

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ALABAMA
SOUTHERN DIVISION

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U.S. DISTRICT COURT
N.D. OF ALABAMA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,)	
)	
vs.)	Case No. CR-00-S-422-S
)	
ERIC ROBERT RUDOLPH,)	
)	
Defendant.)	

yB

ENTERED

MAR - 4 2004

ORDER

This cause is before the court on the parties' joint motion for redaction of a portion of the transcript of the court's January 14, 2004, status conference with counsel. Specifically, the parties jointly agree that lines 15 through 25 of page 23 and lines 1 through 22 of page 24 of the transcript be redacted prior to unsealing it. They point out that the lines sought to be redacted relate directly to an evidentiary matter which, if made public prematurely, could prejudice the rights of both parties to a fair trial.

The court is not unaware of or insensitive to the equally important right of the press and public to have access to the proceedings in this case. For that reason, the court has established the procedure by which transcripts of the status conferences (proceedings which are themselves closed to the public) are made available for review by the press and public. A thirty-day delay in unsealing the transcripts was imposed for just this eventually — that some topic raised at a status conference should not be revealed prior to trial due to its potential prejudicial impact on the parties. Having reviewed the transcript and the particular lines sought to be redacted, the court finds that the joint motion is due to be and hereby is GRANTED.

The Clerk is DIRECTED to make a photostatic copy of the transcript of the January 14, 2004, status conference, redacting therefrom those lines specified above. The redacted photostatic copy of the transcript will be unsealed and made available to the press and public, while the unredacted original of the transcript will remain under seal. At the conclusion of all appeals in the case, the original transcript shall be unsealed.

The Clerk is DIRECTED to forward a copy of the foregoing to all counsel of record.

DONE this the 4th day of March, 2004.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Michael Putnam", written in a cursive style. The signature is positioned above a horizontal line.

T. MICHAEL PUTNAM
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE