

RECEIVED PPTD'S EXERCISE

2015 JUN -2 PM 11: 04



June 1, 2015

The Honorable Jeh Johnson
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Johnson:

We are a coalition with Nepali organizations based in the United States. We are a part of a nation-wide movement to support humanitarian efforts for Nepal. The massive 7.8 magnitude earthquake that shook Nepal on April 25, 2015 and the numerous aftershocks have resulted in mass death and destruction. Most of us were born and raised in Nepal, and we still have strong family and cultural ties to the country. We have been mobilizing our communities to collect funds to support relief efforts in Nepal.

We commend the Obama Administration for contributing to urgent relief efforts in Nepal. While the U.S. is directing much-needed relief aid to Nepal, another significant way we can help limit the strain on that country's resources is by designating Nepal for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) under § 244(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act. In a very similar circumstance, after a massive earthquake in Haiti, the Secretary of Homeland Security acted quickly to designate Haiti for TPS. That response can and should be repeated for Nepal as soon as possible.

Section 244(b)(1)(B) allows for a TPS designation if an environmental disaster, including specifically an earthquake, has caused a substantial temporary disruption of living conditions in the area affected such that the country cannot adequately handle the return of its nationals..

Nepal experienced a 7.8 magnitude earthquake followed by numerous strong aftershocks, some even measuring 6.6 on the Richter scale. Thirty-nine of Nepal's seventy-five districts were affected by the quake – 11 of them severely. The death toll in Nepal has exceeded 9,000 and over eight million people have been affected. The number is expected to grow as aftershocks, avalanches, mudslides and bad weather continue to damage homes, businesses and other vital infrastructure. Up to 90 percent of health facilities in rural areas have been damaged. Hospitals in district capitals, including Kathmandu, are overcrowded and lack medical supplies and capacity. Many temples and heritage sites have collapsed.

The aftermath of the earthquake has left the people of Nepal displaced, homeless, and at risk for disease. Survivors are reported to be living in tents or sleeping in open fields, despite the heavy rains. The need for food, clean water, and shelter is dire. Nepal's famous mountainous structure has made it difficult to provide relief to villages farther away from the capital of Kathmandu. Relief efforts have also been complicated because Kathmandu's airport has only one runway, which suffered damage during the earthquake, and cannot easily accommodate the planes arriving with supplies. The conditions on the ground mean that Nepal is unable to handle the return of nationals at this time. All the energy is on keeping people in Nepal safe and cared for. Given the extensive damage and loss that is already known, and the certainty that those numbers

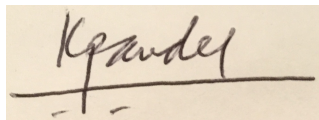
will increase significantly, Nepal clearly meets the necessary requirements for a TPS designation.

TPS will empower Nepalis here in the United States to more effectively aid our own home country during the rebuilding. TPS would ensure that Nepalis in the U.S. would be protected from deportation and granted work authorization to enable them to continue working and send remittances to Nepal. Moreover, the devastation in Nepal and hazardous conditions make it unsafe for any Nepali nationals to be forced to return to the country at this time. Nepal ranks among the world's poorest countries. The United States has provided aid and support since January 1951, contributing more than \$1.4 billion bilaterally and multilaterally. Up to 90 percent of the country's inhabitants earn a living through agriculture, which serves as a significant percentage of the country's gross domestic product. Tourism also serves as a major source of revenue, which will be greatly impacted by the earthquake's devastation as many historical sites have been destroyed. The U.S. Geological Survey estimates that reconstruction costs could exceed \$10 billion, or half of national GDP.

Further, in 2006 Nepal ended an armed conflict that plagued the country for over ten years. Over 15,000 people were killed in this conflict, between 100,000 to 150,000 thousand people were internally displaced and thousands of others were disappeared. Since 2006 Nepal has faced a crisis of governance with different political parties leading the government at different times. Nepal currently runs under an Interim Constitution written in 2007, and political parties have not yet agreed on a formal constitution. This instability leaves Nepal with limited infrastructure to deal with the crisis created by the earthquake.

On May 12, 2015, Dr. Arjun Karki, the Ambassador of Nepal to the United States, officially requested TPS status for Nepal. Additionally, on May 5, 2015, 127 organizations across the U.S., including Adhikaar, sent a letter in support of TPS for Nepal. We thank the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) for the May 5, 2015 news alert highlighting the immigration measures that may be available to the Nepali nationals in the U.S. We are happy about the possible relief for some members of our community. However, many others in our community still remain unprotected. Therefore, the 67 undersigned Nepali organizations strongly urge you to designate Nepal for Temporary Protected Status and to provide additional immigration-related relief as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored rectangular background. The signature appears to read "K. Paudel" with a horizontal line underneath.

