

Judge issues protective order for handling evidence in Maduro case

United States v. Maduro Moros et al. · S.D.N.Y. No. 1:11-cr-00205

Judge Alvin K. Hellerstein · Docket entry #332 · Filed 2026-09-22 · Filed by: Court

What happened

Judge Alvin K. Hellerstein signed a protective order (a set of court rules governing how evidence is handled) covering Nicolás Maduro Moros and Cilia Adela Flores de Maduro. The order sorts the material the government must turn over to the defense (called discovery) into categories based on the risk to witness privacy or safety, including 'Sealed Material,' 'Attorney's Possession Only' material, and 'Attorney's Eyes Only' material. It also sets rules for how the material must be stored, shared, and eventually returned or destroyed once the case ends.

What it means

The order does not decide anything about Maduro's or Flores's guilt or innocence; it simply sets the procedural ground rules both sides must follow for handling evidence, particularly material that could identify witnesses. This is a routine administrative step in preparing for further exchange of evidence between prosecutors and the defense.

What happens next

The next scheduled event is Maduro's hearing on November 17, 2026; for Cilia Flores, a hearing on her request for house arrest is set for October 8, 2026.

Key passages from the filing (verbatim)

"Certain of the Government's Disclosure Material, referred to herein as "Sealed Material," contains information that identifies, or could lead to the identification of, witnesses who may be subject to intimidation or obstruction"

Page 1 — Explains the purpose of the strictest category of protected material.

"The defense shall not post any Disclosure Material on any Internet site or network site, including any social media site such as Facebook or X, to which persons other than the parties hereto have access, and shall not disclose any Disclosure Material to the media."

Page 3 — Shows a key restriction on how the defense may use the evidence it receives.

Docket text (official, in English)

PROTECTIVE ORDER as to Nicolas Maduro Moros, Cilia Adela Flores De Maduro...regarding procedures to be followed that shall govern the handling of confidential material... (Signed by Judge Alvin K. Hellerstein on 9/22/2026) (ap)

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