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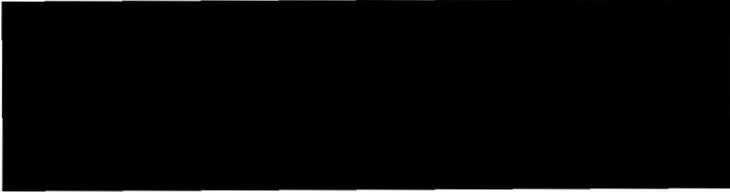
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Office of Administrative Appeals MS 2090
Washington, DC 20529-2090



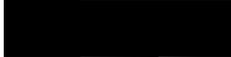
U.S. Citizenship
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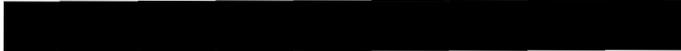
FILE:



Office: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER

Date:

IN RE:



APPLICATION:

Application for Permission to Reapply for Admission into the United States after
Deportation or Removal under section 212(a)(9)(A)(iii) of the Immigration and
Nationality Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(A)(iii)

ON BEHALF OF APPLICANT:



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.

If you believe the law was inappropriately applied or you have additional information that you wish to have considered, you may file a motion to reconsider or a motion to reopen. Please refer to 8 C.F.R. § 103.5 for the specific requirements. All motions must be submitted to the office that originally decided your case by filing a Form I-290B, Notice of Appeal or Motion, with a fee of \$585. Any motion must be filed within 30 days of the decision that the motion seeks to reconsider or reopen, as required by 8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a)(1)(i).

John F. Grissom
Acting Chief, Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The Director, California Service Center denied the Application for Permission to Reapply for Admission into the United States after Deportation or Removal (Form I-212) and the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) dismissed the subsequent appeal. The matter is now before the AAO on a motion to reconsider. The motion to reconsider will be granted, the order dismissing the appeal will be affirmed and the application will be denied.

The applicant is a native and citizen of Mexico who, on February 21, 1998, appeared at the San Ysidro, California, Port of Entry. The applicant presented a lawful permanent resident card, bearing the name [REDACTED]” The applicant was found inadmissible pursuant to section 212(a)(6)(C)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1182 (a)(6)(C)(i) for attempting to enter the United States by fraud. The applicant failed to provide immigration officers with his true identity. On February 22, 1998, the applicant was expeditiously removed from the United States pursuant to section 235(b)(1) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1225(b)(1), under the name [REDACTED]”

The applicant reentered the United States without a lawful admission or parole and without permission to reapply for admission, on an unknown date, but prior to July 9, 1998, the date on which immigration officers apprehended him at a residence in Santa Ana, California. The applicant agreed to appear as a material witness in prosecuting the smuggler that had brought him to the United States in exchange for the government’s agreement not to press criminal charges for his illegal entry into the United States.

On January 21, 2004, a Notice of Intent/Decision to Reinstate Prior Order (Form I-871) was issued pursuant to section 241(a)(5) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1231(a)(5). On January 22, 2004, the applicant was removed from the United States and returned to Mexico, where he claims to have since resided. On April 28, 2004, the applicant filed the Form I-212. The applicant is inadmissible under section 212(a)(9)(A)(i) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(A)(i) for a period of twenty years. He seeks permission to reapply for admission into the United States under section 212(a)(9)(A)(iii) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(A)(iii) in order to reenter the United States and reside with his U.S. citizen spouse and two U.S. citizen children.

The director determined that the applicant was inadmissible to the United States pursuant to section 212(a)(9) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9), for being an alien who seeks permission to reapply for admission to the United States after having been deported or removed from the United States. The director determined that the unfavorable factors in the applicant’s case outweighed the favorable factors. The director then denied the Form I-212 accordingly. *See Director’s Decision*, dated March 2, 2005.

On May 9, 2006, the AAO dismissed the applicant’s appeal because the applicant is inadmissible pursuant to section 212(a)(9)(C)(i) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(C)(i), the applicant had not remained outside the United States for the required ten years prior to seeking permission to reapply for admission, and the applicant was ineligible to file the Form I-212. *Decision of AAO*, dated May 9, 2006.

