

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
MIDDLE DISTRICT OF FLORIDA
TAMPA DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

vs.

Case No. 8:04-CR-2-T-27MAP

WISSAM TAYSIR HAMMOUD

ORDER

BEFORE THE COURT is Defendant's *pro se* Motion to Seal Record (Dkt. 270). "The common-law right of access to judicial proceedings, an essential component of our system of justice, is instrumental in securing the integrity of the process." *Romero v. Drummond Co., Inc.*, 480 F.3d 1234, 1245 (11th Cir. 2007) (quotation omitted). Therefore, there is a presumption that criminal and civil actions should be conducted openly and that judicial records are subject to inspection and copying. *See Chicago Tribune Co. v. Bridgestone/Firestone, Inc.*, 263 F.3d 1304, 1311 (11th Cir. 2001). Defendant has failed to provide sufficient justification for this Court to exercise its discretion to withhold judicial records from the public's view. *See id.* Further, the records that Defendant seeks to seal have been in the public record since 2012.

Accordingly, it is **ORDERED** that Defendant's Motion to Seal is **DENIED**.

DONE AND ORDERED this 25th day of June, 2019.

/s/ James D. Whittemore

JAMES D. WHITTEMORE
United States District Judge

Copies to: Defendant, *pro se*, Counsel of Record