

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

)	Civil Action Nos.
)	02-CV-0299 (CKK), 02-CV-0828 (CKK),
)	02-CV-1130 (CKK), 04-CV-1135 (ESH),
)	04-CV-1136 (JDB), 04-CV-1137 (RMC),
<i>In re</i> Guantanamo Detainee Cases)	04-CV-1142 (RJL), 04-CV-1144 (RWR),
)	04-CV-1164 (RBW), 04-CV-1166 (RJL),
)	04-CV-1194 (HHK), 04-CV-1227 (RBW),
)	04-CV-1254 (HHK), 04-CV-1519 (JR)

ORDER ADDRESSING THE SEALING OF MATERIAL

On October 26, 2004, this Court issued two separate orders granting motions to seal factual returns relating to the detention of Feroz Abbasi (a petitioner in 04-CV-1137 (RMC)) and Bisher Al-Rawi (a petitioner in 04-CV-1144 (RWR)). In each motion, counsel for the parties stated that should the motion be granted, they would subsequently confer regarding a redacted version of the return to be filed.

The Court is willing to allow certain information to be kept under seal in furtherance of vital interests such as protecting national security or the personal safety of individuals. The Court also recognizes, however, significant competing interests in having matters litigated in as open a forum as possible, particularly in cases such as these which present novel issues of great national concern. It is the Court's general policy to seal documents rarely and only to the extent absolutely necessary. Consistent with these views, it is hereby

ORDERED that counsel for petitioners Feroz Abbasi and Bisher Al-Rawi shall confer with counsel for respondents and shall file proposed redacted versions of the relevant factual returns on or before November 1, 2004. The proposed redactions shall be clearly identified and kept to an absolute minimum consistent with the Court's goal of allowing the public to observe and understand these proceedings to the greatest extent possible. The proposed redactions shall also be accompanied by a succinct statement justifying why they should be made. It is further

ORDERED that should any counsel in any of these consolidated cases wish to file any non-classified material under seal in this Court in the future, they shall first confer with opposing counsel in an attempt to minimize the amount of material proposed to be sealed and shall present to the Court a succinct statement as to why they believe the material should be placed under seal.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

October 27, 2004

_____/s/_____
JOYCE HENS GREEN
United States District Judge