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U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

[redacted]

FILE: [redacted] Office: VERMONT SERVICE CENTER Date: JUN 02 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

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 determined that the applicant failed to establish she had been continuously physically present in the United States since March 9, 2001. The director, therefore, denied the application

On appeal, the applicant states that she is submitting more information.

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 term *continuously physically present*, as used 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 term *continuously resided*, as used 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 entry on or prior to February 13, 2001, that they have continuously resided in the United States since February 13, 2001, and that they have been continuously physically present 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 with validity until March 9, 2005, 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 October 9, 2002, the applicant was provided the opportunity to submit evidence establishing her residence since February 13, 2001, and physical presence since March 9, 2001, in the United States. The applicant, in response, only provided documents showing she was in the United States prior to February 13, 2001. The applicant did not present sufficient evidence of her continuous presence in the United States since March 9, 2001. Therefore, the director denied the application.

On appeal, the applicant states that she is submitting more information. According to the applicant, "I had given my information to William River and he failed to send my proof." No information, however, was furnished to establish that the applicant had engaged "William River" to represent her in this proceeding, to prepare a brief, or to undertake the task. The applicant also provides statements from Regino Argueta and the Latino Redemption Service. In her statement, Ms. Argueta, who has the same surname as the applicant, claims that the applicant rented a place from her from 2000 to 2002. However, Ms. Argueta fails to provide an address for the residence. In addition, Ms. Argueta's claim is not supported by any corroborative evidence. It is reasonable to expect that the applicant would have some type of contemporaneous evidence, such as rent receipts, to support these assertions; however, no such evidence has been provided. Moreover, the record shows that the applicant

lived at the same address from the time she filed her application until she notified CIS that she moved, on June 23, 2003. Therefore, the claim by Ms. Argueta is not persuasive.

The statement from Latino Redemption Service indicates that that company, from February 1, 2001 to the present, has employed the applicant. The employment affidavit from Latino Redemption Service has little evidentiary weight or probative value as it does not provide basic information that is expressly required by 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(a)(2)(i). Specifically, the affiant does not provide the address where the applicant resided during the period of his employment. It also fails to identify the individual who has signed and attested to the statement.

The applicant has not submitted any evidence to establish that she has met the criteria for physical presence described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(b). Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application for temporary protected status will be affirmed.

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.