U.S. GOVERNMENT GRANTS TEMPORARY PROTECTED STATUS DESIGNATION FOR YEMEN

Advancing Justice - Atlanta Providing Legal Assistance to TPS eligible individuals

NORCROSS, GA, September 4, 2015 — NORCROSS, GA - On September 3, 2015, the United States government announced the designation of Yemen for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to aid the victims of ongoing armed conflict.

TPS will allow certain Yemeni nationals (and individuals who have habitually resided in Yemen) who are currently in the United States to lawfully remain here even if their current visa expires.

To be eligible for TPS for Yemen, applicants must: Be a national of Yemen, or a person without nationality who last habitually resided in Yemen; File during the open initial registration period, September 3, 2015 – March 1, 2016; Have been continuously and physically present in the United States since September 3, 2015; and Have been continuously residing in the United States since September 3, 2015. The law allows an exception to the continuous physical presence and continuous residence requirements for brief, casual and innocent departures from the United States. Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta is providing direct immigration legal service and will provide legal and translation services for Yemeni nationals who need help applying for TPS. Interested persons can contact 404-890-5655 or email immigration@advancingjustice-atlanta.org.

Advancing Justice - Atlanta has two attorneys on staff, and translation services are available. Additionally, Advancing Justice - Atlanta has created the following one-page informational flyer to ensure that correct information is disseminated in the community.

"Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta (formerly Asian American Legal Advocacy Center) stands ready to assist the victims of ongoing armed conflict in Yemen," says Helen Ho, Advancing Justice - Atlanta’s Executive Director. "Our Legal Services Program was launched in part to respond to unexpected and unfortunate events that affect our communities. The same assistance was provided when Temporary Protected Status was given to the people of Nepal. We will continue our efforts now by serving our Yemini community members."

As background, there has been armed conflict in Yemen since 2014, involving the government, rebel groups, terrorist outfits, and a coalition of 10 countries led by Saudi Arabia. The conflict has affected 21 out of Yemen’s 22 provinces. According to the United Nations, approximately 42,000 people, in 7,000 households, were identified as needing shelter as a direct result of the conflict; nearly 1.3 million people in Yemen have become internally displaced since the start of the conflict; and as of July 2015, there have been approximately 3,700 registered deaths and over 18,000 registered injuries attributed to the conflict. The conflict has also destroyed critical infrastructure, such as schools, hospitals, roads, electric power grids, and the water supply, in an already impoverished country and resource deficient country.

As with other immigration programs in the past, the announcement of a new form of immigration relief exposes potential applicants to immigration scams. Advancing Justice - Atlanta urges anyone interested in applying for TPS to be cautious about whom they receive help from, especially if paying for assistance. Notaries, immigration counselors, and other unauthorized individuals who are not accredited representatives by the Bureau of
Immigration Appeals (B.I.A.) or authorized immigration attorneys should not provide immigration legal assistance.

Check out the one page informational flyer and other Advancing Justice-Atlanta's Immigration work at http://bit.ly/1JQW78i

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About Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta

Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta (formerly Asian American Legal Advocacy Center or AALAC) is the first non-profit law center dedicated to Asian immigrants and refugees (“Asian Americans”) in the Southeast.

Our goal is to engage, educate and empower under-represented Asian Americans to greater civic participation.

We are one of five independent organizations that make up the national Asian Americans Advancing Justice. Together with our affiliates in Chicago, DC, Los Angeles and San Francisco, we bring more than 100 years of collective experience in addressing the civil rights issues faced by Asian Americans and other vulnerable and underserved communities. Visit www.advancingjustice-atlanta.org.