

**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),
<i>In re</i> Guantanamo Detainee Cases)	04-CV-1136 (JDB), 04-CV-1137 (RMC),
)	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

