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FILE: [REDACTED]
[WAC 05 208 83401]

Office: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER

Date: OCT 30 2006

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Wiemann".

Robert P. Wiemann, Chief
Administrative Appeals Office

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

The applicant is a 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 record reveals that the applicant filed a TPS application during the initial registration period on March 21, 2001, under Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS) receipt number LIN 01 141 51669. The Director, Nebraska Service Center, denied that application for abandonment on September 8, 2001, because the applicant failed to respond to a request for evidence to establish his continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the qualifying period. The applicant also failed to provide evidence to establish his identification and his nationality. There is nothing in the record to indicate that the applicant filed a motion to reopen the director's decision. It is noted that the Director, Nebraska Service Center, denied that application for abandonment again on July 9, 2002 because the applicant failed to appear for fingerprinting. The record of proceedings reveals that the applicant's fingerprints were taken on November 7, 2002.

The applicant filed a subsequent TPS application on September 29, 2003, under CIS receipt number LIN 03 280 51578. The Director, Nebraska Service Center, denied that application on January 21, 2004, because the applicant failed to establish his eligibility to file for late initial registration, and his qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite periods. On February 17, 2004, the applicant filed an appeal from the denial decision. The Director (now Chief), AAO, determined the applicant had established his date of entry, continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite periods, but he had not established eligibility for late initial registration. Therefore, the director dismissed that appeal on October 17, 2005.

The applicant filed the current Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, on April 26, 2005, and indicated that he was re-registering for TPS.

The director denied the re-registration application because the applicant's initial TPS application had been denied and the applicant was not eligible to apply for re-registration for TPS.

On appeal, the applicant states that he entered the United States on March 21, 1998 and has been in this country since then. The applicant also submits evidence in an attempt to establish continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the qualifying period.

If the applicant is filing an application as a re-registration, a previous grant of TPS must have been afforded the applicant, as only those individuals who are granted TPS must register annually. In addition, the applicant must continue to maintain the conditions of eligibility. 8 C.F.R. § 244.17.

In this case, the applicant has not previously been granted TPS. Therefore, he is not eligible to re-register for TPS. Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application will be affirmed.

It is noted that the director's decision does not explore the possibility that the applicant was attempting to file a late initial application for TPS instead of an annual re-registration.

Section 244(c) of the Act, and the related regulations in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2, provide that an applicant may apply for TPS during the initial registration period, or:

- (f) (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 initial registration period for El Salvadorans was from March 9, 2001 through September 9, 2002. The record reveals that the applicant filed the current application with CIS on April 26, 2005.

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.

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 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 appeal, the applicant states that he has resided in the United States since March 21, 1998. The applicant also requests that his case be reviewed. In addition, the applicant submits additional evidence in an attempt to establish his qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States. However, this does not mitigate the applicant's failure to file his TPS application within the initial registration period.

The applicant has failed to provide any evidence to establish that this application should be accepted as a late initial registration under 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). Therefore, the application also must be denied for this reason. 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.