

**Awaiting Supreme Court.** Devex, 3 Mar 2025

## **Ticking clock**

The Trump administration rushed to the Supreme Court on Wednesday with an emergency request to [stop a lower court's order](#) that it release a tranche of nearly \$2 billion in suspended aid funds by midnight.

**But it was “an emergency of [the government’s] own making”** — that’s how the [USAID](#) partners that are suing the administration framed it when they had a chance to [present their side of the story to the Supreme Court on Friday](#). **The plaintiffs argued the administration refused to comply** with a ruling by District Judge Amir Ali dating back to Feb. 13 that [it lift its blanket freeze on aid funding and pay its bills](#).

“Meanwhile, the government stripped line-level officers most familiar with the relevant awards of authority to make disbursements and channeled purported ‘review’ of payments through a handful of political appointees,” the plaintiffs stated.

Not only that, but the [administration eliminated](#) all but 10% of USAID’s portfolio, saying that U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio had personally reviewed each one of the 5,800 terminations sent out — a claim that **opponents say strains credulity considering the tight timeframe involved**.

And time, remember, is not on the plaintiffs’ side.

“The government’s continued noncompliance with the district court’s [temporary restraining order] forced one respondent to lay off 110 employees yesterday,” the organizations wrote in Friday’s filing. “Another will default on severance obligations, triggering civil liability and potential regulatory enforcement, if it does not receive payment for past work by today. Meanwhile, many of those who depend on respondents’ programming face starvation, disease, and death.”

[The ruling by the Supreme Court](#), which paused Judge Ali’s midnight directive, could come any day. Meanwhile, the case in district court — presided over by Judge Ali — will continue, explained Mitchell Warren, the executive director of the [AVAC](#), one of the plaintiffs.

He tells my colleague Elissa Miolene that he expects the judge to schedule a hearing for early this week, one that will continue proceedings around the blanket funding freeze and en masse terminations that have hit organizations across the world.

**Read:** [Aid groups present case to Supreme Court as decision looms](#)

**Background reading:** [‘God Bless America’ and the death of 10,000 projects](#)