

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3302

December 3, 2025

Secretary Kristi Noem
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. SE
Washington, D.C. 20528

Secretary Marco Rubio
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Noem and Secretary Rubio:

We write to express our deep concern regarding the termination of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for South Sudan and to urge the Administration to extend and redesignate this critical humanitarian protection for at least the next six months. Hundreds of South Sudanese nationals in the United States rely on TPS to maintain stable lives, remain with their families, and avoid return to conditions that remain profoundly unsafe. The approaching deadline threatens to place individuals who have long been part of our communities in immediate jeopardy.

South Sudan has been wracked by conflict for the past fourteen years, with a civil war from 2013 to 2018 leaving 400,000 people dead.¹ Despite the 2018 Revitalized Peace Agreement that ended the war, South Sudan continues to be plagued by armed clashes, detentions, widespread human rights violations, and sexual violence.² Since March 2025, intensified fighting has displaced almost 400,000 civilians.³ The 2018 Revitalized Peace Agreement appears to be collapsing, with U.N. Commissioner on Human Rights in South Sudan Barney Afako recently warning that “all indicators point to a slide back towards another deadly war.”⁴ United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres himself said that the country is facing “a security emergency.”⁵ A recent CRS report notes that three quarters of the population (9.3 million people) need humanitarian aid.⁶

U.S. law permits TPS designation for nationals of a country when an ongoing armed conflict poses a serious threat to personal safety or there exists extraordinary conditions that prevent nationals from returning.⁷ The U.S. Department of State currently classifies South Sudan as a

¹ <https://www.reuters.com/world/africa/us-end-protected-status-south-sudanese-nationals-cbs-2025-11-05/>

² <https://news.un.org/en/story/2025/10/1166218>

³ *Id.*

⁴ <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/temporary-protected-status-south-sudan-terminated/>

⁵ <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/remarks-united-nations-secretary-general-antonio-guterres-press-encounter-un-headquarters-situation>

⁶ https://www.congress.gov/crs_external_products/IF/PDF/IF10218/IF10218.19.pdf

⁷ <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/8/1254a>

Level 4 Travel Advisory zone (“Do Not Travel”), stating that “armed conflict is ongoing and includes fighting between various political and ethnic groups,” underscoring the extreme risk for anyone forced to return.⁸

These conditions make clear that South Sudanese nationals cannot return safely at this time. The continuing conflict and collapse of essential institutions clearly fall within the statutory grounds for TPS. Hundreds of South Sudanese nationals that were covered by TPS currently reside in the United States and will face imminent arrest and deportation on January 5, 2026, 60 days after TPS was terminated on November 5, 2025.⁹

In the November 5th notice, DHS stated that:

“[...] there have been improvements in South Sudan's civil safety outlook, which would allow aliens to safely return to the country. The United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan is also building the capacity of South Sudan's local police and justice system so South Sudan's government can further protect its own citizens.”

This rosy picture is clearly contradicted by the U.N.’s reporting and even your own Administration’s statements and guidance.

South Sudanese TPS holders have established deep roots in the United States. They care for their families, contribute to local businesses, and give back to their communities. Stripping them of TPS protections would abruptly interrupt their lives and place them at extraordinary risk. Again, we strongly urge you to immediately redesignate and extend TPS for South Sudanese nationals for at least six months. Exposing them to deportation to a homeland plagued by extreme violence would be a decision fundamentally at odds with established precedent and our values as Americans.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Deborah K. Ross
Member of Congress



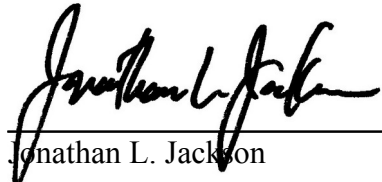
Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress

⁸ <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/traveladvisories/traveladvisories/south-sudan-travel-advisory.html>

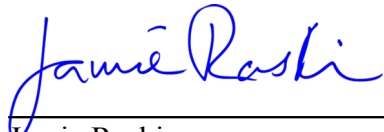
⁹ <https://www.uscis.gov/newsroom/alerts/dhs-terminates-designation-of-south-sudan-for-temporary-protected-status>



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