UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF CONNECTICUT

UNITED STATES	:	No. 3:21-mj-01036-SALM
v.	:	
Michael Dimassa	:	October 20, 2021

ORDER

This Order is entered, pursuant to Federal Rule of Criminal Procedure 5(f) and the Due Process Protections Act, Pub. L. No. 116-182, 134 Stat. 894 (Oct. 21, 2020), to confirm the Government's disclosure obligations under Brady v. Maryland, 373 U.S. 83 (1963), and its progeny, and to summarize the possible consequences of violating those obligations.

The Government must disclose to the defense all information "favorable to an accused" that is "material either to guilt or to punishment" and that is known to the Government. Id. at 87. This obligation applies regardless of whether the defendant requests this information or whether the information would itself constitute admissible evidence. The Government shall disclose such information to the defense promptly after its existence becomes known to the Government so that the defense may make effective use of the information in the preparation of its case.

As part of these obligations, the Government must disclose any information that can be used to impeach the trial testimony of a Government witness within the meaning of Giglio v. United States, 405 U.S. 150 (1972), and its progeny. Such information must be disclosed sufficiently in advance of trial in order for the defendant to make effective use of it at trial or at such other time as the Court may order.[1]

The foregoing obligations are continuing ones and apply to materials that become known to the Government in the future. These obligations also apply to information that is otherwise subject to disclosure regardless of whether the Government credits it.

In the event the Government believes that a disclosure under this Order would compromise witness safety, victim rights, national security, a sensitive law-enforcement technique, or any other substantial government interest, it may apply to the Court for a modification of its obligations, which may include in camera review or withholding or subjecting to a protective order all or part of the information otherwise subject to disclosure.[2]

---

[1] This Order does not purport to set forth an exhaustive list of the Government's disclosure obligations.

[2] The Classified Information Procedures Act sets forth separate procedures to be followed in the event that the Government believes matters relating to classified information may arise in connection with the prosecution. See 18 U.S.C. App. 3 §§1 et seq.

For purposes of this Order, the Government has an affirmative obligation to seek all information subject to disclosure under this Order from all current or former federal, state, and local prosecutors, law enforcement officers, and other officers who have participated in the prosecution, or investigation that led to the prosecution, of the offense or offenses with which the defendant is charged.

If the Government fails to comply with this Order, the Court, in addition to ordering production of the information, may:

(1) specify the terms and conditions of such production;

(2) grant a continuance;

(3) impose evidentiary sanctions;

(4) impose contempt or other sanctions on any lawyer responsible for violations of the Government's disclosure obligations, or refer the matter to disciplinary authorities;

(5) dismiss charges before trial or vacate a conviction after trial or a guilty plea; or

(6) enter any other order that is just under the circumstances.

It is so ordered.

/s/ Sarah A. L. Merriam, USDJ

HON. SARAH A. L. MERRIAM
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE