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FILE: [REDACTED] Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER Date: NOV 28 2005
[EAC 04 180 54528]

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.

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 was eligible for late registration. The director also found that the applicant had failed to establish continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001.

On appeal, the applicant submits a statement.

Section 244(c) of the Act, and the related regulations in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2, provide that an applicant who is a national of a foreign state is eligible for temporary protected status 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.
- (g) Has filed an application for late registration with the appropriate Service director, within a 60-day period immediately following the expiration or termination of conditions described in paragraph (f)(2) of this section.

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.

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. Subsequent extensions of the TPS designation have been granted, with the latest granted until September 9, 2006, upon the applicant's re-registration during the requisite time period. The initial registration period for Salvadorans was from March 9, 2001, through September 9, 2002. The record reveals that the applicant filed his initial TPS application with Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) on June 1, 2004.

The burden of proof is upon the applicant to establish that he meets the above requirements. Applicants shall submit all documentation as required in the instructions or requested by 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 burden of proof the applicant must provide supporting documentary evidence of eligibility apart from his own statements. 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(b).

The first issue in this proceeding is whether the applicant is eligible for late registration.

The record of proceedings confirms that the applicant filed his TPS application after the initial registration period had closed. To qualify for late registration, the applicant must provide evidence that during the initial registration period, he fell within at least one of the provisions described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2) above.

On July 20, 2004, the applicant was requested to submit evidence establishing his eligibility for late registration as set forth in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). The applicant was also requested to submit evidence establishing his qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite periods. In response, the applicant submitted documentation relating to his residence and physical presence in the United States.

The director determined that the applicant had failed to establish he was eligible for late registration and denied the application on September 23, 2004.

On appeal, the applicant does not submit a statement or any evidence to establish his eligibility for late initial registration.

The applicant has not submitted any evidence to establish that he has met any of the criteria for late registration described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). Consequently, the director's conclusion that the applicant had failed to establish his eligibility for late registration will be affirmed.

The second issue in this proceeding is whether the applicant has established continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001.

The applicant claimed on his TPS application that he entered the United States without inspection on November 22, 1999. In support of his application, the applicant submitted the following evidence:

1. a photocopy of his Salvadoran passport issued in Washington, D.C., on February 18, 2004;
2. an affidavit from [REDACTED] stating she has known the applicant since February 2000;
3. an affidavit from [REDACTED] stating that she has known the applicant since March 2000;
4. an affidavit from [REDACTED] stating she has known the applicant since January 2000; and,
5. an affidavit from [REDACTED] stating that she has known the applicant since December 1999.

On July 20, 2004, the applicant was requested to submit evidence establishing his qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States. In response, the applicant submitted the following:

6. a letter from [REDACTED] stating that he has rented a room to the applicant in his house located at [REDACTED] Maryland, since January 1, 2001;
7. a letter from [REDACTED] who identifies himself as the Administrative Secretary of the Evangelical Church Apostles & Prophets in Washington, D.C., stating that he has known the applicant since September 2000;
8. a letter from [REDACTED] stating he has known the applicant since May 2001;
9. a letter from [REDACTED] stating that she has known the applicant since March 23, 1997;

10. a letter from [REDACTED] stating that she has known the applicant since March 28, 2001;
11. a letter from [REDACTED] stating that she has known the applicant since January 2002; and,
12. a letter dated August 17, 2004, from [REDACTED] Police Orientation Center in Hyattsville, Maryland, stating that the applicant has been enrolled in the Latin youth program "Yo Puedo/I Can" since January 2001 and attends the program on a regular schedule.

The director determined that the applicant had failed to submit sufficient evidence to establish his eligibility for TPS and denied the application.

On appeal, the applicant states that he can't provide evidence like rent receipts or medical receipts to establish his qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite periods because he didn't have any legal documents authorizing him to live or work in the United States during that period.

The applicant's Salvadoran passport (No. 1 above) was issued after the requisite periods to establish continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States. The applicant claims to have lived in the United States since November 22, 1999. However, [REDACTED] states in her letter (No. 9 above) that she has known the applicant since March 23, 1997. The applicant has not provided any explanation as to how he could be acquainted with [REDACTED] prior to his arrival in the United States. Further, [REDACTED] states in one letter (No. 3 above) that she has known the applicant since March 2000, while she states in a separate letter (No. 11 above) that she has known the applicant since January 2002. The applicant has not provided any explanation for these discrepancies in the dates of his alleged acquaintance with [REDACTED]

Doubt cast on any aspect of the applicant's proof may lead to a reevaluation of the reliability and sufficiency of the remaining evidence offered in support of the application. Further, it is incumbent on the applicant to resolve any inconsistencies in the record by independent objective evidence, and attempts to explain or reconcile such inconsistencies, absent competent objective evidence pointing to where the truth lies, will not suffice. *Matter of Ho*, 19 I&N Dec. 582. (Comm. 1988).

Without corroborative evidence, the remaining affidavits and letters (Nos. 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, and 12) are not sufficient to establish an applicant's qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence. Moreover, affidavits are only specifically listed as acceptable evidence of employment and membership in organizations such as churches or labor unions as described at 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(a)(2)(i) and (v).

The applicant has not submitted sufficient credible evidence to establish his qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite periods. He has, therefore, failed to establish that he has met the criteria described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(b) and (c). Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application for TPS on these grounds will be affirmed.

The application will be denied for the above stated reasons, with each considered as an independent and alternative basis for denial. An alien applying for temporary protected status 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.