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Secretary Janet Napolitano
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Napolitano:

The American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) urges you to either extend Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) for Liberia, or re-designate the country for Temporary Protected Status (TPS) under §244(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.

AILA is the national association of immigration lawyers with more than 11,000 members. It was established in 1946 to promote justice, advocate for fair and reasonable immigration law and policy, advance the quality of immigration and nationality law and practice, and enhance the professional development of its members. AILA has supported the judicious grant of DED and TPS in limited cases in the past based on a studied consideration of the totality of the circumstances.

The fragile situation in Liberia justifies such a designation. While Liberia's current leadership has put the country on a pathway to reform and stability, high unemployment and an infrastructure badly damaged from years of civil upheaval have left it in a precarious position. To give Liberia the best chance of solidifying its gains, it should not be asked to re-absorb its expatriates at this time.

We therefore ask that either DED be extended or TPS re-designated while Liberia finds its way to stability and strength.

Sincerely,

Charles H. Kuck
President, American Immigration Lawyers Association