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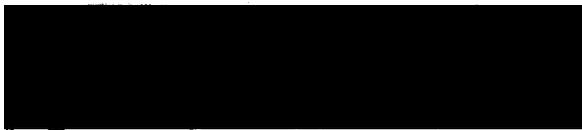
FEB 10 2005

FILE:

Office: TEXAS SERVICE CENTER Date:

[SRC 03 199 54925]

IN RE: Applicant:



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.

Robert P. Wiemann

Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application was denied by the Director, Texas Service Center, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) 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 denied the application because the applicant failed to establish that she was eligible for late registration. The director also found that the applicant had failed to establish her qualifying continuous residence in the United States since December 30, 1998, and her continuous physical presence in the United States since January 5, 1999.

On appeal, the applicant submits a statement and additional evidence in support of the appeal. It is noted that on the Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal, the applicant checked the box indicating that she would be submitting additional evidence or a brief within 30 days. To date, no additional evidence has been received into the record; therefore, the record must be considered complete.

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 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.

The phrase brief, casual, and innocent absence, as defined in 8 C.F.R. § 244.1, means a departure from the United States that satisfies the following criteria:

- (1) Each such absence was of short duration and reasonably calculated to accomplish the purpose(s) for the absence;
- (2) The absence was not the result of an order of deportation, an order of voluntary departure, or an administrative grant of voluntary departure without the institution of deportation proceedings; and
- (3) The purposes for the absence from the United States or actions while outside of the United States were not contrary to law.

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 since January 5, 1999. Subsequent extensions of the TPS designation have been granted, with the latest extension valid until July 5, 2006, upon the applicant's re-registration during the requisite time period.

The initial registration period for Hondurans was from January 5, 1999, through August 20, 1999. The record reveals that the applicant filed her initial TPS application with Citizenship and Immigration Services (CIS), on July 7, 2003.

The burden of proof is upon the applicant to establish that 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

her burden of proof the applicant must provide supporting documentary evidence of eligibility apart from her own statements. 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(b).

The first issue in this proceeding is whether the applicant is eligible for late registration.

The record of proceedings confirms that the applicant filed her application after the initial registration period had closed. To qualify for late registration, the applicant must provide evidence that during the initial registration period she fell within the provisions described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2) (listed above). If the qualifying condition or application has expired or been terminated, the individual must file within a 60-day period immediately following the expiration or termination of the qualifying condition in order to be considered for late initial registration. See 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(g).

On September 19, 2003, the applicant was requested to submit evidence establishing her eligibility for late registration as set forth in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). The applicant was also requested to submit evidence establishing her continuous residence in the United States since December 30, 1998, and her continuous physical presence in the United States since January 5, 1999. In addition, the applicant was requested to submit photo identification or a national identity document bearing a photograph and/or fingerprint, as well as evidence establishing her nationality, such as a passport or birth certificate with English translation. The applicant, in response, provided documentation relating to her nationality, identity, and her residence and physical presence in the United States.

The director determined that the applicant had failed to establish she was eligible for late registration and denied the application on December 31, 2003.

On appeal, the applicant submits her own notarized statement asserting that from 1999 through 2003 she resided at a specific address in Hialeah, Florida. The applicant also submits notarized statements from a United States citizen, and the president of a church.

The applicant has not offered an explanation or evidence regarding her failure to file her Form I-821, Application for Temporary Protected Status, within the initial registration period. The applicant has not submitted any evidence to establish that she has met any of the criteria for late registration described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(f)(2). Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application for temporary protected status will be affirmed.

The second issue in this proceeding is whether the applicant has established her continuous residence in the United States since December 30, 1998, and her continuous physical presence in the United States since January 5, 1999.

As stated above, the applicant was requested on September 19, 2003, to submit evidence establishing her qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite periods. In response, the applicant submitted photocopies of the following documentation:

1. Lease documents dated in 1998 and in 1999, between the applicant and [REDACTED]
2. Honduran passport issued on August 28, 2003, by the Consulate General, Miami, Florida;
3. Honduran nationality identity document issued on August 28, 1981;
4. State of Florida Identification Card issued on September 10, 2003;

5. Honduran birth certificate with English translation;
6. Receipts from Tele-Giros America, Inc., Miami, Florida dated "12-01-99" and "January 5, 1999;"
7. Handwritten rent receipts signed [REDACTED] for the months of March 1996, June 1996, December 1996, January 1997, April 1997, June 1997, and December 1997; and,
8. A notarized statement from [REDACTED] stating that the applicant rented his apartment "since 1996 until 1999."

The director concluded that the applicant had failed to establish her qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite period and denied the application. The director specifically noted that evidence for the years 2000 through 2003 was missing from the record.

As noted above, on appeal, the applicant submits her own notarized statement asserting that from 1999 through 2003, she resided at a specific address [REDACTED]. She also submits notarized statements from a United States citizen, and the president of a church.

It is noted that the notarized statement dated January 16, 2004, from [REDACTED] Paraiso, Miami, Florida, does not conform to the regulatory provisions at 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(a)(2)(v)(A) through (G), and, therefore, has limited evidentiary value. Further, the regulations at 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(a)(2) do not provide that personal affidavits such as the one [REDACTED] and dated January 20, 2004, are acceptable evidence for establishing the applicant's continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States. In addition, the applicant's notarized statement regarding her own residence in Hialeah, Florida, from 1999 to 2003 is not supported by any corroborative evidence. As required by 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(b), the applicant must provide supporting documentary evidence of eligibility apart from her own statements.

It is further noted that the Tele-Giros receipts have been altered. Doubt cast on any aspect of the applicant's proof may lead to a reevaluation of the reliability and sufficiency of the remaining evidence offered in support of the application. It is incumbent upon the applicant to resolve any inconsistencies in the record by independent objective evidence, and attempts to explain or reconcile such inconsistencies, absent competent objective evidence pointing to where the truth lies, will not suffice. *Matter of Ho*, 19 I&N Dec. 582 (BIA 1988).

The applicant has not submitted sufficient evidence to establish her qualifying continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States during the requisite periods. She has, therefore, failed to establish that she has met the criteria described in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2(b) and (c). Consequently, the director's decision to deny the application for temporary protected status on these grounds will also 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.