

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

**RECEIVED**

By ESEC at 3:30 pm, Dec 14, 2022

December 15, 2022

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
2801 Nebraska Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable Antony Blinken  
Secretary of State  
U.S. State Department  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20037

Dear Secretary Mayorkas and Secretary Blinken,

We write to urge you to extend and redesignate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Somalia for an 18-month period. The designation of TPS for Somalia is set to expire on March 17, 2023, with a decision date fast approaching on January 16, 2023. Due to ongoing armed conflict, violence, and humanitarian crises, it remains unsafe for Somali nationals to return. In addition to the extension, we ask that the administration redesignate TPS for Somalia for those who did not meet the cut-off period of the current designation.

As highlighted by civil society organizations in their recent letter to the administration, Somalia is facing a humanitarian crisis exacerbated by protracted armed conflict.<sup>1</sup> The security situation in Somalia remains extremely fraught, as Al-Shabaab continues to threaten the stability and safety of Somalia. Violence is rampant, with the highest number of recorded civilian casualties since 2017 according to the UN.<sup>2</sup> An estimated 40 percent of the population, or 6.1 million people, are left hungry due to the drought and soaring inflation.<sup>3</sup>

A designation of TPS for Somalia is in line with U.S. commitments to the nation and its people. As stated by the U.S. Department of State, "The United States is committed to helping Somalia's government strengthen democratic institutions, improve stability and security, and deliver services for the Somali people." An estimated 400 beneficiaries are on the verge of losing their work authorization and facing deportation if the administration fails to extend the designation. Deportation would not only threaten the safety of these individuals but would also have devastating consequences for U.S.-citizen children of Somali TPS holders. Parents would have to

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1 <https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/somalia>

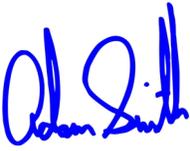
2 <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/11/somalia-turk-decries-steep-rise-civilian-casualties-amid-surge-al-shabaab>

3 <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/05/15/world/africa/somalia-election-president.html>;  
<https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/05/1118852>

make the impossible choice of whether to leave their child behind in the U.S. or take them back to dangerous conditions in Somalia.

We request that you provide an 18-month extension for current TPS holders and expand the protections to more recently arrived Somali individuals present in the United States by redesignating Somalia for TPS. We look forward to actions from your offices prior to January 16, 2023.

Sincerely,



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Adam Smith  
Member of Congress



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Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress



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Pramila Jayapal  
Member of Congress



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Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress



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Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress



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Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress



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Jesús G. "Chuy" García  
Member of Congress



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Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress



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Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



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Barbara Lee  
Member of Congress



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Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress



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André Carson  
Member of Congress



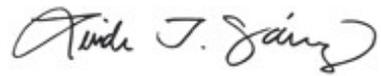
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Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress



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Mark Pocan  
Member of Congress



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Linda T. Sánchez  
Member of Congress



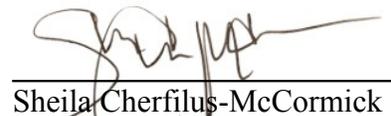
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Cori Bush  
Member of Congress



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Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



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Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick  
Member of Congress



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Shontel M. Brown  
Member of Congress



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James P. McGovern  
Member of Congress



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Grace Meng  
Member of Congress



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Alma S. Adams, Ph.D.  
Member of Congress



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Troy Carter  
Member of Congress



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Rashida Tlaib  
Member of Congress



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Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D.  
Member of Congress



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Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress



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Stephen F. Lynch  
Member of Congress



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Marc A. Veasey  
Member of Congress



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Suzanne Bonamici  
Member of Congress



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David J. Trone  
Member of Congress



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

January 25, 2023

The Honorable Adam Smith  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Smith:

Thank you for your December 15, 2022 letter to the Department of Homeland Security requesting the extension and redesignation of Somalia for Temporary Protected Status (TPS). U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is principally responsible for advising the Secretary on TPS, and Secretary Mayorkas has asked that I respond on his behalf.

USCIS is committed to administering TPS in an equitable manner, and makes decisions regarding TPS designations, extensions, and redesignations following interagency consultations and careful consideration of country conditions pursuant to specific statutory criteria. I am pleased to share that the Secretary announced on January 12, 2023, the extension and redesignation of TPS for Somalia for an 18-month period beginning March 18, 2023 and extending through September 17, 2024. Individuals who were already in the United States as of January 11, 2023 will be eligible for TPS under Somalia's designation if they also meet all other eligibility requirements. USCIS will publish a Federal Register notice explaining how to re-register under the extension or submit an initial registration under the redesignation and to apply for an Employment Authorization Document.

In addition to TPS, USCIS offers support that may be available on request to assist those eligible, including the following:

- Change or extension of nonimmigrant status if eligible individuals 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, due to a special situation, to appear for an interview, submit evidence, or respond in a timely manner; and
- Replacement of lost or damaged immigration or travel documents issued by USCIS, such as a Permanent Resident Card (Green Card).

**The Honorable Adam Smith**

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More information is available at <https://www.uscis.gov/humanitarian/special-situations>.

Thank you again for your letter and interest in this important issue. The cosigners of your letter will receive a separate, identical response. Should you require any additional assistance, please have your staff contact the USCIS Office of Legislative Affairs at (240) 721-3801.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ur M. Jaddou", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Ur M. Jaddou  
Director