



News Release

October 29, 2007

DHS TERMINATES TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS (TPS) FOR NATIONALS OF BURUNDI AS OF MAY 2, 2009

*Employment Authorization Documents (EADs) Automatically Extended for Six Months
through May 2, 2008*

WASHINGTON — The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) today announced the termination of the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation of Burundi; the designation, however, will remain in effect through May 1, 2009. After reviewing country conditions and consulting with the appropriate Government agencies, the Secretary of Homeland Security, determined that conditions in Burundi no longer support the TPS designation and is therefore terminating the designation. This termination is effective at 12:01 a.m., local time, May 2, 2009, in order to provide an orderly transition for affected individuals. To allow sufficient time for eligible persons to re-register for the final 18 months of TPS for Burundi, the current Employment Authorization Documents (EADs) held by individuals who have been granted TPS are automatically extended through May 2, 2008. This will allow sufficient time for eligible TPS beneficiaries to receive a new EAD without any lapse in employment.

The Notice published by DHS in the *Federal Register* today informs eligible nationals of Burundi (or aliens having no nationality who last habitually resided in Burundi) with TPS of the procedures to re-register for TPS benefits (72 FR 61172). The 60-day re-registration period begins on October 29, 2007 and will end on December 28, 2007. Re-registration is limited to persons who have previously registered for TPS under the designation of Burundi and whose applications were granted or remain pending. Re-registration is required in order to maintain TPS and to receive work authorization through May 1, 2009. Approximately, 30 nationals of Burundi who presently receive benefits under the Burundi TPS designation will be affected.

Upon the conclusion of TPS status, former TPS beneficiaries return to the same immigration status they maintained before registering for TPS (unless that status has since expired or been terminated), or to any other status they may have acquired while registered for TPS. Accordingly, if an individual did not have lawful status at the time of receiving TPS benefits, and did not obtain any other status during the TPS designation period, he or she will revert to being without lawful status upon the termination of the designation of Burundi for TPS. Such individuals are expected to depart the United States on or before May 2, 2009. Those who do not comply with this requirement may be subject to removal.

As of May 2, 2009, former TPS beneficiaries will no longer be eligible for a stay of removal or an EAD under the TPS program. The conclusion of the TPS designation for Burundi does not necessarily affect pending applications for other forms of immigration relief or protection. Former TPS beneficiaries, however, will begin to accrue unlawful presence as of May 2, 2009, if they have not been granted any other immigration status or protection, or if they have no pending application for certain benefits. Individuals who accrue certain periods of unlawful presence in the United States are ineligible for certain

immigration benefits for a specified period of time. For additional information on unlawful presence, see INA §212(a)(9)(B), (C) (aliens unlawfully present).

More information can be obtained from the USCIS National Customer Service Center toll-free number: 800-375-5283 or from the USCIS website at www.uscis.gov (*see* posted Questions and Answers on Burundi TPS). TPS forms are available from the toll-free USCIS Forms line, 800-870-3676, or from the USCIS Web site: www.uscis.gov.

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