



# Questions and Answers

## USCIS International Operations – American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) Meeting April 4, 2013

### Overview

On April 4, 2013, the USCIS International Operations (IO) met with AILA liaisons. USCIS provide updates and responded to questions submitted prior to the meeting by AILA. Below are the questions posed by AILA and the responses provided by IO.

### Updates from IO

#### *Staffing*

The International Operations Division welcomes Maura Nicholson as the new Deputy Chief of the USCIS International Operations Division (IO) and Carrie Rankin as the new Branch Chief for Children's Issues and Parole Policy.

#### *Customer Service Survey*

On April 22<sup>nd</sup>, IO plans on launching a customer service survey throughout our international offices. Members of the public who come in-person to the window will be asked to complete a paper survey and place it in the black box that will be somewhere in the vicinity. People who telephone with their inquiries or send emails will be given a web link to access. The purpose of the survey is to find out how well people are being treated and if they are receiving the information that they need. We strongly encourage as many people as possible to complete these surveys as honestly as possible so that we may determine if and where improvements can be made.

### General Operations

**Question 1:** Please summarize the current staffing for IO at Headquarters, as well the various overseas IO offices, and provide a current organizational chart and staffing list for your office.

**Response:** As of March 2013, International Operations has the following authorized positions:

	Field Office	USC/ Officer	Local Hire/ LES
<b>Bangkok (BKK) District</b>			
	Bangkok	9	8
	Beijing	2	6
	Guangzhou	5	3
	Manila	2	7
	New Delhi	5	7
	Seoul	2	3
	<b>BKK DISTRICT TOTAL</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>34</b>

<b>Mexico City (MEX) District</b>			
	Ciudad Juarez	3	8
	Guatemala City	3	4
	Havana	2	4
	Lima	2	3
	Mexico City	6	10
	Monterrey	3	3
	Port-au-Prince	2	4
	San Salvador	2	3
	Santo Domingo	1	2
	Tegucigalpa	1	3
<b>MEX DISTRICT TOTAL</b>		<b>25</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Rome (RIT) District</b>			
	Accra	2	2
	Amman	1	2
	Athens	3	3
	Frankfurt	4	4
	Johannesburg	1	1
	London	1	2
	Moscow	5	3
	Nairobi	2	3
	Rome	6	10
	Vienna	1	2
<b>RIT DISTRICT TOTAL</b>		<b>26</b>	<b>32</b>
<b>DISTRICT TOTALS</b>		<b>76</b>	<b>110</b>
<b>IO Headquarters (IO-HQ)</b>			
	Wash., DC	30	
	IASB	18	
	HAB	11	
<b>IO-HQ TOTAL</b>		<b>59</b>	
<b>IO GRAND TOTAL</b>		<b>135</b>	<b>110</b>

**Question 2:** During the AILA USCIS teleconference on September 11, 2012, IO advised that certain offices would be closing.<sup>1</sup> Since then, USCIS IO has announced the closure of the Kingston, Jamaica and Panama City, Panama field offices.<sup>2</sup> Are any additional overseas offices scheduled to be closed or opened

<sup>1</sup> *AILA USCIS International Operations Liaison Teleconference Q&As (9/11/2012)*, Q1, AILA Doc. No. 12121950, <http://www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?docid=42550>

<sup>2</sup> *USCIS Will Permanently Close Kingston, Jamaica Field Office on March 1, 2013*, AILA Doc. No. 13020550, <http://www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?bc=1016|6715|12053|26284|43140>; *USCIS Permanently Closes Kingston, Jamaica Field Office on March 1, 2013*, AILA Doc. No. 13030146,

during fiscal or calendar year 2013?

**Response:** International Operations (IO) is planning to close its office in Tegucigalpa, Honduras in June 2013. Additionally, IO is currently working with the Department of State to determine the feasibility of opening an office in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

**Question 3:** As I-601 waivers are now required to be filed stateside, please provide a summary of the current mission and primary workload areas for the overseas USCIS offices.<sup>3</sup>

**Response:** Information on the types of services international offices provide can be found at [www.uscis.gov/io](http://www.uscis.gov/io).