In his motion to reopen or reconsider, counsel contends that the applicant cooperated with the government in prosecuting a smuggler and his removal was not immediately reinstated.¹ Counsel contends that the AAO is arguably applying case law in regard to section 212(a)(9)(C) of the Act retroactively.² Counsel contends that the AAO improperly found the applicant to be inadmissible under section 212(a)(9)(C) of the Act when he is only inadmissible under section 212(a)(9)(A) of the Act. *See Counsel's Motion to Reopen or Reconsider*, dated May 30, 2006. In support of his contentions, counsel submits only the referenced motion. The entire record was reviewed in rendering a decision in this case.

Section 212(a)(9) of the Act states in pertinent part:

(A) Certain aliens previously removed.-

- (i) Arriving aliens.- Any alien who has been ordered removed under section 235(b)(1) or at the end of proceedings under section 240 initiated upon the alien's arrival in the United States and who again seeks admission within five years of the date of such removal (or within 20 years in the case of a second or subsequent removal or at any time in the case of an alien convicted of an aggravated felony) is inadmissible.
- (ii) Other aliens.-Any alien not described in clause (i) who-
 - (I) has been ordered removed under section 240 or any other provision of law, or
 - (II) departed the United States while an order of removal was outstanding, and who seeks admission within 10 years of the date of such alien's departure or removal (or within 20 years of such date in the case of a second or subsequent removal or at any time in the case on a alien convicted of an aggravated felony) is inadmissible.
- (iii) Exception.- Clauses (i) and (ii) shall not apply to an alien seeking admission within a period if, prior to the date of the alien's reembarkation at a place outside the United States or attempt to be admitted from foreign contiguous territory, the Secretary has consented to the alien's reapplying for admission.

¹ The AAO notes that there is no evidence in the record to establish that there was agreement to not reinstate the applicant's removal order in exchange for his cooperation. Furthermore, whether the applicant and the government had such an agreement would not be relevant to whether the applicant is inadmissible pursuant to section 212(a)(9)(C) of the Act.

² The AAO finds counsel's contention unpersuasive. Application of case law cannot be retroactive since the case law cited refers to a section of law; only the application of the section of law can be retroactive. Furthermore, the applicant reentered the United States after April 1, 1997, the date on which section 212(a)(9)(C) of the Act was enacted.

(C) Aliens unlawfully present after previous immigration violations.-

(i) In general.-Any alien who-

(I) has been unlawfully present in the United States for an aggregate period of more than 1 year, or

(II) has been ordered removed under section 235(b)(1), section 240, or any other provision of law, and who enters or attempts to reenter the United States without being admitted is inadmissible.

(ii) Exception.- Clause (i) shall not apply to an alien seeking admission more than 10 years after the date of the alien's last departure from the United States if, prior to the alien's reembarkation at a place outside the United States or attempt to be readmitted from a foreign contiguous territory, the Secretary has consented to the alien's reapplying for admission. The Secretary, in the Secretary's discretion, may waive the provisions of section 212(a)(9)(C)(i) in the case of an alien to whom the Secretary has granted classification under clause (iii), (iv), or (v) of section 204(a)(1)(A), or classification under clause (ii), (iii), or (iv) of section 204(a)(1)(B), in any case in which there is a connection between—

(1) the alien's having been battered or subjected to extreme cruelty; and

(2) the alien's--

(A) removal;

(B) departure from the United States;

(C) reentry or reentries into the United States; or

(D) attempted reentry into the United States.

8 C.F.R. § 103.5(a) provides, in pertinent part:

(2) Requirements for motion to reopen.

A motion to reopen must state the new facts to be provided in the reopened proceeding and be supported by affidavits or other documentary evidence. A motion to reopen an application or petition denied due to abandonment must be filed with evidence that the decision was in error because:

- a. The requested evidence was not material to the issue of eligibility;
- b. The required initial evidence was submitted with the application or petition, or the request for initial evidence or additional information or appearance was complied with during the allotted period; or
- c. The request for additional information or appearance was sent to an address other than that on the application, petition, or notice of representation, or that the applicant or petitioner advised the Service, in writing, of a change of address or change of representation subsequent to filing and before the Service's request was sent, and the request did not go to the new address.

