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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: NEBRASKA SERVICE CENTER Date: MAY 26 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, Nebraska 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 that she had: 1) continuously resided in the United States since February 13, 2001; and 2) been continuously physically present in the United States since March 9, 2001. The director, therefore, denied the application.

The applicant appears to be represented; however, the individual listed as a representative, on appeal, is not authorized under 8 C.F.R. 292.1 or § 292.2 to represent the applicant. Therefore, the applicant is considered to be self-represented.

On appeal, the applicant asserts that she had provided evidence in response to the notice of intent to deny that was returned to her. According to the applicant, she has lived in the United States since June 2000. The applicant also furnishes additional evidence in an attempt to establish her continuous residence and physical presence in the United States during the qualifying period.

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.

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 of the Department of Homeland Security, 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 May 19, 2003, 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 evidence of her identity and nationality. The applicant did not present sufficient evidence of his continuous residence and physical presence in the United States since February 13, 2001. Therefore, the director denied the application.

On appeal, the applicant states that she had applied timely to the May 19, 2003 notice, but her submission was returned to her. According to the applicant, she has lived in the United States since June 2000. The applicant also provides evidence, including evidence that had been previously provided, in an attempt to establish her continuous residence and physical presence in the United States during the qualifying period.

Specifically, the applicant furnishes a photocopy of a Notice of Hearing in Removal Proceedings dated June 12, 2000, as well as various medical records. The applicant also submits the original of a letter from that had previously been submitted. The applicant also resubmitted a copy of another letter from that had been previously provided. In her letter, Ms claims that she has known the applicant since July 2000. Mr claims to have known the applicant since November 2000. The statements from Ms. Romero and Mr. regarding the applicant's claimed presence in the United States before February 13, 2001 are not supported by any corroborative evidence. It is reasonable to expect that the applicant would have some type of contemporaneous evidence to support these assertions; however, no such evidence has been provided. Affidavits from acquaintances are not, by themselves, persuasive evidence

of residence or physical presence. In addition, the applicant provides health care records dated subsequent to the initial residence and physical presence qualifying dates. Consequently, these records are of no probative value.

The record reflects that the applicant was placed in removal proceedings on June 7, 2000, based on his entry into the United States without inspection, under alien registration number: While it establishes that the applicant was present in the United States on June 12, 2000, it does not establish the applicant's continuous residence and physical presence in the United States during the qualifying period.

The applicant has not submitted sufficient evidence to establish that she has met the criteria for residence and physical presence described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(b) and (c). 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.