Specifically USCIS international offices process the following USCIS applications/petitions:

- Refugee/Asylee Petition (Form I-730, for beneficiaries of approved Refugee/Asylee Relative Petitions, by confirming beneficiary identity, relationship to the petitioner and eligibility to travel.
- Petition for Alien Relative (Form I-130, for U.S. citizens or lawful permanent residents of the United States to establish a qualifying relationship to certain alien relatives who wish to immigrate to the United States)
- Registration for Classification as Refugee (Form I-590, for individuals who have been persecuted or fear persecution and are seeking resettlement protection in the United States) and Requests for Review (Form I-590, for individuals seeking reconsideration of denied requests to be resettled in the United States as refugees)
- Application for Advance Processing of Orphan Petition (Form I-600A, for prospective adoptive parents to establish qualifications for inter-country adoption)
- Petition to Classify Orphan as an Immediate Relative (Form I-600, for U.S. citizens to request orphan classification for a child who either is, or will be, adopted by a U.S. citizen to allow the child to enter the United States)
- Application for Naturalization (Form N-400, for members of the U.S. military and their qualified spouses and Form N-600K for qualified children deployed overseas seeking to naturalize to become U.S. citizens)
- Application for Waiver of Ground of Inadmissibility (Form I-601) accepted for filing at an overseas location due to exceptional and compelling circumstances, and any associated Application to Apply for Readmission into the United States after Deportation or Removal (Form I-212)
- Petition for Amerasian, Widow(er), or Special Immigrant (Form I-360, to apply for certain benefits granted to various special categories of individuals eligible for immigration)
- Application for Travel Document (Form I-131), requesting a Refugee Travel Document for refugees and asylees or lawful permanent residents who acquired that status after first being a refugee or asylee who have been outside of the United States for less than one year
- Notice of Appeal or Motion (Form I-290B) for individuals denied certain immigration benefits by an international office

---

<http://www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?docid=43502>; *Reminder: USCIS Will Permanently Close Panama City, Panama Field Office on February 1*, AILA Doc. No. 13012944,

<http://www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?bc=1016|6715|12053|26284|43017> ; *USCIS Will Permanently Close Panama City, Panama Field Office on February 1*, AILA Doc. No. 12122047,

<http://www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?bc=1016|6715|12053|26284|42734|42565>

<sup>3</sup> 78 FR 536 (01/03/13), *USCIS Final Rule on Provisional Unlawful Presence Waivers*, AILA Doc. No. 13010240,

<http://www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?bc=1016|6715|12089|42642>

USCIS overseas offices also:

- Provide informational services including responding to customer service inquiries
- Provide travel documents to LPRs whose I-551s (green cards) have been lost or stolen
- Provide support to USCIS Refugee Affairs Division staff on refugee circuit rides
- Conduct Military Naturalization ceremonies
- Process requests to abandon LPR status
- Provide technical support to Department of State (DOS) Consular Officers
- Provide training to DOS on complex immigration matters
- Adjudicate certain USCIS applications filed with DOS and transferred to USCIS because DOS lacks the authority to adjudicate the application

**Question 4:** Due to the change in I-601 waiver filings and since the USCIS office at Ciudad Juarez (CDJ) processed the most I-601 waivers worldwide, please describe the current primary responsibilities of the USCIS office at Ciudad Juarez (CDJ).

**Response:** Individuals in Ciudad Juarez had the choice of either filing at the Lockbox or continuing to file in Ciudad Juarez through December 3, 2012. CDJ continues to work the cases that were filed through December 3, 2012. In addition to adjudicating these cases, CDJ also provides many of the services described in the response to Question #3 above. In particular, CDJ staff responds to numerous public inquiries regarding immigration-related issues.

#### **Form I-601, Application for Waiver of Grounds of Inadmissibility**

**Question 5:** Please advise how many I-601 waiver cases remain pending with IO and where these applications are being adjudicated. Are any cases being transferred to service centers for adjudication?

