

WO

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

United States of America,)	CR 11-08074-PCT-JAT
)	
Plaintiff,)	ORDER
)	
vs.)	
)	
Jefferson Gatewood,)	
)	
Defendant.)	

Pending before this Court is Defendant's Motion to Compel Unredacted Copy of Discovery (Doc. 173). The Court now rules on this motion.

I. DEFENDANT'S MOTION TO COMPEL UNREDACTED COPY OF DISCOVERY.

On April 17, 2012, Defendant filed a Motion to Compel Unredacted Copy of Discovery (Doc. 173) in order to gain access to all redacted portions of evidence currently in possession of the Government. (Doc. 173). Defendant states that the Government has redacted "names, addresses, mailing addresses, tribal enrollments" and only left the "initials of the person." *Id.* Additionally, Defendant asserts that some of the discovery "contains heavy redaction, which renders it essentially incomprehensible," while in other places the "dates of birth and contact information for percipient adult witnesses has been redacted." *Id.* at 2. The Government asserts that it is unwilling to give the defense unredacted discovery because "[t]he victims in this case have alleged that they have been raped by the defendant,"

1 “many of the victims are scared of the defendant,” and “recent investigation has revealed that
2 friends and family of the defendant have been contacting several victims and witnesses
3 ...[and] attempting to intimidate them and keep them from cooperating.” (Doc. 181 at 6).

4 Additionally, the Government indicates that it has been very accommodating of the
5 defense’s request for information; it has even gone so far as to contact witnesses and victims
6 on behalf of Defendant regarding requests for interviews. *Id.* at 5-6. The Government
7 explains that it has unredacted any specific information that the defense has asked for, but
8 will not comply with a request to provide unredacted information without specificity. *Id.* at
9 8. In response to inquiries regarding Defendant’s reason for requesting, among other things,
10 the social security numbers, addresses, and phone numbers of the witnesses and victims,
11 Defendant has asserted that he seeks to research the criminal and public records of the
12 witnesses and victims. (Doc. 183 at 2). Beyond this, Defendant will not give more
13 justification for his request because Defendant claims that doing so would be impossible
14 “without revealing the nature of the defense investigation, the strategy of the defense, and
15 potential defenses at trial.” *Id.* Defendant also bases the decision not to specify which
16 information he requires on his argument that “[t]his process is too cumbersome, time-
17 consuming and costly to continue.” (Doc. 173 at 2).

18 **A. Legal Standard**

19 The primary, controlling legal rule is Rule 16 of the Federal Rules of Criminal
20 Procedure. This Rule governs Discovery and Inspection, and outlines what information the
21 Government must disclose. Rule 16 provides that the Government must provide the defense
22 with “photograph books, papers, documents, data, photographs, tangible objects, buildings
23 or places, or copies or portions of any of these items, if the item is within the government’s
24 possession, custody, or control” and if “the item is material to preparing the defense.” Fed.
25 R. Crim. P. 16(a)(1)(E)(i). Additionally, sections 3771 and 3509 of Title 18 of the United
26 States Code govern the rights provided to victims during trials; specifically they provide a
27 right to privacy for victims. Furthermore, any statements or reports in possession of the
28 Government made by a witness or prospective witness cannot be “the subject of subpoena,

1 discovery, or inspection until said witness has testified on direct examination in the trial of
2 the case.” 18 U.S.C. § 3500.

3 However, in *Brady*, the Supreme Court recognized that when the prosecution
4 suppresses evidence favorable to the accused that suppression constitutes a violation of Due
5 Process. *Brady v. Maryland*, 373 U.S. 83, 87 (1963). The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals has
6 recognized that the Government has “no right to interfere with defense access to witnesses”
7 and “both sides have a right to interview witnesses before trial.” *United States v. Cook*, 608
8 F.2d 1175, 1180 (9th Cir. 1979). Finally, it is important to note that “[i]mpeachment evidence
9 is especially likely to be material when it impugns the testimony of a witness who is critical
10 to the prosecution’s case.” *U.S. v. Price*, 566 F.3d 900, 914 (9th Cir. 2009) *quoting* *Silva v.*
11 *Brown*, 416 F.3d 980, 987 (9th Cir. 2005). The Court in *Price* also indicated that exculpatory
12 evidence is so material to a trial that it “cannot be kept out of the hands of the defense.” *Id.*
13 at 909.

