

Secretary

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528



**Homeland  
Security**

November 6, 2017

MEMORANDUM FOR: L. Francis Cissna  
Director  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

James D. Nealon  
Assistant Secretary for International Affairs  
Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans

FROM: Elaine C. Duke  
Acting Secretary

SUBJECT: **Honduras' Designation for Temporary Protected Status**

Pursuant to the relevant provisions of the Immigration and Nationality Act pertaining to Temporary Protected Status (TPS) determinations, I have reviewed information regarding the country conditions in Honduras. I have reviewed this information for the purpose of determining whether the conditions for the designation of Honduras under 8 U.S.C. § 1254a(b) continue to be met. At this time, after receiving reporting from a broad spectrum of sources, I have concluded that additional time is necessary to obtain and assess supplemental information to make this determination in an appropriately deliberative manner. Based on this conclusion, and under operation of 8 U.S.C. §1254a(b)(3)(C), the period of designation for Honduras will be automatically extended for an additional six months.

In evaluating this matter, I received intelligence and advice from the Department of State, received intelligence and advice from DHS components and other intelligence agencies, and DHS staff has consulted with a wide variety of external entities. Information I received, including the Honduras country condition report from the Department of State, was inconclusive as to the ability of Honduras to adequately handle the return of its nationals into the country without major disruption.

Although not the basis for my conclusion as to the need for additional information, I note that the successful reintegration of TPS nationals back into the Honduran economy could have a significant impact on the Department's recent efforts to stem the flow of illegal immigration, confront violent gangs, and thwart transnational criminal organizations. Therefore, I have directed members of my leadership team to continue engagement with the Government of Honduras as we further assess the country conditions and its ability to handle the potential orderly transition of its nationals back to their country of origin.

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In the coming months, I will seek additional information and thoroughly review the country conditions of Honduras. If I determine country conditions no longer warrant a continued designation, I will terminate the designation. I will approach this review and the accompanying decision with the understanding that any termination of a country designation is to be accomplished in a manner designed to provide for an orderly transition.

TPS, as enacted in law, is intended to be temporary in nature. Beneficiaries should plan accordingly for the day their protected status will come to an end. The U.S. Government cannot maintain a program that lurches from deadline to deadline, leaving individuals in legal limbo for decades.

I will also encourage Congress, working with the Administration, to consider changes to the immigration laws, consistent with the President's immigration priorities, to provide a permanent solution for the individuals who have lived and worked in the United States for so many years in Temporary Protected Status.