**Response:** As of April 4, 2013, there were 1,036 pending Forms I-601. Of those, only 3 were in offices within the Bangkok District and 25 in offices within the Rome District. The rest were pending in offices within the Mexico City District or at the International Adjudications Support Branch.

The International Operations Division is not transferring any Form I-601 applications filed at international offices to Service Center Operations.

**Question 6:** Please describe the level of communication, if any, for waiver-related issues between IO and Service Center Operations (SCOPS). For example, given your office's longstanding experience processing these cases, do service center waiver adjudicators:

- a. Consult with IO on specific country or processing issues?

**Response:** The International Operations Division and Service Center Operations continue to communicate on issues raised by Form I-601 waiver adjudications and related topics as necessary.

- b. Receive any ongoing training from IO officers?

**Response:** The International Operations Division is not conducting on-going waiver training for Service Center Operations (SCOPS) but has shared its standard operating procedures and training materials with SCOPS.

**Question 7:** During the AILA/USCIS IO teleconference on September 11, 2012, IO offered I-601 referral rates for overseas filing from March to August 2012.<sup>4</sup> Please provide statistics on the number of I-601 waiver applications that have been filed with IO under the exception to lockbox filing for emergent circumstances since last year's change to stateside filing. Please differentiate between CDJ and non-CDJ cases.

**Response:** As of March 19, 2013, IO has accepted 16 exceptional filing requests. Of those cases, 12 were filed with Ciudad Juarez (CDJ).

- a. How many cases have been refused for overseas filing?

**Response:** IO currently does not have a method of tracking cases that have been refused for exceptional filing, but is exploring the options for doing so.

- b. Are the accepted cases adjudicated by IO or are they forwarded to SCOPS with a request for expedited processing?

**Response:** Form I-601 applications accepted for filing at international USCIS offices under the exceptions to lockbox filing policy memorandum are adjudicated by the international office that accepted the filing.

## Overseas Biometrics

**Question 8:** During the teleconference on September 11, 2012, IO indicated that AILA could provide examples from AILA members of situations where the overseas processing of biometrics, particularly in Form I-131 Reentry Permit cases, would significantly alleviate hardship to applicants and their U.S. employers, as well as to USCIS in terms of missed appointments and rescheduling requests.<sup>5</sup> While AILA understands the administrative and financial complexities involved in coordinating biometrics processing abroad, we encourage IO to allow such applicants to appear at the nearest USCIS international office, as those offices already have the capability/responsibility for processing biometrics for certain case types, such as follow-to-join cases.

Following the call, AILA submitted case examples to IO (see attached). Has IO had any further discussions within DHS and/or with the Department of State (DOS) for allowing Reentry Permit applicants to have their biometrics taken overseas?

**Response:** Thank you for providing the list of case examples. We have reviewed them and are discussing options to address the problems presented. In many cases, the primary issue is the lag time between when the form is filed and when the biometrics appointment is scheduled. We will look into the reasons for that lag time to see if there are options available to schedule those appointments sooner so they can be completed prior to departure from the United States.

**Question 9:** Please provide an update on the progress of USCIS's ability to electronically recapture biometrics for required records checks in certain cases, such as I-131 applications, where the data is already maintained in the USCIS/DHS database, thereby eliminating the need for applicants to attend

---

<sup>4</sup> AILA USCIS International Operations Liaison Teleconference Q&As (9/11/2012), Q14, AILA Doc. No. 12121950, <http://www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?docid=42550>

<sup>5</sup> *Id* at 16.

biometrics appointments.

**Response:** USCIS is currently examining where and when it may be able to “reuse” an individual’s previously captured biometrics to update background and security checks. This is often done where the individual’s biometrics have already been collected for the application and associated with the receipt number for that same application, but the background check results have expired before adjudication and must be updated. While technologically feasible, it is somewhat more complex to locate the individual’s biometrics that were previously collected in conjunction with a different application or petition, ensure that those biometrics were submitted by the same individual who is now filing another application type, and then associate those biometrics with the newly submitted application under another receipt number. In some cases, the person must physically appear at a USCIS facility so that his or her identity can be verified and USCIS can determine that the individual is indeed the applicant requesting the benefit. We are, however, actively working to determine instances where “re-use” of previously collected biometrics is feasible and will not result in any loss of integrity to benefit adjudications.

