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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**

████████████████████,

Plaintiff,

v.

**WILLIAM P. BARR, United States
Attorney General; NICOLA T. HANNA,
United States Attorney for the Central
District of California, and the UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA,**

Defendants.

Case No.: CV 19-06893-CJC(AGR_x)

**ORDER GRANTING PLAINTIFF'S
UNOPPOSED PETITION TO RE-
OPEN THE CASE AND MOTION TO
REDACT PERSONAL
INFORMATION [Dkt. 24]**

In this case, Plaintiff ██████████, acting *pro se*, challenged child pornography statutes in this era of advanced technology. (Dkt. 1-1 [Complaint, hereinafter “Compl.”].) The Court granted Defendants’ motion to dismiss on December 11, 2019, and the Ninth Circuit affirmed on April 22, 2021. (Dkts. 16, 20.) Recently, Plaintiff was fired from his job and has faced obstacles with respect to future employment opportunities. (Dkt. 24 ¶ 3.) Based on an email on which Plaintiff believes he was

1 “mistakenly included” that refers to his “extracurricular legal activities,” Plaintiff
2 believes that his involvement in this litigation is the reason he was fired and has faced
3 these obstacles. (*Id.* ¶¶ 3, 8, Ex. 1.) Now before the Court is Plaintiff’s unopposed
4 petition to reopen this case in order to redact his name from the docket and proceed
5 instead under the pseudonym “John Doe.” (Dkt. 24.)
6

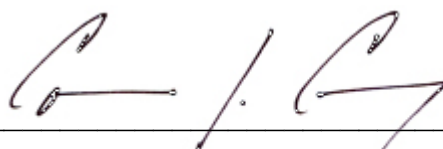
7 Plaintiff’s unopposed petition is **GRANTED**. There is a “strong presumption” in
8 favor of public access to court records “based on the need for federal courts, although
9 independent—indeed, particularly because they are independent—to have a measure of
10 accountability and for the public to have confidence in the administration of justice.”
11 *Ctr. for Auto Safety v. Chrysler Grp., LLC*, 809 F.3d 1092, 1096 (9th Cir. 2016)
12 (quotation omitted). However, “a party may preserve his or her anonymity in judicial
13 proceedings in special circumstances when the party’s need for anonymity outweighs
14 prejudice to the opposing party and the public’s interest in knowing the party’s identity.”
15 *Does I thru XXIII v. Advanced Textile Corp.*, 214 F.3d 1058, 1068 (9th Cir. 2000). In
16 cases when “pseudonyms are used to shield the anonymous party from retaliation,” courts
17 determine the need for anonymity by evaluating (1) the severity of the threatened harm,
18 (2) the reasonableness of the anonymous party’s fears, and (3) the anonymous party’s
19 vulnerability to such retaliation. *Id.*
20

21 Here, Plaintiff’s asserted need for anonymity outweighs any prejudice to the
22 government or the public’s interest in knowing his identity. *See Does I thru XXIII*, 214
23 F.3d at 1068. This case has been over for over a year, the government did not file any
24 opposition to Plaintiff’s motion, and the public’s interest in this case primarily centers
25 around the underlying nature of the action rather than Plaintiff’s identity. *See Doe v. L.*
26 *Offs. of Winn & Sims*, 2021 WL 2662311, at *1 (S.D. Cal. June 29, 2021). Moreover,
27 there appears to be a need for anonymity given that there is meaningful threatened harm,
28

1 Plaintiff's fears appear to be reasonable, and he appears vulnerable to the purported
2 retaliation. *See Does I thru XXIII*, 214 F.3d at 1068.

3
4 Consistent with this Order, the Court **DIRECTS** the Clerk to replace Plaintiff's
5 name with "John Doe" on the docket and in all publicly and electronically available
6 documents so as to conceal his true name. Thereafter, the Court directs the Clerk to re-
7 close the case.

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9 DATED: April 19, 2023



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11 CORMAC J. CARNEY
12 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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