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U.S. Department of Homeland Security
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U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

M1

FILE:

[REDACTED]
[EAC 01 145 50533]

Office: NEBRASKA SERVICE CENTER

Date: APR 15 2005

IN RE:

Applicant: [REDACTED]

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.

for Robert P. Wiemann, Director
Administrative Appeals Office

DISCUSSION: The application was denied by the Director, Nebraska Service Center, and is now before the Administrative Appeals Office on appeal. The appeal will be dismissed.

The applicant is a native and citizen of El Salvador 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 his date of entry into the United States as of February 13, 2001, that he had continuously resided in the United States since February 13, 2001, and that he had been continuously physically present in the United States since March 9, 2001.

On appeal, the applicant submits additional evidence in support of his claim of eligibility for TPS.

Section 244(c) of the Act, and the related regulations in 8 C.F.R. § 244.2, provide that an applicant is eligible for TPS 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 § 244.3;
- (e) Is not ineligible under § 244.4; and
- (f)
 - (1) Registers for Temporary Protected Status 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.

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 El Salvadorans must demonstrate continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001. On July 9, 2002, the Attorney General announced an extension of the TPS designation until September 9, 2003. A subsequent extension of the TPS designation has been granted by the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, with validity until September 9, 2006, upon the applicant's re-registration during the requisite time period.

The burden of proof is upon the applicant to establish that he or she meets the above requirements. Applicants shall submit all documentation as required in the instructions or requested by Citizenship and Immigration Services (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 his or her burden of proof the applicant must provide supporting documentary evidence of eligibility apart from his or her own statements. 8 C.F.R. § 244.9(b).

On October 21, 2002, the applicant was requested to submit evidence to establish his continuous residence in the United States as of February 13, 2001, and his continuous physical presence in the United States from March 9, 2001. The applicant responded to the director's request on December 2, 2002, with some evidence in an attempt to establish his continuous residence during the requisite time period.

Subsequently, on May 15, 2003, the applicant was also requested to submit evidence establishing his date of entry into the United States on or before February 13, 2001, his continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and continuous physical presence in the United States from March 9, 2001. The applicant was also requested to submit a check or money order for the fingerprint fee. In response, the applicant submitted some evidence in an attempt to establish his continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States. The director determined that the applicant had failed to submit sufficient evidence to establish his date of entry into the United States as of February 13, 2001, his continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, and his continuous physical presence in the United States from March 9, 2001. Therefore, the director denied the application on June 26, 2003.

The applicant filed an untimely appeal which was rejected by the director as improperly filed. The director treated the appeal as a motion to reopen, pursuant to 8 C.F.R. § 103.3(a)(1)(v)(B)(2), and rendered a decision on the merits of the case. After a complete review of the record of proceedings, including the motion, the director determined that the applicant had failed to establish his eligibility for TPS. The director, therefore, affirmed his previous decision and denied the application on October 27, 2003.

On November 24, 2003, the applicant filed an appeal to the director's October 27, 2003 decision, which is now before the AAO. On appeal, the applicant submits the following documentation: a copy of a money transfer receipt dated October 16, 2003, from [REDACTED]; a copy of his earnings statement dated May 6, 2002, from Mantec Services, Inc.; a copy of a billing statement dated August 22, 2001, from Mark L. Nichter, P.C., reflecting the name of [REDACTED]; a copy of a letter dated September 6, 2001, from the Social Security Administration; a copy of his Washington State Identification Card issued on February 2, 2002; a copy of an illegible photo identification; a copy of a fee receipt dated April 6, 2001 for his fingerprint fee; a copy of a United States Postal Service certified mail receipt dated July 26, 2001; a copy of a letter dated July 7, 2003, from the applicant to the Nebraska Service Center; a copy of billing statement dated May 5, 2003, from the Seattle Times; copies of billing statements from Qwest dated February 28, 2003 and May 28, 2003; a copy of the biographical pages of his El Salvadoran passport reflecting an issue date of December 12, 2001 in Manhattan, New York; a copy of an affidavit dated July 7, 2003, from Mr. [REDACTED] and Ms. [REDACTED] who stated that the applicant had resided in Brooklyn, New York from February 9, 1999 to February 2002; a copy of a letter dated June 16, 2001, from [REDACTED], Vice Consul of the Consulate General of El Salvador in New York, New York; a copy of his earnings statement dated April 15, 2003, from the University of Washington; a copy of his earnings statement from FXM, Inc, reflecting a pay date of July 5, 2003; a copy of a letter dated April 11, 2003, from Mr. [REDACTED] of the Department of Retirement Services of the State of Washington; and a copy of the applicant's personal identification card issued in El Salvador on January 8, 1999.

The statement provided by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] regarding the applicant's claimed continuous residence and continuous physical presence in the United States is not supported by corroborative evidence. In addition, the letter from [REDACTED] P.C., is addressed to [REDACTED]. The additional

evidence submitted by the applicant on appeal post-dates the requisite time periods for continuous residence and continuous presence in the United States for El Salvadoran TPS. The applicant has not submitted sufficient evidence to establish his date of entry into the United States as of February 13, 2001, his qualifying continuous residence in the United States since February 13, 2001, or his continuous physical presence in the United States since March 9, 2001. The applicant has, therefore, failed to establish that he 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 TPS will be affirmed.

An alien applying for TPS 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.