**Question 10:** AILA understands that the technology used to capture biometrics for military naturalization applicants abroad is not sufficient for capturing biometrics for Legal Permanent Resident cards (I-551).<sup>6</sup> Please advise as to whether the technology used at USCIS international offices is sufficient to capture biometrics for re-entry permit purposes. If so, is this a technology to which all USCIS international offices have access?

**Response:** The technology available at USCIS overseas offices is sufficient for capturing biometrics needed for the Form I-131, Application for Travel Document, which is used to apply for re-entry permits. However, at this time, USCIS is reviewing the policy on whether to allow individuals seeking re-entry permits to have their biometrics captured at USCIS officers overseas.

## International Adoptions

**Question 11:** The adoption community is deeply appreciative of the frequent teleconferences scheduled by USCIS and DOS to update families affected by the Russian law banning inter-country adoption effective January 1, 2013.<sup>7</sup> AILA understands that diplomatic efforts are under way to encourage the Russian government to allow all cases in process as of that date to proceed. However, given the Russian Supreme Court’s guidance that only those families who have been to court will be allowed to bring their children home, many families may choose to adopt from a different country. Would USCIS post a fact sheet or FAQ that explains in a single document, the process for changing country approval for the thousands of families who have filed their Forms I-600A or I-600 and are unable to complete their Russian adoptions due to the ban?

**Response:** On March 13, 2013, USCIS posted a web notice that describes the process for changing country approval for the families who have filed their Forms I-600A or I-600 and are unable to complete their Russian adoptions due to the recent Russian law.  
(<http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.5af9bb95919f35e66f614176543f6d1a/?vgnexto>)

---

<sup>6</sup> Notes from AILA/RDC Conversation with USCIS London, AILA Doc. No. 13022255, <http://www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?docid=43396>

<sup>7</sup> U.S. and Russia Announce Bilateral Adoption Agreement, AILA Doc. No. 12101648, <http://www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?docid=41745>, Notes from Teleconferences on Russian Adoptions Ban, AILA Doc. No. 13012868, <http://www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?docid=43005>



The new adoption, of course, would establish that the new adopter is the parent for family law purposes. But section 320(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act) makes clear that section 320(a) applies to an adopted child only if the relevant provisions of section 101(b)(1) have been met. The new adoptive parents will not have met the requirements of 101(b)(1)(F) of the Act. For this reason, the child will not qualify as their “child” for purposes of the Act unless the child meets the requirements of section 101(b)(1)(E).

- The requirements of section 101(b)(1)(E) of the Act are that the child must be adopted before her or his 16th birthday (or 18th birthday, if the child is the birth sibling of another child who immigrates through adoption by the same parent(s)). The child must also have been in the new adoptive parent’s legal custody and resided with the new parent(s) for at least two years.
- If the child meets these requirements before her or his 18th birthday, then section 320 of the Act will make the child a citizen as of the date on which the last requirement is met.
- If the child does not meet these requirements before her or his 18th birthday, the child will still be able to apply for naturalization under INA 316, once the child meets those requirements.

Keep in mind that some children who immigrate as orphans are classified as IR-4 immigrants even if they were adopted abroad. For example, it may be the case that both parents adopted the child, but that the parents, or perhaps one parent, did not see the child before or during the adoption. In this situation, it may be necessary to “re-adopt” the child or take whatever other steps may be required under State law to establish that the law of that State recognizes the validity of the adoption. This requirement can be waived, if it is clear that the law of the State of the adoptive parent’s residence recognizes the adoption without the need for any formal procedure. 8 CFR 320.1 (definition of “adopted”). If the pre-admission adoption is recognized, then it is possible that the child, like an IR-3, would have automatically acquired citizenship on admission.

