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Attorneys for Mr. Gebreyohans

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

GEBREKIRSTOS GEBREYOHANS,

No.: 26-cv-2385-RSH-DEB

Petitioner,

v.

**Unopposed motion to file
documents under seal**

MARKWAYNE MULLIN, Secretary of
the Department of Homeland Security,
TODD BLANCHE, Acting Attorney
General, TODD M. LYONS, Acting
Director, Immigration and Customs
Enforcement, JESUS ROCHA, Acting
Field Office Director, San Diego Field
Office, CHRISTOPHER LAROSE,
Warden at Otay Mesa Detention Center,

Respondents.

Mr. Gebreyohans requests the lodged unredacted document, proposed Exhibit C to his petition, be filed under seal. Exhibit C is the asylum officer's credible fear worksheet in his case. The government does not oppose.

There are "compelling reasons" for a narrowly tailored sealing order as to only Exhibit C, "supported by specific factual findings that outweigh the general history of access and the public policies favoring disclosure, such as the public interest in understanding the judicial process." *Kamakana v. City & Cnty. of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172, 1178–79 (9th Cir. 2006).

1 “Information contained in or pertaining to any application for asylum,
2 withholding of removal under section 241(b)(3) . . . , or protection under
3 regulations issued pursuant to the Convention Against Torture’s implementing
4 legislation . . . shall not be disclosed without the written consent of the applicant,”
5 as a general matter. 8 C.F.R. § 208.6. Mr. Gebreyohans’s Exhibit C contains his
6 interview with an asylum officer regarding the exact details of his application.
7 Other information relevant to the petition is filed publicly in Exhibit B and
8 referred to as relevant in the petition in a general way that is narrowly tailored.

9 Specific information in an asylum application is sealed in federal court
10 because it could “subject [petitioners] to physical harm if made publicly
11 available.” *Andres-Lucas v. Mayorkas*, No. 21-cv-01121-BEN-WVG, 2021 WL
12 3929686, *4 (S.D. Cal. Sept. 2, 2021). “[R]etaliation from a foreign government
13 is recognized by the Ninth Circuit and other district courts as a sufficient basis” to
14 proceed via sealing. *Poozesh v. Pompeo*, No. 19-cv-1466-LJO-SKO, 2019 WL
15 6052363, *2 (E.D. Cal. Nov. 15, 2019) (allowing parties to proceed
16 pseudonymously in even more extreme circumstances than those present here).
17 *See also Sakoyan v. Noem*, No. 25-cv-3406-BAS, ECF No. 8 (S.D. Cal. Dec. 4,
18 2025) (granting motion to seal a motion to seal and unredacted declaration
19 containing information about a habeas petitioner’s grant of withholding of
20 removal); *Ndandu v. Noem*, No. 3:35-cv-02939-RBM-MSB, ECF No. 2 at 3, 6
21 (S.D. Cal. Nov. 14, 2025) (granting in part petitioner’s motion to seal documents
22 containing information related to his asylum and CAT protection applications);
23 *Doe v. Andrews*, 25-cv-00755-CDB, 2025 WL 2991186, *1 (E.D. Cal. Sept. 26,
24 2025) (granting respondent’s request to file documents under seal pursuant to 8
25 C.F.R. § 208.6); *Doe v. Becerra*, No. 25-cv-00647-DJC-DMC, 787 F.Supp.3d
26 1083, 1096 (E.D. Cal. Mar. 3, 2025) (ordering that any information related to the
27 Petitioner’s asylum application be filed under seal due to its potential to identify
28 Petitioner and the sensitive nature of their allegations); *Kharis v. Sessions*, No.

1 18-cv-04800-JST, 2018 WL 5809432, *3 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 6, 2018) (granting
2 habeas petition and unopposed motion to seal portions of asylum application
3 pertaining to other individuals' applications based on compelling reasons to keep
4 information confidential, given the sensitive nature of asylum applications
5 alleging fear of persecution or harassment).

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8 Respectfully submitted,
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10 Dated: April 16, 2026

s/ Jessie Agatstein

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