(3) Requirements for motion to reconsider.

A motion to reconsider must state the reasons for reconsideration and be supported by any pertinent precedent decisions to establish that the decision was based on an incorrect application of law or Service policy. A motion to reconsider a decision on an application or petition must, when filed, also establish that the decision was incorrect based on the evidence of record at the time of the initial decision.

Counsel did not submit evidence or provide information regarding new facts to be provided upon a reopening of the applicant's case. The AAO, therefore, finds that counsel has not met the requirements for a motion to reopen.

In support of his motion to reconsider, counsel contends that the AAO applicant fits under section 212(a)(9)(A) of the Act and, therefore, section 212(a)(9)(C) of the Act is not applicable to him. The AAO finds that a clear reading of the Act establishes that the two grounds of inadmissibility are not mutually exclusive and an applicant may be inadmissible under both section 212(a)(9)(A) and 212(a)(9)(C) of the Act. Accordingly, the AAO finds that the applicant is inadmissible to the United States pursuant to sections 212(a)(9)(A)(i) and 212(a)(9)(C) of the Act.

The AAO takes note of the preliminary injunction that had been entered against the ability of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to follow *Matter of Torres-Garcia*. *Gonzales v. DHS*, 239 F.R.D. 620 (W.D. Wash. 2006). The Ninth Circuit, however, reversed the district court, and ordered the vacating of that injunction. *Gonzales v. DHS (Gonzales II)*, 508 F.3d 1227 (9th Cir. 2007). In its opinion, the Ninth Circuit held that the Board's decision in *Matter of Torres-Garcia* was entitled to judicial deference. *Gonzales II*, 508 F.3d at 1241-42. The Ninth Circuit's mandate was issued on January 23, 2009. On February 6, 2009, the district court denied the plaintiffs' motion for a new preliminary injunction. Order Denying Plaintiffs' Motion for Preliminary Injunction (Dkt # 59), *Gonzales v. DHS*, No. C06-1411-MJP (W.D. Wash. Filed February 6, 2006). Thus, as of the date of this decision, there is no judicial prohibition in force that precludes the AAO from applying the rule laid down in *Matter of Torres-Garcia*.

The AAO notes that an exception to the section 212(a)(9)(C)(i) ground of inadmissibility is available to individuals classified as battered spouses under the cited sections of section 204 of the Act. *See also* 8 U.S.C. § 1154. There are no indications in the record that the applicant is or should be classified as such.

An alien who is inadmissible under section 212(a)(9)(C)(i) of the Act may not apply for consent to reapply unless he or she has *remained outside* the United States for more than 10 years since the date of the alien's last departure from the United States. *See Matter of Torres-Garcia*, 23 I&N Dec. 866 (BIA 2006). Thus, to avoid inadmissibility under section 212(a)(9)(C) of the Act, it must be the case that the applicant's last departure was at least ten years ago, the applicant has remained outside the United States since that departure, *and* that U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) has consented to the applicant's reapplying for admission. In the present matter, the applicant's last departure from the United States occurred on January 22, 2004, less than ten years ago.³ The applicant is currently statutorily ineligible to apply for permission to reapply for admission. Additionally, the AAO finds that, in light of the applicant's repeated violations of the immigration laws, he would not warrant a favorable exercise of discretion.

Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1361, provides that the burden of proof is upon the applicant to establish that he is eligible for the benefit sought. The applicant in the instant case does not qualify for an exception under section 212(a)(9)(C)(ii) of the Act. Thus, as a matter of law, the applicant is not eligible for approval of a Form I-212. Accordingly, while the motion to reconsider will be granted, the order dismissing the appeal will be affirmed.

ORDER: The motion to reconsider is granted. The order dismissing the appeal will be affirmed.

³ The AAO notes that the applicant has failed to provide evidence to establish his residence in Mexico since his removal in 2004. Such evidence will be required to prove the applicant's residence outside the United States for a period of ten years when he becomes eligible to apply for permission to reapply for admission.