**Question 15:** On February 28, 2013, USCIS announced that Taiwan now requires all adoption cases to undergo the U.S. Pre-Adoption Immigration Review (PAIR) process.<sup>8</sup>

- a. Please describe how the PAIR process will be implemented for Taiwanese adoptions.

**Response:** The pre-adoption immigration review (PAIR) process requires a Form I-600 be filed with USCIS before a prospective adoptive parent completes the adoption in Taiwan. All PAIR filings will be adjudicated by the National Benefits Center (NBC). Upon completion of the review, NBC will issue a PAIR letter to the prospective adoptive parents, indicating a preliminary determination has been made of the child’s immigration eligibility. The physical case file will be transferred to the American Institute in Taiwan, which will issue a letter confirming completion of the PAIR review, which can then be submitted to Taiwan courts. A detailed description of the process can be found in the policy memo dated February 14, 2013, which can be found at [www.uscis.gov](http://www.uscis.gov) or at [www.adoption.state.gov](http://www.adoption.state.gov) on the Taiwan country information page.

---

<sup>8</sup> *Taiwan Implements Pre-Adoption Immigration Review Requirement for Adoptions*, AILA Doc. No. 13022841, <http://www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?docid=43477>

- b. Per the September 11, 2012, teleconference, IO indicated that the U.S. and Ethiopia were in talks to implement the PAIR process.<sup>9</sup> When does IO expect PAIR to be introduced for Ethiopia?

**Response:** The Government of Ethiopia expressed interest in the PAIR program in late 2011. Since that time, members of the Department of State and USCIS have met with officials from the Ethiopian government on a number of occasions to discuss the possibility of pursuing a PAIR program in Ethiopia. Significant progress has been made, and we are hopeful that a PAIR program will be introduced for Ethiopia in next several months.

- c. Once implemented, does IO anticipate that NBC will be adjudicating these cases?

**Response:** Yes. A PAIR process for adoptions from Ethiopia would be similar to the PAIR process implemented for Taiwan. Under the proposed process, NBC would be conducting the PAIR review of Form I-600 petitions filed on behalf of children residing and physically located in Ethiopia.

### Form I-130, *Petition for Alien Relative*, Overseas Filings

**Question 16:** Please provide YTD statistical information for FY2013 on the number of I-130 petitions filed with USCIS offices overseas, including per country or per office totals. Additionally, please also provide the overall USCIS totals, if available.

**Response:** International Operations I-130 Receipts by Office (October 1, 2012 through April 3, 2013):

Form I-130	
Office	Receipts
Accra	9
Amman	136
Athens	210
Bangkok (Field Office)	77
Beijing	130
Ciudad Juarez	29
Frankfurt	842
Guangzhou	113
Guatemala City	51
Havana	17
Johannesburg	42
Kingston	7
Lima	58
London	635
Manila	190
Mexico (Field Office)	112
Monterrey	64

<sup>9</sup> AILA USCIS International Operations Liaison Teleconference Q&As (9/11/2012), Q26, AILA Doc. No. 12121950, <http://www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?docid=42550>

Moscow	31
Nairobi	18
New Delhi	62
Panama City	19
Port-Au-Prince	41
Rome (Field Office)	163
San Salvador	26
Santo Domingo	164
Seoul	467
Tegucigalpa	45
Vienna	21
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3,779</b>

The USCIS total number of receipts (domestic and overseas) for Forms I-130 from October 1, 2012 through March 20, 2013, is 349,611.

**Question 17:** Are overseas offices reporting any recurring issues or problems with such cases, including issues relating to habitual residence of the petitioner overseas, military, or medical-based requests?

**Response:** No, since the last teleconference, USCIS has not received any reports of issues or problems with the process.

### Humanitarian Parole

**Question 18:** During the teleconference on September 11, 2012, AILA learned that all queries on pending or denied humanitarian parole requests should be sent to:<sup>10</sup>

DHS/USCIS/IO  
ATTN: HAB  
20 Massachusetts Ave, NW, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Suite 3300  
Mail Stop 2100  
Washington, DC 20529

However, your office also indicated that a fax number would soon be available.