14 **B. Analysis**

15 Here, the primary issue is whether the currently redacted information is favorable to
16 the Defendant and material to his case in some way. Defendant argues that the Government’s
17 unwillingness to provide him with addresses and identifying information “does in fact
18 interfere with the investigation of the defense” because of “the extreme logistical problems
19 with locating and interviewing witnesses on the White Mountain Apache Indian
20 Reservation.” (Doc. 183 at 1). This argument is unavailing. The Government has delivered,
21 on the behalf of the defense, requests to interview the witnesses and victims, requested
22 criminal histories, and has, so far as this Court can ascertain from the record, complied with
23 all specific and justified requests for information. (Doc. 181 at 12). Simply because
24 Defendant is unable to convince witnesses and victims to consent to an interview does not
25 imply that the Government is interfering with defense access to witnesses. Indeed, Defendant
26 seems to have been able to locate and contact at least one of the victims without the redacted
27
28

1 information. (Doc. 181 at 5).¹ Logistical issues do not entitle Defendant to unredacted
2 discovery. The case law included in the parties' briefs shows no duty on the Government to
3 disclose all information, and the relevant statutes state a duty to withhold much of the
4 currently redacted information on privacy grounds. 18 U.S.C.3771(a)(8). Defendant has not
5 claimed that any of the redacted information is impeaching or exculpatory. (Doc 173).
6 Instead, Defendant has indicated that the redacted information may help locate witnesses and
7 victims. (Doc. 183 at 2-3). These two claims are not one and the same.

8 Furthermore, the Court cannot rely on Defendant's argument that he cannot, for
9 strategic reasons, provide justification. Rule 16 requires discovery only when that
10 information can be shown to be "material" to Defendant's case. Fed. R. Crim. P. 16. In the
11 Motion before the Court, Defendant has made no argument that the redacted information is
12 material or favorable to the defense. Defendant has merely asserted that asking for specific
13 information is too difficult a process to follow. (Doc. 173 at 4). Additionally, Defendant has
14 made no argument that he requires any specific portions of the redacted information. If
15 Defendant can specify what information he needs and can provide a reason that it is material
16 to his case, the Court might order disclosure. Finally, Defendant has no general right to
17 unredacted discovery, especially in light of the nature of the charges at issue in this case and
18 the allegations of witness intimidation. *See generally Gregory v. United States*, 369 F.2d 185
19 (U.S. App. D.C. 1966), *cert. denied*, 396 U.S. 865 (1969) (recognizing exceptions when
20 there is an "overriding interest in security.").

21 C. Conclusion

22 Because the Government has complied with any and all *specific* requests for redacted
23 information that Defendant has been able to provide a reason for requesting, and because the
24

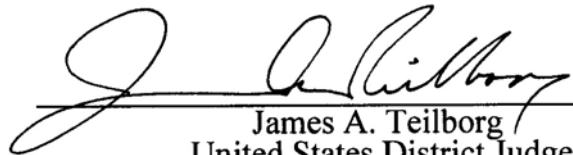
25 ¹ The Government has information regarding an email that was sent to a minor victim
26 in the case. This email was a request to "meet and discuss this case with the defense." (Doc
27 181 at 5). The defense has since sent written correspondence to this victim's guardian
28 through the agents of the Government. *Id.* Both requests for an interview have been
subsequently refused. *Id.*

1 Government has complied with all discovery rules, Defendant is not entitled to unredacted
2 discovery. Additionally, the Court's decision is solidified both by the sensitive nature of this
3 case and Defendant's unwillingness to justify his request further.

4 Based on the foregoing,

5 **IT IS ORDERED** denying Defendant's Motion to Compel Unredacted Copy of
6 Discovery (Doc. 173).

7 DATED this 18th day of June, 2012.

8
9
10 
11 James A. Teilborg
12 United States District Judge
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28