

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 27, 2024

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
301 7th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Mayorkas and Secretary Blinken:

We write to strongly urge an 18-month extension and redesignation of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Yemen. Yemen's TPS designation is set to expire on September 3, 2024, amidst continued armed conflict and dire current conditions. These circumstances, underscored by the end of a United Nations (UN) brokered ceasefire on October 3, 2022, make safe return to the country impossible for Yemenis present in the United States. It is vital for the life and safety of Yemeni nationals currently in the United States to extend and redesignate TPS for Yemen.

Congress provided TPS to protect nationals of a country experiencing ongoing armed conflict, environmental disaster, or other dire current conditions preventing the safe return to their country of origin.¹ Yemen is approaching nearly the tenth year of a war that has claimed an estimated 377,000 lives, caused severe famine, energy shortages, and more.² As the war continues to afflict the country, redesignating and extending TPS protections for Yemenis in the United States remains of paramount importance and is legally and morally warranted. Failure to do so would force the more than 1,000 Yemenis currently under TPS to face insurmountable circumstances upon return.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNPF) estimated 21.6 million people—nearly 80 percent of Yemen's population, including 11 million children—required some form of humanitarian assistance in 2023.³ Currently, the situation remains critical, with 19 million Yemenis in need of food assistance, among them 7.3 million facing emergency levels of hunger, including 2.7 million acutely malnourished children. As this humanitarian crisis persists, over 4.5 million Yemenis have been displaced, and an additional 5 million are at risk of famine. Moreover, the crisis is compounded by cholera outbreaks and ongoing violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.⁴ Given these dire circumstances, the imperative for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation for Yemen is paramount to safeguarding the lives of Yemeni nationals in the United States.

¹ P.L. 101-649, Sec. 302a, Sec. 422A. (b)(1)(a)

² UNDP. "Assessing the Impact of War in Yemen: Pathways for Recovery" *Report by UNDP in Yemen*, 2021, November <https://www.undp.org/yemen/publications/assessing-impact-war-yemen-pathways-recovery>.

³ United Nations. (n.d.). Yemen: One of the world's largest humanitarian crises. United Nations Population Fund. Retrieved May 31, 2024, from <https://www.unfpa.org/yemen>

⁴ Council on Foreign Relations, Global Conflict Tracker, "War in Yemen" (March 05, 2024), <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/war-yemen>.

Since its initial designation in 2015, TPS for Yemen has been extended five times and redesignated three times, including under this Administration. The history of consecutive bipartisan TPS extensions underscores the severity of the ongoing war and humanitarian crisis in Yemen. The same extraordinary and temporary conditions that led to these determinations—including armed conflict—remain, rendering the safe return of Yemenis residing in the United States as impossible.

Extending Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Yemen and redesignating it for eligible Yemeni nationals supports U.S. national interests, aligns with its human rights commitment, and reflects dedication to humanitarian aid and global stability. When President Biden took office in January 2021, he stated that the war in Yemen “has created a humanitarian and strategic catastrophe.”⁵ On May 9, 2022, President Biden extended the National Emergency with respect to Yemen citing the state of the country as a threat to the peace, security, and stability of Yemen and the national security of the United States.⁶ Furthermore, the 2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices, issued by the United States Department of State, underscore Yemen's "significant human rights issues," including unlawful killings, enforced disappearances, recruitment of child soldiers, gender-based violence linked to conflict, severe limitations on freedom of expression and media, and extreme forms of child labor.⁷ Allowing TPS to expire would not only be detrimental to the individuals directly affected but also undermine the foreign policy interests of the United States in the region.

Accordingly, we urge you to extend TPS for Yemen for the 18-month maximum, redesignate TPS for eligible Yemeni nationals, publish a timely Federal Register Notice, and launch a public information campaign to notify the impacted community of the decision and any actions they must take by **July 05, 2024**. We ask for a minimum 180-day registration period for both current TPS holders and those who would benefit under redesignation. This determination would directly demonstrate the United States’ enduring commitment to human rights and honor the dignity, humanity, and contributions of the Yemeni community in the United States.

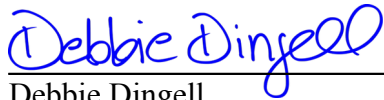
Thank you for your consideration of this important request.

Sincerely,

⁵ The White House. (February 4, 2021). Remarks by President Biden on America’s Place in the World [Speeches and Remarks]. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/speeches-remarks/2021/02/04/remarks-by-president-biden-on-americas-place-in-the-world/>

⁶ The White House. (May 09, 2022). Notice on the Continuation of the National Emergency With Respect to Yemen [Press Release]. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2022/05/09/notice-on-the-continuation-of-the-national-emergency-with-respect-to-yemen-2/>

⁷ 2023 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices: Yemen, United States Department of State,(2023) <https://www.state.gov/reports/2023-country-reports-on-human-rights-practices/yemen/>



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



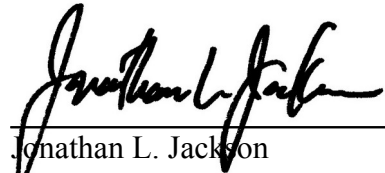
Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress



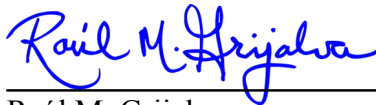
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Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



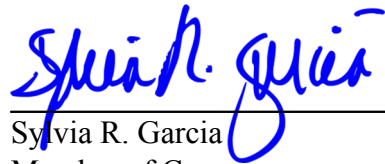
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