

DRAFT DEAR COLLEAGUE LETTER REGARDING EXTENDED VOLUNTARY  
DEPARTURE STATUS FOR SALVADORAN REFUGEES

Dear Colleague:

Attached is a letter to Secretary of State George Shultz and Attorney General William French Smith requesting that Extended Voluntary Departure Status be granted to Salvadoran refugees in the United States.

Over the course of the past two years, the Immigration and Naturalization Service has actually deported 6,312 Salvadorans seeking refuge in the United States.

I believe that the Salvadorans should be afforded the same temporary refuge that was given to the Nicaraguans, Ethiopians, Ugandans and Lebanese during periods of civil strife in those countries.

The Department of Justice, in consultation with the Department of State has the authority to temporarily halt deportation and exclusion of refugees in special circumstances. The attached letter requests that this protection be afforded Salvadoran refugees as a humanitarian response to the desperate conditions in El Salvador, until such time as it is safe for them to return.

If you would like to co-sign the letters to Secretary of State Shultz and Attorney General Smith, please contact Jim McGovern at 5-8273.

Sincerely,

JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY  
Member of Congress

DRAFT LETTER FOR REP. MOAKLEY RE: EXTENDED VOLUNTARY DEPARTURE  
STATUS FOR SALVADOR REFUGEES

The Honorable George S. Shultz  
Secretary of State  
Department of State

The Honorable William French Smith  
Attorney General  
Department of Justice

Dear Mr. Secretary and Mr. Attorney General:

We write to express our concern about continued civil strife in El Salvador, and to respectfully request that Extended Voluntary Departure Status be granted to Salvadorans in the U.S. until such time as it is safe for them to return to their homeland.

It is our understanding that in the past, refugees from Lebanon, Ethiopia, Nicaragua, and Uganda were permitted to remain in the U.S. for a prescribed length of time because of civil disturbances in those countries. This protection was afforded them until our government determined that it was safe for them to return to their own countries. In the case of the Ethiopian refugees, this protective measure is still in effect.

As in the case of Nicaragua and Lebanon, El Salvador is undergoing civil strife which has resulted in many refugees and internally displaced people. As a result of fighting between government and opposition forces, whole villages have been destroyed and large numbers of Salvadorans have no homes, no food, and no medical care. We hope and expect that this is a temporary situation and would ask that as a humanitarian response, our government offer Salvadoran refugees temporary

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sanctuary until the war in El Salvador is over.

Furthermore, we ask that, in keeping with the judicial determination in the Orantes case, those Salvadoran refugees apprehended at the border be notified of their right to council and the right to seek asylum, and not be returned to El Salvador, where they might face persecution or death.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,