



Homeland
Security

July 19, 2021

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cardin:

Thank you for your May 27, 2021 letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in support of Temporary Protected Status (TPS).

In your letter you requested that DHS, in consultation with the Department of State, review the conditions in the Bahamas, Cameroon, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Hong Kong, Lebanon, Mauritania, Nepal, Nicaragua, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Yemen to determine if these locations may be eligible to be designated or redesignated for TPS.

As the Secretary of Homeland Security, my discretionary authority to initially designate a country for TPS is based upon specific statutory criteria. I must find one or more of the following: (1) there is an ongoing armed conflict within the country that would pose a serious threat to the personal safety of the country's nationals if they were returned; (2) there has been an environmental disaster resulting in a substantial, but temporary, disruption of the living conditions in the area affected, the country is temporarily unable to handle adequately the return of its nationals, and the country has officially requested TPS designation; or (3) there exist extraordinary and temporary conditions in the country that prevent nationals from returning in safety, and I do not find that permitting the country's nationals to remain temporarily in the United States would be contrary to the national interest of the United States. *See* Immigration and Nationality Act § 244(b)(1).

I am pleased to confirm that on July 6, 2021, I announced an 18-month extension and re-designation of Yemen for TPS. I made the decision to extend and re-designate Yemen for TPS after consultation with interagency partners and careful consideration of the ongoing armed conflict and extraordinary and temporary conditions in Yemen. This extension and re-designation will be in effect from September 4, 2021, through March 3, 2023. See the Federal Register Notice.¹ For additional information, please see the DHS news release.²

¹ Federal Register <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/07/09/2021-14670/extension-and-redesignation-of-yemen-for-temporary-protected-status> Notice

² <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2021/07/06/secretary-mayorkas-announces-extension-and-re-designation-yemen-temporary-protected>

DHS is closely monitoring the conditions in the other locations listed in your letter. Please be assured that DHS offers support that may be available upon request³ to assist eligible noncitizens, including:

- Change or extension of nonimmigrant status if eligible nationals are currently in the United States, even if the request is filed after the authorized period of admission has expired;
- Expedited processing of requests for advance parole documents;
- Expedited adjudication of requests for off-campus employment authorization for F-1 students experiencing severe economic hardship;
- Expedited adjudication of employment authorization applications, where appropriate;
- Assistance if applicants received a Request for Evidence or a Notice of Intent to Deny and were unable to appear for an interview, submit evidence, or respond in a timely manner because of the natural disaster; and,
- Replacement of lost or damaged immigration or travel documents issued by USCIS, such as a Permanent Resident Card (Green Card).

Thank you again for your letter and your concern for the protection of vulnerable individuals. We share this commitment. The cosigners of your letter will receive a separate, identical response. Should you require any additional assistance, please contact me or have your staff contact the DHS Office of Legislative Affairs at (202) 447-5890.

Respectfully,



Alejandro N. Mayorkas
Secretary

³ Additional information is available at the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services website at: <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/special-situations>.