This memorandum reiterates the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) policy where the immigration court has granted asylum (or other protection relief, such as withholding of removal or protection under the Convention Against Torture) and ICE has entered an appeal of the decision which is pending before the Board of Immigration Appeals.

In general, it is ICE policy to favor release of aliens who have been granted protection relief by an immigration judge, absent exceptional concerns such as national security issues or danger to the community and absent any requirement under law to detain.

For cases where a bond has been required but not posted, the bond should be reviewed following an immigration judge's grant of asylum so that an alien can be released in accordance with this ICE policy. Arriving aliens should be considered for parole.

In all cases, the Field Office Director must approve a decision to keep an alien granted protection relief in custody pending appeal, in consultation with the Chief Counsel. This review cannot be delegated beyond the Field Office Director or anyone acting in that capacity.

If you have any questions regarding this memorandum, please contact your local Chief Counsel.

cc: Victor Cerda
    Acting Principal Legal Advisor
MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF COUNSEL

FROM: Victor X. Cerda
Acting Principal Legal Advisor

SUBJECT: Policy on Appeals of CAT Grants

This memorandum clarifies the appeal policy as it relates to grants of protection under Article 3 of the United Nations Convention Against Torture ("CAT"). Chief Counsel are not required to reserve appeal on all grants of CAT protection by the Immigration Judges. Instead, Chief Counsel and Assistant Chief Counsel should exercise their judgment in determining the type of cases that warrant reserving appeal, based on the individual facts of each case, BIA precedent, and applicable case law. Chief Counsel shall abide by current appeal policy guidelines in determining whether to pursue an appeal.