appeal. The appeal will be rejected.

The petitioner seeks to classify the beneficiary as a special immigrant religious worker pursuant to section 203(b)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1153(b)(4). The director denied the petition on July 17, 2003. The instant appeal was filed on August 20, 2003.

The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(1)(iii) states, in pertinent part:

> (B) *Meaning of affected party.* For purposes of this section and sections 103.4 and 103.5 of this part, *affected party* (in addition to Citizenship and Immigration Services [CIS]) means the person or entity with legal standing in a proceeding. It does not include the beneficiary of a visa petition.

The regulation at 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(2)(v) states:

> *Improperly filed appeal -- (A) Appeal filed by person or entity not entitled to file it -- (1) Rejection without refund of filing fee.* An appeal filed by a person or entity not entitled to file it must be rejected as improperly filed. In such a case, any filing fee CIS has accepted will not be refunded.

The appeal has not been filed by the petitioner, nor by any entity with legal standing in the proceeding, but rather by the beneficiary, who personally signed the I-290B Notice of Appeal, and identified herself, rather than the petitioner, as the "Person Filing Appeal" on that form.[1]

Therefore, the appeal has not been properly filed, and must be rejected, pursuant to the above regulations.

ORDER: The appeal is rejected.

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[1] We note that while the record contains a Form G-28 from the Law Office of Shola A. Sutton submitted on behalf the petitioner and the beneficiary in response to the director's April 2, 2003 request for evidence, there is no indication that Ms. Sutton represents either party on appeal. The Form I-290B was submitted and signed by the beneficiary only, with no subsequent Form G-28 filed by Ms. Sutton or any other document indicating Ms. Sutton's representation of the petitioner on appeal.