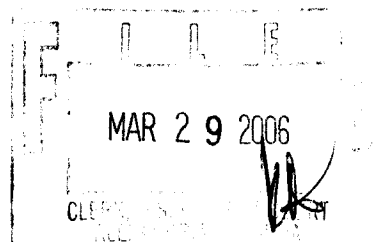


**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF VIRGINIA
Alexandria Division**

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)
)
v.)
)
ZACARIAS MOUSSAOUI,)
)
Defendant.)

Criminal No. 01-455-A



SEALING ORDER

This matter having come before the Court on the Defendant's Motion to Seal pursuant to Local Criminal Rule 49(E) and for good cause shown, the Court finds:

1. The defendant seeks to file a certain document under seal.
2. Sealing of this document is necessary in order to protect the identity of trial witnesses.
3. The Court has considered procedures other than sealing, but none would suffice to protect the information subject to sealing.
4. The Court has the inherent power to seal materials submitted to it. *See United States v. Wuagneux*, 683 F.2d 1343, 1351 (11th Cir. 1982); *State of Arizona v. Maypenny*, 672 F.2d 761, 765 (9th Cir. 1982); *Times Mirror Company v. United States*, 873 F.2d 1210 (9th Cir. 1989); *see also Shea v. Gabriel*, 520 F.2d 879 (1st Cir. 1975); *United States v. Hubbard*, 650 F.2d 293 (D.C. Cir. 1980); *In re Braughton*, 520 F.2d 765, 766 (9th Cir. 1975). "The trial court has supervisory power over its own records and may, in its discretion, seal documents if the public's right of access is outweighed by competing interests." *In re Knight Pub. Co.*, 743 F.2d 231, 235 (4th Cir. 1984). Sealing is appropriate where there is a need to protect the identity of potential witnesses and evidence.

5. The defendant requests that the pertinent material be sealed until the evidence and witnesses at issue in the motion are presented to the jury at which point they will automatically be unsealed. The defendant will file a motion to unseal the document before the automatic unsealing if circumstances permit earlier unsealing.

For the foregoing reasons it is hereby:

ORDERED that the defendant's Motion to Seal is granted, and it is further

ORDERED that the document filed under seal will remain under seal until the witnesses and evidence at issue are presented to the jury, at which time the pertinent material will automatically be unsealed. The defendant will file a motion to unseal the document before the automatic unsealing if circumstances permit earlier unsealing.

ENTERED this th29 day of March, 2006.

/s/

Leonie M. Brinkema
United States District Judge