

# Admin. extends Salvadoran deportation freeze

The Obama administration has [extended temporary](#) protected status to El Salvadoran nationals through late 2013, shielding them from deportation and forcible return to their home country.

The [Department of Homeland Security](#) cites ongoing disruptions from a series of earthquakes in 2001, concluding that "El Salvador remains unable, temporarily, to handle adequately the return of its nationals."

The Obama administration's deportation policies have come under scrutiny, just as the president has geared up for his [reelection campaign](#). Despite his support for comprehensive immigration reform and a path to citizenship, deportations have soared to new highs under the Obama administration— and the president's approval ratings among Latino voters have flatlined.

Hugo Martinez, El Salvador's Foreign Minister, was in Washington this week to discuss the policy and meet with Homeland Security chief Janet Napolitano. The protected status designation currently applies to 215,000 Salvadorans living in the U.S. illegally and otherwise subject to deportation, and remittances from ex-patriate Salvadorans in the United States help keep that country's economy afloat.

<http://www.politico.com/politico44/2012/01/admin-extends-salvadoran-deportation-freeze-110304.html>