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6 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
7 EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

8 PIERRE RIZZO,

CASE NO. 1:10-cv-180-LJO-MJS (PC)

9 Plaintiff,

ORDER DENYING MOTION TO SEAL FILED  
DOCUMENTS

10 v.

(ECF No. 4)

11 M. DIAZ, et al.,

12 Defendants.  
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15 Plaintiff Pierre Rizzo ("Plaintiff") is a state prisoner proceeding pro se and in forma  
16 pauperis in this civil rights action pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. Before the Court is  
17 Plaintiff's Motion to Seal Filed Documents [ECF No. 4] asking the Court seal all documents  
18 filed in the above-captioned action. Plaintiff alleges that the mexican mafia has a "hit out"  
19 on him that threatens the safety of his family and, therefore, the Court should seal all filings  
20 in this case.

21 Absent compelling justification, filings in cases such as this are a matter of public  
22 record. United States v. Stoterau, 524 F.3d 988, 1012 (9th Cir. 2008). The complaint in  
23 this action involves allegations that the Defendant prison guards were contaminating  
24 Plaintiff's food. The Court does not see anything in the allegations that might involve  
25 Plaintiff's family or expose Plaintiff's family to harm. Nothing filed thus far in the case  
26 involves personal information or information that is sensitive in nature. Defendants have  
27 not yet filed anything.

28 Accordingly, Plaintiff's Motion to Seal Filed Documents [ECF No. 4] is DENIED. If,

1 as this litigation progresses, Plaintiff believes that a particular document reveals sensitive  
2 information that warrants it being filed under seal, he is free to so move as to that particular  
3 document.

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5 IT IS SO ORDERED.

6 Dated: July 16, 2010

/s/ Michael J. Seng  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE