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



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

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FEB 14 2006

FILE: [Redacted]
[EAC 02 162 53822]

Office: Vermont Service Center

Date:

IN RE: Applicant: [Redacted]

APPLICATION: Application for Temporary Protected Status under Section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1254

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT: 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.

for Robert P. Wiemann
Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application was denied by the Director, Vermont Service Center, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant is a native and citizen of El Salvador who is seeking Temporary Protected Status (TPS) under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1254.

The director denied the application because the applicant failed to establish he had continuously resided in the United States since February 13, 2001, and had been continuously physically present in the United States since March 9, 2001.

On appeal, the applicant asserts his claim of eligibility for TPS, and submits documentation in support of his claim.

Section 244(c) of the Act, and the related regulations in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2, provide that an applicant is eligible for TPS only if such alien establishes that he or she:

- (a) Is a national, as defined in section 101(a)(21) of the Act, of a foreign state designated under section 244(b) of the Act;
- (b) Has been continuously physically present in the United States since the effective date of the most recent designation of that foreign state;
- (c) Has continuously resided in the United States since such date as the Attorney General may designate;
- (d) Is admissible as an immigrant except as provided under § 244.3;
- (e) Is not ineligible under § 244.4; and
- (f)
 - (1) Registers for Temporary Protected Status during the initial registration period announced by public notice in the FEDERAL REGISTER, or
 - (2) During any subsequent extension of such designation if at the time of the initial registration period:
 - (i) The applicant is a nonimmigrant or has been granted voluntary departure status or any relief from removal;
 - (ii) The applicant has an application for change of status, adjustment of status, asylum, voluntary departure, or any relief from removal which is pending or subject to further review or appeal;

(iii) The applicant is a parolee or has a pending request for reparole; or

(iv) The applicant is a spouse or child of an alien currently eligible to be a TPS registrant.

The phrase *continuously physically present*, as defined in 8 C.F.R. § 244.1, means actual physical presence in the United States for the entire period specified in the regulations. An alien shall not be considered to have failed to maintain continuous physical presence in the United States by virtue of brief, casual, and innocent absences as defined within this section.

The phrase *continuously resided*, as defined in 8 C.F.R. § 244.1, means residing in the United States for the entire period specified in the regulations. An alien shall not be considered to have failed to maintain continuous residence in the United States by reason of a brief, casual and innocent absence as defined within this section or due merely to a brief temporary trip abroad required by emergency or extenuating circumstances outside the control of the alien.

The phrase *brief, casual, and innocent absence*, as defined in 8 C.F.R. § 244.1, means a departure from the United States that satisfies the following criteria:

- (1) Each such absence was of short duration and reasonably calculated to accomplish the purpose(s) for the absence;
- (2) The absence was not the result of an order of deportation, an order of voluntary departure, or an administrative grant of voluntary departure without the institution of deportation proceedings; and
- (3) The purposes for the absence from the United States or actions while outside of the United States were not contrary to law.

Persons applying for TPS offered to El Salvadorans must demonstrate continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001. On July 9, 2002, the Attorney General announced an extension of the TPS designation until September 9, 2003. A subsequent extension of the TPS designation has been granted by the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, with validity until September 9, 2006, upon the applicant's re-registration during the requisite time period.

The burden of proof is upon the applicant to establish that he or she meets the above requirements. Applicants shall submit all documentation as required in the instructions or requested by Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS). 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(a). The sufficiency of all evidence will be judged according to its relevancy, consistency, credibility, and probative value. To meet his or her burden of proof the applicant must provide supporting documentary evidence of eligibility apart from his or her own statements. 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(b).

On February 26, 2003, the applicant was requested to submit evidence establishing his continuous residence in the United States as of February 13, 2001, and continuous physical presence in the United States from March 9, 2001, to the date of filing his application. The applicant did not respond to the director's request; therefore, the director determined that the applicant had failed to establish his eligibility for TPS and denied the application on August 20, 2003.

On appeal, the applicant submits the following evidence along with his appeal: copies of payment receipts dated August 22, 2002 and September 21, 2002, from Allstate Insurance Company, for his auto insurance policy; a copy of an automobile insurance bill dated August 19, 2003, from Allstate Insurance Company; a copy of his airline ticket bearing an issue date of December 27, 2000, for a roundtrip itinerary from San Salvador, El Salvador to Washington Dulles airport, and return; a copy of an Employee of the Month certificate for the month of May 2001, from [REDACTED] a copy of a letter dated October 12, 2001, from C & G Imports, Inc., Vienna, Virginia; a copy of a Temporary Certificate from the Commonwealth of Virginia, Department of Motor Vehicles, dated September 20, 2001; and copies of earnings statements from Clean Car, LP bearing the name of [REDACTED] bearing check dates from February 7, 2001 to April 17, 2002.

The copies of receipts from Allstate Insurance Company, his Employee of the Month certificate, and the letter from C & G Imports all post-date the requisite time period for residence and physical presence in the United States for El Salvador TPS. Further, the earnings statements from Clean Car LP do not bear the name of the applicant, nor his address. In addition, the earnings statements do not indicate the address of the company and are not supported by other corroborative evidence. The applicant claims to have lived in the United States since January 1, 2001. It is reasonable to expect that the applicant would have some other type of contemporaneous evidence to support his continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite time periods. The sufficiency of all evidence will be judged according to its relevancy, consistency, credibility, and probative value. 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(b). It is determined that the documentation submitted by the applicant is not sufficient to establish that he satisfies the continuous residence and continuous physical presence requirements described in 8 C.F.R. §§ 244.2(b) and (c). Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application for temporary protected status will be affirmed.

It is noted that according to CIS' systems, the applicant had entered the United States as a B-1, non-immigrant visitor, on January 1, 2001, at Washington Dulles airport. It is also noted that the copy of the applicant's airline ticket reflects that the applicant had purchased a roundtrip ticket from San Salvador to the Washington Dulles airport along with a return flight to El Salvador on January 31, 2001. In addition, the copy of his passport reflects that he re-entered El Salvador on February 2, 2001.

An alien applying for TPS has the burden of proving that he or she meets the requirements enumerated above and is otherwise eligible under the provisions of section 244 of the Act. The applicant has failed to meet this burden.

ORDER: The appeal is dismissed.