

U.S. extends halt on deportations to El Salvador

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Immigrants from El Salvador who are in the U.S. illegally will be allowed to stay here for another 18 months, Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano announced in [a notice scheduled to be published Thursday](#).

The so-called "temporary protected status" covers about 212,000 people and purportedly relates to earthquakes that struck El Salvador in 2001—more than 12 years ago. The extension being announced this week is the ninth such reprieve.

TPS is reserved for countries experiencing emergencies that make it unwise or infeasible to deport individuals to those nations. Of course after a hiatus of a dozen years, moving forward with deportations would cause a political storm. It's also likely some beneficiaries of TPS are also eligible for deferred deportation under President Barack Obama's program for those who arrived in the U.S. as children.

Last month, [the Obama administration gave similar 18-month deportation reprieves](#) under TPS to about 67, 000 immigrants from Honduras and Nicaragua.

<http://www.politico.com/blogs/under-the-radar/2013/05/us-extends-halt-on-deportations-to-el-salvador-164986.html>