

## **PSCs file suit, Out in the cold. Devex, 20 Feb 2025**

The tit-for-tat is just **one of several legal counteroffensives** being mounted against the administration's targeting of USAID.

If you recall, on Feb. 13, a [judge barred](#) the administration from placing thousands of USAID employees on administrative leave. But that only applied to direct hires. Now, personal service contractors, or PSCs, many of whom were among the first to lose their jobs weeks ago, are looking to the courts [to be reinstated and reimbursed for back pay](#), my colleague Elissa Miolene writes.

“While direct-hire employees have been placed on administrative leave, [personal service contractors] have in many cases **received no information about their status**, while finding themselves cut off from all USAID computer networks and locked out of USAID headquarters,” the complaint states, noting that PSCs in hot spots such as Ukraine and Somalia **have lost access to safety communication channels**.

The lawsuit also argues that the administration's foreign aid freeze — and the resulting dismantling of USAID — is illegal. “The Defendants’ aim is not to pause foreign aid,” states the complaint. “It is to devastate and eliminate it and the federal agencies, employees, and contractors who provide it.”

The Feb. 13 ruling also contested Morocco's order that direct hires posted abroad be recalled in 30 days, granting those employees a temporary reprieve. Now, in a follow-up hearing yesterday, the judge said the Trump administration had created a “mess” for the overseas employees after conflicting statements made by Morocco, and he **ordered the Justice Department to submit a new declaration by noon today** clarifying its position on overseas employees, [according to Politico](#).

[Filings in this case](#) include **testimonies of a denial of a medical evacuation for a risky pregnancy**, unpaid bills for security measures for buildings the U.S. government uses abroad, and failure to provide standard logistical and financial support to American staff as they evacuated the Democratic Republic of Congo amid a deteriorating security situation.

“These uncertainties, combined with the chaotic implementation of the evacuation of USAID staff in foreign countries, is harming USAID employees and their families,” wrote Randall Chester, USAID vice president of the American Foreign Service Association, in a declaration submitted to the courts.

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