- a. Please confirm that the address above is correct.

**Response:** Yes, the above address is correct.

- b. Please offer the fax number, if it is now available.

**Response:** Please feel free to fax International Operations at 202-272-8328.

- c. Please indicate the preferred method of contact.

**Response:** The Humanitarian Affairs Branch has no preference on the method of contact, and

<sup>10</sup> *Id* at Q18.

either mail or fax is fine.

**Question 19:** Last fall, USCIS IO indicated that the target processing times for non-urgent cases is 90-days, but that IO had “fallen behind somewhat on this goal.”<sup>11</sup>

- a. What are the current processing times for humanitarian parole applications?

**Response:** All requests are reviewed upon receipt by the International Operations Division Humanitarian Affairs Branch to identify cases that require expedited processing due to time sensitivities or urgent need. Cases identified as requiring expedited processing go to the front of the queue and are processed as quickly as possible. Approximately 30% of all cases are treated as expedite cases. As previously noted, our aim is to process at least 80% of all parole cases within a 90-day adjusted processing time. Adjusted processing time excludes any time during which USCIS is awaiting third party action, such as the response to a Request for Evidence or Notice of Intent to Deny. We began tracking parole cases in a new case management system, CAMINO, in October 2012. As such, we have only 6 months of data in the system. We are working to review the data for data-integrity before providing it publically and hope to publish our parole processing times on the USCIS public website, beginning in FY2014.

- b. If the processing time goal is not being met, what steps are being taken to achieve the 90-day target?

**Response:** This fiscal year to date, we have developed a backlog of approximately 200 cases that have been pending more than 90 days adjusted processing time. We are dedicating additional resources to address our backlog and more timely process cases. The week of April 1st, International Operations trained staff at the International Adjudications Support Branch (IASB) on how to adjudicate parole cases and they will now begin to assist with the adjudication of parole cases. Our aim is to eliminate the backlog by the end of this fiscal year.

**Question 20:** During our last meeting, IO indicated that as of October 2012, “all parole cases will be entered into the International Operations Division case management system (CAMINO).”<sup>12</sup>

- a. Please advise as to whether all parole cases are now in the CAMINO system.

**Response:** All cases pending on or received since October 1, 2012 are in CAMINO.

- b. If so, please provide statistical YTD information on the number of humanitarian parole applications filed, granted, and denied for FY2013.

**Response:** From October 1, 2012 through April 3, 2013, 781 applications were filed, 535 were adjudicated, 238 approved, 282 denied and 15 closed.

**Question 21:** While we realize that each humanitarian parole case is unique and must be adjudicated on its individual merits, in the interest of improving the quality of humanitarian parole applications, please describe the most common and/or most serious mistakes you see in applications.

---

<sup>11</sup> *Id* at Q19.

<sup>12</sup> *Id* at Q20.

**Response:** It is difficult to provide examples of factual situations that would not support a grant due to the case-by-case nature of the adjudication; however, common problems we see are:

1. Required supporting evidence listed in the Form I-131 and Form I-134 instructions is missing, as well as additional documentation relating to the purpose of the parole request, such as medical documentation.
2. Sponsors who complete Form I-134 often mark the “do not intend” rather than the “do intend” box on page 2, #11. This is the question that asks if the sponsor intends to make specific contributions to the support of the parolee.
3. Individuals needing to be re-paroled sometimes do not request re-parole 90 days in advance of the expiration of the parole authorization period.

In addition, please provide examples of factual situations that would not support the grant of humanitarian parole and describe the most common documentary omissions, including:

**Response:** An applicant must establish urgent humanitarian reasons for parole or that there are reasons of significant public benefit to authorize parole and that the applicant merits a favorable exercise of discretion. If an applicant cannot meet those statutory requirements, the applicant will be denied. Each case is decided on a case-by-case basis, taking into account the totality of the circumstances.

