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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
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Washington, DC 20536

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

[redacted]

FILE: [redacted] Office: TEXAS SERVICE CENTER Date: APR 21 2004

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, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

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identifying data deleted to prevent clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy

DISCUSSION: The application was denied by the Director, Texas 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 Honduras 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 determined that the applicant failed to submit evidence to establish that he was eligible for filing after the initial registration period from January 5, 1999 to August 20, 1999. The director, therefore, denied the application.

On appeal, the applicant states that he was present in the United States before the filing period for TPS. The applicant submits additional evidence of his residence in the United States.

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 condition described in paragraph (f)(2) of this section.

The term *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 term *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.

Persons applying for TPS offered to Hondurans must demonstrate that they have continuously resided in the United States since December 30, 1998, and that they have been continuously physically present in the United States since January 5, 1999. On May 11, 2000, the Attorney General announced an extension of the TPS designation until July 5, 2001. Subsequent extensions of the TPS designation have been granted with the latest extension valid until January 5, 2005, upon the applicant's re-registration during the requisite time period.

As stated in 8 C.F.R. § 244.1, "register" means "to properly file, with the director, a completed application, with proper fee, for Temporary Protected Status during the registration period designated under section 244(b) of the Act."

The initial registration period for Hondurans was from January 5, 1999, through August 20, 1999. The record reflects that the applicant filed his TPS application on August 26, 2002, after the initial registration period for Hondurans had closed.

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 got 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).

In a notice of intent to deny, dated February 13, 2003, the applicant was requested to submit evidence to establish that he was eligible for filing after the initial registration period from January 5, 1999 to August 20, 1999. While the applicant, in response, submitted evidence of his residence in the United States, he failed to submit evidence to establish his eligibility for late registration. The director, therefore, denied the application.

Aliens applying under the provisions for late initial registration must prove that they are eligible because during the initial registration period of January 5, 1999 through August 20, 1999, they fell within the provisions described in paragraph (f)(2) above.

The applicant, on appeal, states he has been in the United States since before the initial registration period. It is noted that the record contains a Form I-765, Application for Employment Authorization, dated July 21, 1999, and applications for TPS received on July 3, 2000 and January 25, 2001. However, there is no indication that the applicant properly registered for TPS during the initial registration period from January 5, 1999 to August 20, 1999.

On appeal, the applicant submits additional evidence of his residence in the United States. However, no evidence was furnished to establish that he met the qualification for late registration, and to overcome the findings of the director pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). Consequently, the director's conclusion that the applicant had failed to establish eligibility for late registration will be affirmed.

The burden of proof is upon the applicant to establish 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.