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**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
OAKLAND DIVISION**

18 J. DOE 1, et al.,
19 Individual and Representative Plaintiffs,
20 v.
21 GITHUB, INC., et al.,
22 Defendants.

Case Nos. 4:22-cv-06823-JST
4:22-cv-07074-JST

**PLAINTIFFS' ADMINISTRATIVE
MOTION TO FILE UNDER SEAL
PORTIONS OF FIRST AMENDED
COMPLAINT**

I. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to Civil Local Rules 7-11 and 79-5, Plaintiffs hereby move the Court to file under seal portions of their First Amended Complaint (“FAC”). The Court previously determined that Plaintiffs may proceed pseudonymously. *See Doe 1 v. GitHub, Inc.*, ___ F. Supp. 3d ___, 2023 WL 3449131, at *7-9 (N.D. Cal. May 11, 2023). The portions sought to be filed under seal contain information that would allow members of the public to discern the identities of Plaintiffs. Accompanying this Motion is the Declaration of Travis Manfredi in Support of Plaintiffs’ Administrative Motion to File Under Seal (“Manfredi Decl.”) and a proposed order.

II. ARGUMENT

In the Ninth Circuit, when a party seeks to seal portions of a complaint, the compelling reasons standard is typically used. *See, e.g., In re NVIDIA Corp. Derivative Litig.*, C 06-06110 SBA, 2008 WL 1859067, at *3 (N.D. Cal. Apr. 23, 2008); *Ojmar US, LLC v. Sec. People, Inc.*, No. 16-CV-04948-HSG, 2016 WL 6091543, at *2 (N.D. Cal. Oct. 19, 2016); *see also In re ZF-TRW Airbag Control Units Prod. Liab. Litig.*, No. ML1902905JAKFFMX, 2020 WL 13688234, at *3 (C.D. Cal. Sept. 7, 2020) (“Although the Ninth Circuit appears not to have explicitly stated what standard applies to the sealing of a complaint, many courts in this district and elsewhere have found that the compelling reasons standard applies.”). This is because complaint is “the root, the foundation, the basis by which a suit arises and must be disposed of.” *NVIDIA Corp. Derivative Litig.*, 2008 WL 1859067, at *3.

Compelling reasons “outweigh the public’s interest in disclosure and justify sealing court records . . . when such ‘court files might have become a vehicle for improper purposes,’ such as the use of records to gratify private spite, promote public scandal, circulate libelous statements, or release trade secrets” *Kamakana v. City & Cnty. of Honolulu*, 447 F.3d 1172, 1179 (9th Cir. 2006) (citing *Nixon v. Warner Commc’ns, Inc.*, 435 U.S. 589, 598 (1978)). The party seeking to seal bears the burden of showing compelling reasons apply. *See id.* at 1178.

This Court has already determined Plaintiffs may proceed pseudonymously at this stage of the case under the five-factor test applicable in the Ninth Circuit. *Doe 1*, 2023 WL 3449131, at *7-9 (citing, *inter alia*, *Doe v. Kamehameha Schs./Bernice Pauahi Bishop Est.*, 596 F.3d 1036, 1042

1 (9th Cir. 2010) & *Does I Thru XXIII v. Advanced Textile Corp.*, 214 F.3d 1058, 1068 (9th Cir.
 2 2000)). Amongst other things, the Court determined that proceeding pseudonymously at this
 3 stage is appropriate because Plaintiffs harbored reasonable fear that threats to their lives may be
 4 carried out against them if their identities were to become public. *Id.* at *8.¹ This conclusion is
 5 equally applicable here where distinctive descriptors of Plaintiffs' unique code would enable
 6 members of the public to discern Plaintiffs' true identities. Given Plaintiffs' reasonable fear of
 7 physical reprisal, Plaintiffs should be permitted to file under seal information that could lead to
 8 the disclosure of their true identities.

9 III. CONCLUSION

10 For the reasons stated above, the Plaintiffs request the following paragraphs of the FAC
 11 be filed under seal:

12 FAC Paragraph(s) #	Description of Information	Reason for Sealing
13 19–23	Each paragraph contains one 14 Plaintiff's name	The Court has already determined it 15 is appropriate for Plaintiffs to proceed 16 pseudonymously at this stage due to 17 Plaintiffs' reasonable fear that 18 credible threats of physical violence 19 may be carried out. <i>See Doe 1, 2023</i> 20 <i>WL 3449131, at *7-9.</i>
101–103	21 Examples and descriptions of 22 code Doe 2 made available to 23 the public on GitHub.	To protect Doe 2 from credible 24 threats of physical violence. Doe 2 25 could easily be identified by searching 26 for this code on GitHub and other 27 public repositories.
106–109 & 111	28 Examples and descriptions of code Doe 1 made available to the public on GitHub.	To protect Doe 1 from credible threats of physical violence. Doe 1 could easily be identified by searching for this code on GitHub and other public repositories.

¹ The Court also determined that Defendants are not prejudiced because Plaintiffs have already disclosed their true names to them subject to the underlying protective order, and that the public interest factor does not weigh against anonymity at this stage. *Id.* at *8–9.

114-118 & 122-125	Examples and descriptions of code Doe 5 made available to the public on GitHub.	To protect Doe 5 from credible threats of physical violence. Doe 5 could easily be identified by searching for this code on GitHub and other public repositories.
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Manfredi Decl. ¶ 4.

Dated: June 8, 2023

By: /s/ Joseph R. Saveri
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