- a. Is it required that the applicant first apply for a nonimmigrant visa with DOS and provide evidence that the application has been refused?

**Response:** Generally it is required that the applicant first apply for a nonimmigrant visa with the Department of State and provide evidence that the request has been denied. In cases of sudden emergencies, we understand that there may not be time to apply for and receive a response on a visa request. Regardless, if unable to provide such evidence, the applicant should provide an explanation as to why they are unable to provide evidence of a visa request and denial. Note that this requirement also applies generally in cases involving visas that may be denied due to the existence of an inadmissibility ground that may be waived. In such cases, the applicant should provide the reason a request for a waiver has not been made or a statement indicating the waiver was applied for and denied.

- b. Is a Form I-134 Affidavit of Support always required? (AILA notes that the I-134 is one of the required documents listed in the I-131 instructions, even where that form is not legally binding and is rarely requested by DOS in visa adjudications.)

**Response:** Form I-134, Affidavit of Support, is generally required evidence to ensure that the parolee will be financially supported while in the U.S. for the duration of his or her parole. We understand that sometimes organizations who may be sponsoring individuals do not want to complete Form I-134. In such circumstances, we would consider a letter of commitment from an organization indicating the organization’s intent to support that individual. The letter should specify in detail the kind of support that will be provided and for how long. Additionally, an individual may also have the financial means to support him or herself while in the U.S. and not be in need of a sponsor. In these situations an individual may submit financial evidence of funds and how he or she would access those funds while in the U.S.

**Question 22:** Given the sometimes lengthy adjudication times for parole extensions (or re-parole), it is important that the request be filed far enough in advance in order to avoid complications, such as the expiration of employment authorization. Understanding that the USCIS website indicates that an applicant should file at least 90 days prior to the expiration of the parole, how far in advance of the expiration of parole should the applicant file to ensure a timely adjudication and avoid an interruption of any ancillary benefits?<sup>13</sup>

**Response:** The applicant should file at least 90 days in advance of the expiration of the parole authorization period.

**Question 23:** In addition, approval of humanitarian parole extensions are often received well after the initial parole period has expired, with the approval notice indicating that the extension is valid for one year. However, it is unclear whether the new parole status begins on the date the prior parole expired or on the date of approval. The approval letters instruct the applicant to proceed to the nearest USCIS field office to receive formal documentation of the re-parole but do not state the specific time period for which re-parole has been granted. Would IO consider revising humanitarian re-parole approval letters to state the start and end dates of the re-parole grant?

**Response:** Yes, the Humanitarian Affairs Branch will consider revising the approval notice to be more specific about the parole authorization period.

**Question 24:** During previous AILA liaison meetings on May 6, 2009, November 19, 2010, and September 11, 2012, International Operations stated that humanitarian parole protocols and standard operating procedures (SOPs) were in draft form.<sup>14</sup> Please provide the status of these documents.

**Response:** The SOPs and protocols are undergoing internal review within USCIS prior to finalization.

---

<sup>13</sup> *Humanitarian Parole*, <http://www.uscis.gov/portal/site/uscis/menuitem.eb1d4c2a3e5b9ac89243c6a7543f6d1a/?vgnextoid=acc3e4d77d73210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD&vgnnextchannel=acc3e4d77d73210VgnVCM100000082ca60aRCRD>

<sup>14</sup> *AILA/Refugee, Asylum, and International Operations Directorate Liaison Meeting Q&As*, pg 2, AILA Doc. No. 09062266, <http://www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?docid=29331>; *AILA/USCIS International Operations Liaison Meeting Q&As (11/19/2010)*, AILA Doc. No. 11082964, <http://www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?docid=36789>, <http://www.uscis.gov/USCIS/Outreach/Notes%20from%20Previous%20Engagements/AILA%20Notes%2011%2019%202010%20%28FINAL%29.pdf>; *AILA USCIS International Operations Liaison Teleconference Q&As (9/11/2012)*, Q21, AILA Doc. No. 12121950, <http://www.aila.org/content/default.aspx?docid=42550>