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U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
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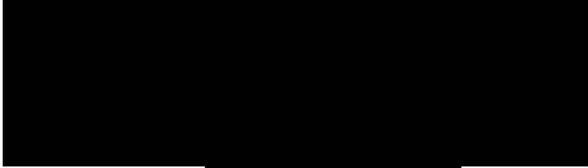


U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services

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APR 24 2009

FILE:



Office: CALIFORNIA SERVICE CENTER  
(RELATES)

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 it is now before the Administrative Appeals Office (AAO) on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant is a native and citizen of Mexico who, on October 13, 1997, was apprehended attempting to elude inspection at the San Ysidro, California port of entry. The applicant was placed into secondary inspections. She admitted that she did not have valid documentation to enter the United States. The applicant failed to reveal her true identity. The applicant was found to be inadmissible pursuant to section 212(a)(7)(A)(i)(I) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (the Act), 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(7)(A)(i)(I), for being an immigrant without valid documentation. On October 16, 1997, 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 2, 1999, the date on which she filed an Application to Register Permanent Residence or Adjust Status (Form I-485), indicating that she resided in the United States. On June 14, 2000, the applicant appeared at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' (USCIS) Los Angeles, California District Office. The applicant testified that she had entered the United States on January 14, 1988, and concealed her prior arrest and removal from the United States.<sup>1</sup> On August 1, 2006, the applicant filed the Form I-212 indicating that she continued to reside in the United States. The applicant is inadmissible under section 212(a)(9)(A)(i) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(A)(i). She 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 remain in the United States and reside with her lawful permanent resident spouse.

The director determined that the applicant is inadmissible pursuant to section 212(a)(9)(C)(i) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(9)(C)(i), for illegally reentering the United States after having been removed. The director determined that the applicant was not eligible to apply for permission to reapply for admission because she had not remained outside the United States for the required ten years. The director denied the Form I-212 accordingly. *See Director's Decision*, dated February 13, 2007.

On appeal, counsel contends that it has been more than the required five years since the applicant's removal.<sup>2</sup> Counsel contends that the applicant is eligible to adjust status under section 245(i) of the Act. *See Counsel Brief*, dated February 23, 2007. In support of his contentions, counsel submits only the referenced brief. The entire record was reviewed in rendering a decision in this case.

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<sup>1</sup> The AAO notes that the applicant's concealment of her prior removal renders her inadmissible pursuant to section 212(a)(6)(C)(i) of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1182(a)(6)(C)(i), for attempting to obtain immigration benefits by fraud or willful misrepresentation of a material fact.

<sup>2</sup> The AAO notes that, in order to no longer be inadmissible under section 212(a)(9)(A) of the Act, an applicant must have remained *outside* the United States for required period of time. The applicant has failed to provide evidence to establish that she remained outside the United States for five years. Moreover, such evidence would conflict with the information provided on the Form I-485, which states that the applicant currently resides in the United States as of the filing date of the Form I-485. Furthermore, even if the applicant had remained outside the United States for a full five years prior to reentering the United States, the fact that the applicant illegally reentered the United States after having been removed at any time, renders her inadmissible pursuant to section 212(a)(9)(C) of the Act.

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.

(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.

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 USCIS has consented to the applicant's reapplying for admission. In the present matter, while the applicant's last departure from the United States occurred on October 16, 1997, more than ten years ago, she has not remained outside the United States for the required ten years and she is currently present in the United States. 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, she would not warrant a favorable exercise of discretion.

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 (9<sup>th</sup> 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*.

Section 291 of the Act, 8 U.S.C. § 1361, provides that the burden of proof is upon the applicant to establish that she 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, the appeal will be dismissed as a matter of discretion.

**ORDER:** The appeal is dismissed.