Dr. Keshab Paudel
President
Non Resident Nepali Association National
Coordinating Council USA (NRN NCC USA)

A handwritten signature in black ink. The signature is stylized and appears to read "Luna Ranjit" with a horizontal line underneath.

Luna Ranjit
Executive Director
Adhikaar

America Nepal Friendship Society
America Nepal Women's Association of Greater Washington (ANWA)

Ann Arbor Nepali Group
Association of Nepalese in Midwest America (ANMA)
Association of Nepalis in Minnesota
Association of Nepalis in the Americas
Badi Ko Sathi
Baltimore Association of Nepalese in America (BANA)
Bhojpur Samaj
Chicagoland Nepali Friendship Society
Chicagoland Tharu Society
Federation of Indigenous Peoples of Nepal in America (FIPNA)
Federation of Indigenous Women of Nepal in America (FIWNA)
Greater Washington Tamu Samaj
Himalayan Buddhist Community
Hyalmo Ama Yangri Kyidug
Hyalmo Society of America
Hyalmo Youth Club
International Commission for Dalit Rights
International Nepali Literary Society (INLS) New York Chapter
Kirat Rai Society of America (KRSA)
Kirat Yakthung Chumlung (KYC USA)
Long Island Nepali Association
Los Angeles Gurung Society
Magar Association USA
Manang Samaj of New York Inc.
Marpha Thakali Samaj
Mustang Kyidug USA
Nepa Pasa Pucha Amerikaye
Nepal American Center
Nepal Center of North Carolina
Nepal Federal Socialist United States of America (NEFESOUSA)
Nepal Seattle Society
Nepalese American Nurses Association (NANA)
Nepalese Association in Southeast America (NASEA)
Nepalese Association of Georgia (NAG)
Nepalese Association of Houston
Nepalese Association of Southeast America
Nepalese Society Texas (NST)
Nepali American Artists Association
Nepali American Friendship Association
Nepali American Public Affairs Council
Nepali Public Relations Committee of America (NPRCA Nepali Jana Samparka Samittee)
Nepali Society at Purdue
Nepali Women's Global Network
New Hampshire Nepali Community
New Hampshire Tamu Samaj
New York Nepalese Football Club (NYNFC)

New York Newah Guthi
Newah Nakha New York
Non Resident Nepali Association
Non Resident Nepali Association Atlanta Chapter
Northwest Tamu Society
Overseas Nepali Forum
Ridgewood Nepalese Society
Sampreshan
Tamang Society of America
Tamu Dhee Colorado Inc.
United Florida Nepal Association - Florida Association of Nepali Societies (United FNA-FANS)
United Kirat Rai Organization of America (UKROA)
United Sherpa Association
US Nepal Climbers Association Inc.
US Nepal Sports and Culture Development Inc.
Walung Community of NY &NJ
Women For Cause

cc: The Honorable John Kerry, Secretary of State
The Honorable Leon Rodriguez, Director, U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services
Cecilia Muñoz, White House Domestic Policy Council



**U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services**

JUL 1 2015

Keshab Paudel, M.D.
President
Non-Resident Nepali Association National
Coordinating Council USA
363 7th Avenue, Suite 1500
New York, NY 10001

Dear Dr. Paudel:

Thank you for your June 1, 2015 letter to Secretary Johnson requesting that he designate Nepal for Temporary Protected Status (TPS). The Secretary asked that I respond to your letter. As the Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), we share your concern for all those affected by the recent earthquakes that struck Nepal.

On June 24, 2015, Secretary Johnson announced his decision to designate Nepal for TPS for 18 months. Nepal's designation, which is in effect through December 24, 2016, allows nationals of Nepal (and persons without nationality who last habitually resided in Nepal) who are granted TPS to remain in the United States throughout the designation period and to receive work authorization.

Individuals from Nepal who desire TPS have through December 21, 2015, to file an application with USCIS. You can access the application, and other important information about eligibility for TPS and the application process, online at www.uscis.gov/tps. Additionally, USCIS issued a news alert on May 5, 2015, that highlights certain other immigration relief measures currently available to assist eligible Nepali nationals. The full news alert is available online at www.uscis.gov/news/alerts/immigration-relief-measures-nepali-nationals.

Thank you again for your letter to Secretary Johnson. The co-signer of your letter will receive a separate, identical response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leon Rodriguez".

Leon Rodriguez
Director

JUL 1 2015

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
Office of the Director (MS 2000)
Washington, DC 20529-2000



U.S. Citizenship
and Immigration
Services

Luna Ranjit
Executive Director
Adhikaar
71-07 Woodside Avenue
Woodside, NY 11377

Dear Ms. Ranjit:

Thank you for your June 1, 2015 letter to Secretary Johnson requesting that he designate Nepal for Temporary Protected Status (TPS). The Secretary asked that I respond to your letter. As the Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), we share your concern for all those affected by the recent earthquakes that struck Nepal.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "León Rodríguez".

León Rodríguez
Director