



June 29, 2018

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SCANNED/RECEIVED
BY EXEC SEC

The Honorable Ms. Kirstjen M. NIELSEN

Secretary

United States Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Re: Appeal for the Extension of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Yemenis

Dear Secretary Nielsen,

I am writing to you today to appeal for the extension of the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for Yemeni nationals currently living in the USA and the re-designation for Yemeni immigrants who seek to reside in the USA due the ongoing conflict in my county. Indeed, allowing for those Yemenis to continue to remain in the USA until such time that the conflict in Yemen has been definitively resolved for them to safely return home would serve both of our countries' national interests.

The conflict has disrupted so many lives, causing more than 2 million Yemenis to be internally displaced, and another quarter million seeking refuge worldwide. This conflict, along with the current humanitarian crisis, represent a war situation and loss of territory and vital infrastructure rendering the Yemeni government unable, temporarily, to handle adequately the return of Yemenis to all areas in Yemen. Therefore, extending the TPS would ensure that those Yemenis living safely in the USA, including women and children, would not have to be put in peril if they were compelled to return home at this juncture.

The Government of Yemen conveys its profound gratitude and appreciation to the Administration of the Honorable President Donald J. TRUMP, for its continued humanitarian support to the people of Yemen. Indeed, I hope that there will soon be a peaceful settlement to the hostilities and our energies can be dedicated more towards remaining humanitarian concerns and rebuilding our political, economic and social landscape that has been negatively affected by this conflict.

Madam Secretary, I hope that it will be your recommendation and decision to grant the necessary TPS extension for those Yemenis in the USA and its re-designation for those fleeing the war. The Government of Yemen will be profoundly appreciative for this action. Without question our shared interests have been held firmly together with the bonds of friendship as we continue to cherish and wish to strengthen our bilateral ties with the United States of America.

Sincerely,

Ahmed Awad BinMubarak, PhD
Ambassador



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

July 24, 2018

His Excellency Ahmed Awad BinMubarak, PhD
Ambassador of Yemen
Washington, DC 20008

Dear Mr. Ambassador:

Thank you for your June 29, 2018 letter. Secretary Nielsen asked that I respond on her behalf.

I appreciate your interest in the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for Yemen. The Secretary of Homeland Security's authority to designate a country for TPS and to extend or terminate a country's existing designation is based upon specific statutory criteria. *See* Immigration and Nationality Act (INA) § 244(b). U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is principally responsible for advising the Secretary on TPS issues and implementing the program.

At least 60 days before the current expiration date for a TPS designation, the Secretary must review conditions in the foreign country and, after consultation with other appropriate federal agencies, determine whether the statutory conditions for TPS continue to be met. Under the INA, if the Secretary determines that the conditions for designation continue to be met with respect to a country, the designation must be extended. However, if the Secretary determines that the conditions are no longer met with respect to a country, the Secretary is required to terminate the designation. *See* INA § 244(b)(1),(3).

On July 5, 2018, after carefully considering relevant conditions in Yemen and the statutory TPS requirements, Secretary Nielsen announced her determination to extend the TPS designation for Yemen for 18 months, through March 3, 2020. Prior to the conclusion of this 18-month extension, the Secretary will review conditions in Yemen and, after consultation with other appropriate federal agencies, determine whether another extension or a termination is warranted, in full compliance with the INA.

Additional information on the extension of TPS for Yemen can be found in Secretary Nielsen's July 5, 2018 announcement of the decision posted on the Department of Homeland Security's website, on the USCIS website, and in a notice that will be published in the *Federal Register*.

His Excellency Ahmed Awad BinMubarak, PhD
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Thank you for your letter and interest in this important issue. Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Francis Cissna', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

L. Francis Cissna
Director