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Indians sue US for green card delays

RICHARD SPRINGER

INDIAWEST [THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2004 12:11:44 PM]

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In a follow-up e-mail to India-West, Khanna stated, "In the interim, an employee is left with continuous dread and insecurity. Loss or diminishment of employment almost invariably means abrupt uprooting of years of life and career built in this country."

"In most cases," Khanna continued, "USCIS (Citizenship and Immigration Services) practice permits not even one day of grace period to arrange for passage out of US - a state of affairs a long way from the constitutional ideal of 'pursuit of happiness.'"

"Additionally, for labor certification-based cases, which form a large majority of employment-based applications, any substantial career advancement is unwise. A promotion leads to nullification of the entire green card process, thereby necessitating starting the process all over again - resetting the six-year countdown back to zero," the Virginia immigration attorney said.

Khanna said that under government regulations, professional workers whose visas expire while their applications are pending may apply to extend their temporary work permits.

But they have to stand in long lines and get fingerprinted each time, despite the fact that the fingerprints are already on file with the government. "These are off-the-wall procedures," he charged.

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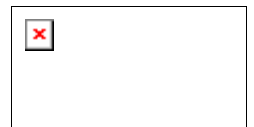
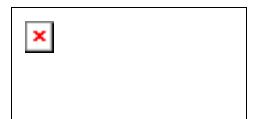
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