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U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

MI

[Redacted]

FILE:

[Redacted]

Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER

Date: NOV 05 2007

IN RE:

Applicant:

[Redacted]

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

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT:

[Redacted]

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, Chief  
Administrative Appeals Office

**DISCUSSION:** The Director, Vermont Service Center (VSC), denied the application. The matter is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant is a citizen of El Salvador who seeks 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 his qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite periods.

On appeal, counsel for the applicant asserts that, although the applicant did not initially submit sufficient proof of qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence, he is now doing so on appeal, and his application should be approved.

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 as designated by the Attorney General 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 section 244.3;
- (e) Is not ineligible under 8 C.F.R. § 244.4; and
- (f)
  - (1) Registers for TPS 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 Salvadorans must demonstrate continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and continuous physical presence since March 9, 2001.

The initial registration period for Salvadorans was from March 9, 2001, through September 9, 2002. 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 by the Secretary of Homeland Security, with the latest extension valid until March 9, 2009, upon the applicant's re-registration during the requisite time period.

To qualify for late registration, the applicant must provide evidence that during the initial registration period he or she fell within at least one of the four provisions described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2) above.

The burden of proof is on 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).

The record reflects that the applicant filed his initial TPS application (EAC 02 184 51124) on May 6, 2002, 2002 – during the initial registration period for Salvadorans. In support of his application, the applicant submitted various documents indicating that he had been in the United States since January 2002 and two letters from individuals attesting to his presence in the United States since January 2001 and May 2001. On May 9, 2003, the director requested that the applicant submit additional documentation to establish his qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence until his date of filing in May 2002. In response, the applicant submitted various documents indicating his presence in 2002 and 2003.

On July 1, 2003, the director denied the application, finding that the applicant had failed to establish his qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence.

The applicant appealed the decision. The AAO affirmed the director's decision and dismissed the appeal on May 25, 2005.

The applicant submitted a subsequent re-registration application that was denied. On October 18, 2006, the applicant submitted the current application. The director accepted it under the late initial filing provisions of 8 C.F.R. § 244. The director determined that the applicant did not meet any of the criteria for late-filing and that the applicant did not establish his qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence.

On appeal, counsel for the applicant asserts that the applicant has submitted sufficient documentation to establish his qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence. The applicant submits primary evidence, including Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Forms 1040 and W-2 and state-issued identification documents that establish residence and physical presence from 2002 until the present. He submits secondary evidence, in the form of letters from individuals who know him, to establish his qualifying residence and physical presence in the United States.

While the applicant has submitted evidence in an attempt to establish his qualifying residence and physical presence in the United States, none of these documents overcome the applicant's failure to file his TPS application within the initial registration period. 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). The director's conclusion that the applicant had failed to establish his eligibility for late registration will be affirmed.

Furthermore, the applicant has not submitted sufficient evidence to establish his presence in the United States before January 2002. This is a finding made by the director and affirmed by the AAO in its previous decision. The various documents submitted by the applicant show that he has been present in the United States since about January 2002 until the present. At issue is the sufficiency of the evidence submitted to establish the applicant's presence in the United States prior to January 2002.

The statements submitted to establish the applicant's qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence are of little probative value and can be given little evidentiary weight. The statement from Amparo Castillo is not sworn to, is not notarized, does not provide the affiant's address, date and place of birth, or full information and/or complete details relating to the applicant's continuous residence and continuous physical presence, as required by 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(a)(2)(vi). The three additional statements from Jose Cruz Alvarado, Jose Pedro Palma, and Jose Adalberto Garcia are not sworn to, do not provide the affiants' dates and places of birth, or full information and/or complete details relating to the applicant's continuous residence and continuous physical presence.

The applicant has not submitted sufficient credible evidence to establish his qualifying continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, or his continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001. He has, therefore, failed to establish that he has met the criteria described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(b) and (c). The director's decision to deny the application for TPS on these grounds will also 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 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.