



# USCIS Update

March 26, 2009

## **Deferred Enforced Departure Extended for Liberians**

*USCIS Automatically Extends Validity of Employment Authorization Documents*

WASHINGTON – U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) today automatically extended through Sept. 30, 2009, employment authorization for Liberian nationals covered under Deferred Enforced Departure (DED). This is in response to President Obama’s recent announcement extending DED through March 31, 2010 for qualified Liberians and those persons without nationality who last habitually resided in Liberia.

Although DED was scheduled to end for Liberian nationals on March 31, 2009, President Obama determined that there are compelling foreign policy reasons to continue to defer enforced departure from the United States for eligible Liberian nationals presently living in the United States under the existing grant of DED for 12 months, through March 31, 2010.

The president’s determination continued the exclusion of some individuals from DED, including certain criminals, persons subject to the mandatory bars to Temporary Protected Status, and persons whose removal is in the interest of the United States.

In addition to automatically extending the validity of employment authorization documents for Liberian nationals covered under DED, USCIS will publish a notice in the *Federal Register* with instructions for these individuals on how to obtain employment authorization for the remainder of the 12-month DED extension, through March 31, 2010.

Details on this DED extension and continued employment authorization are included in an accompanying *Questions and Answers* document. For additional information on this initiative, Liberian nationals or employers may contact the USCIS National Customer Service Center at (800) 375-5273.