December 17, 2019

The Honorable Chad Wolf  
Acting Secretary  
Department of Homeland Security  
3801 Nebraska Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20530

The Honorable Mike Pompeo  
Secretary  
Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Acting Secretary Wolf and Secretary Pompeo:

Soon, this administration will decide the fate of nearly 1,200 Yemeni nationals who depend upon Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for their continued livelihood, safety, and survival as TPS for Yemen expires on March 3, 2020. We write to strongly urge you to both extend and re-designate TPS for Yemen through the timely publication of a federal register notice on or before the decision deadline on January 3, 2020.

The war in Yemen has had drastic humanitarian and security consequences, and TPS is both deserved and warranted under law for these reasons. The outbreak of war, which was the main reason for TPS designation in September 2015,\(^1\) remains ongoing, with widespread violence throughout the country. The United Nations and the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project recently reported that over 100,000 people died in the civil war, including over 20,000 killed in 2019 alone.\(^2\) All parties involved in the war are indiscriminately targeting civilians and vital civilian infrastructure, including residences, medical centers, and transportation networks.\(^3\)

Moreover, the war’s widespread destruction has caused the world’s worst humanitarian crisis, an extraordinary and temporary condition that justified the extension and re-designation of TPS in 2018.\(^4\) Over 24 million Yemenis—roughly two-thirds of the population—need some form of humanitarian assistance. At least 8.4 million are severely food insecure, and nearly every governorate in the country is at crisis levels for impending famine.\(^5\) The civil war has caused 3.6 million Yemenis to be internally displaced, the majority of which have now been displaced for

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\(^{1}\)Designation of the Republic of Yemen for Temporary Protected Status; USCIS Notice, 80 Fed. Reg. 53319 (September 3, 2015).

\(^{2}\) Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project, https://www.acleddata.com/

\(^{3}\) “Yemen--World Report 2019,” Human Rights Watch, https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2019/country-chapters/yemen. Human Rights Watch documented 90 unlawful coalition airstrikes, killing nearly 1,000 civilians, and targeting homes, markets, hospitals, schools, and mosques. Id. Cluster munitions and air bombardment strikes have also been deployed in the country. Id.

\(^{4}\) Extension and Redesignation of the Republic of Yemen for Temporary Protected Status; USCIS Notice, 83 FR 40307 (August 14, 2018).

over one year. Preventable diseases are rampant, with the international community recording almost 850,000 suspected cases of cholera, as well as the spread of diphtheria and measles across the country.\footnote{Id.}

The case for extending TPS for the 18-month maximum allowed by the law, and re-designating TPS for eligible Yemenis, is statutorily clear. The armed conflict renders the safe return of roughly 1,200 Yemeni TPS holders in the United States unfeasible and inhumane. The humanitarian crisis represents a “substantial, but temporary, disruption of living conditions” for Yemenis, and the civil war and loss of territory and vital infrastructure continues to render the Yemeni government “unable, temporarily, to handle adequately the return” of Yemenis (8 U.S.C. §1254a).

Extending and re-designating TPS for Yemen is also clearly in the interest of America’s national security. Since March 2015, the United States has been involved in a regional military campaign in support of the internationally recognized government and seeks, for the stability of Yemen and its neighbors, a negotiated settlement to the conflict and an amelioration of its resulting humanitarian crisis. The sudden return of 1,200 Yemenis will not only further undermine the international humanitarian response in Yemen, but also undermine America’s standing amongst our allies while empowering antagonistic states and non-state actors in the region contrary to our longstanding security interests.

Current TPS recipients from Yemen living in safely in the United States have contributed greatly to the social and economic welfare of our communities. Failing to extend TPS for Yemenis who have it and re-designate it for eligible individuals will put many men, women, children, and families in jeopardy and while undermining the security of the American homeland.

Sincerely,

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

Raul M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

\footnote{Id.}
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

Ilhan Omar
Member of Congress

Ted Deutch
Member of Congress

David E. Price
Member of Congress

Frank Pallone, Jr.
Member of Congress

Dina Titus
Member of Congress

Peter Welch
Member of Congress

Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

Andre Carson
Member of Congress

Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Rick Larsen
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney
Member of Congress
Ted W. Lieu  
Member of Congress

Adriano Espaillat  
Member of Congress

Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress

Nydia M. Velázquez  
Member of Congress

Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress