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

10 MOHAMMAD HORMOZ ZADEH,

No.: 26-cv-2756-LL-GC

11 Petitioner,

12 v.

**Unopposed motion to file  
documents under seal**

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

19 Respondents.  
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21 Mr. Hormoz Zadeh requests the lodged unredacted documents, proposed  
22 Exhibits A, B, and D to his amended petition, be filed under seal. Exhibits A, B,  
23 and D are the immigration judge’s asylum decisions and related filings in his case.  
24 The government does not oppose sealing.

25 There are “compelling reasons” for a narrowly tailored sealing order as to  
26 only Exhibits A, B, and D, “supported by specific factual findings that outweigh  
27 the general history of access and the public policies favoring disclosure, such as  
28 the public interest in understanding the judicial process.” *Kamakana v. City &*

1 *Cnty. of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172, 1178–79 (9th Cir. 2006).

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

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

1 identify Petitioner and the sensitive nature of their allegations); *Kharis v.*  
2 *Sessions*, No. 18-cv-04800-JST, 2018 WL 5809432, \*3 (N.D. Cal. Nov. 6, 2018)  
3 (granting habeas petition and unopposed motion to seal portions of asylum  
4 application pertaining to other individuals' applications based on compelling  
5 reasons to keep information confidential, given the sensitive nature of asylum  
6 applications alleging fear of persecution or harassment).

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Respectfully submitted,

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11 Dated: May 19, 2026

*s/ Jessie Agatstein*

Federal Defenders of San Diego, Inc.

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