

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

September 8, 2022

The Honorable Alejandro N. Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20016

RECEIVED

By ESEC at 10:49 am, Sep 09, 2022

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

Due to the devastating impact of severe flooding in Pakistan, we urge you to extend Temporary Protect Status (TPS) to eligible Pakistani nationals residing within our borders. The current perils in Pakistan are extraordinary, making it unsafe for Pakistanis to return to their home country at this time.

As you are aware, Pakistan has experienced a record amount of rainfall during this summer's monsoon season¹. The resulting flooding is the worst seen in Pakistan in over a decade, claiming the lives of more than 1,100 people. Bridges, agricultural lands, and countless homes have also been destroyed, causing over 33 million people to be displaced or otherwise impacted.² Furthermore, the massive flooding is causing serious health concerns. On September 1st, Pakistani health officials reported an outbreak of waterborne diseases at relief camps established by the government across the nation³.

It will certainly take some time to rebuild housing and reconstruct key infrastructure across Pakistan. The Pakistani people are resilient and will undoubtedly rebound from this catastrophe. As they do so, it is our moral obligation to ensure we are not imposing additional burdens by forcing Pakistani nationals to return at this time. For these reasons, we strongly urge the Department of Homeland Security to grant TPS for Pakistanis currently living in the United States.

We thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Yvette D. Clarke

Member of Congress



Sheria Jackson Lee

Member of Congress

¹ <https://www.washingtonpost.com/climate-environment/2022/08/31/monsoon-pakistan-flooding-explainer/>

² <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/death-toll-in-pakistan-passes-1110-as-monsoon-floods-reach-historic-levels>

³ https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/waterborne-diseases-spread-among-flood-victims-in-pakistan/2022/09/01/7e18e656-29cd-11ed-a90a-fce4015dfc8f_story.html



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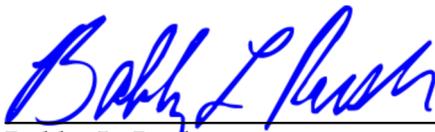
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André Carson
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U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

September 30, 2022

The Honorable Yvette D. Clarke
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Clarke:

Thank you for your September 8, 2022, letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in support of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Pakistani nationals. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is principally responsible for advising the Secretary on TPS, and Secretary Mayorkas asked that I respond on his behalf.

I appreciate the concerns you have outlined regarding the situation in Pakistan and your interest in its designation for TPS. As you are aware, the Secretary of Homeland Security may designate a country for TPS and extend or terminate a country's existing TPS designation based upon specific statutory criteria. In order to designate a country for TPS or extend a country's TPS designation, the Secretary must find one or more of the following: (1) there is an ongoing armed conflict within the country that would pose a serious threat to the personal safety of the country's nationals if they were returned; (2) there has been an environmental disaster resulting in a substantial, but temporary, disruption of the living conditions in the area affected, the country is temporarily unable to handle adequately the return of its nationals, and the country has officially requested TPS designation; or (3) there exist extraordinary and temporary conditions in the country that prevent nationals from returning in safety, and the Secretary does not find that permitting the country's nationals to remain temporarily in the United States would be contrary to the national interest of the United States. *See* Immigration and Nationality Act § 244(b)(1).

Please be assured that DHS continues to monitor conditions in Pakistan and makes TPS designations after consultation with interagency partners and careful consideration of the circumstances of the country. DHS is committed to administering its programs, including TPS, in an equitable manner. DHS offers support that may be available upon request to assist those affected by special situations, including eligible Pakistani nationals residing in the United States. Such support includes:

- Change or extension of nonimmigrant status if eligible nationals are currently in the United States, even if the request is filed after the authorized period of admission has expired;
- Expedited processing of requests for advance parole documents;

- Expedited adjudication of requests for off-campus employment authorization for F-1 students experiencing severe economic hardship;
- Expedited adjudication of employment authorization applications, where appropriate;
- Assistance if applicants received a Request for Evidence or a Notice of Intent to Deny and were unable to appear for an interview, submit evidence, or respond in a timely manner because of the special situation; and
- Replacement of lost or damaged immigration or travel documents issued by USCIS, such as a Permanent Resident Card (Green Card).

More information on these options is available under “Special Situations” on the USCIS website at <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/special-situations>.

Thank you again for your letter and interest in this important issue. The cosigners of your letter will receive a separate, identical response. Should you require any additional assistance, please have your staff contact the USCIS Office of Legislative Affairs at (240) 721-3801.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ur M. Jaddou", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ur M. Jaddou
Director