

Court Orders USG to Pay by Monday. *Devex*, 7 Mar 2025

D-day

In the latest legal twist, the Trump administration has been [given until 6 p.m. Monday to pay the aid organizations](#) that are suing it, including nonprofits such as [AVAC](#) and for-profits such as [Chemonics](#) and [DAI](#), my colleague Elissa Miolene reports.

Judge Amir Ali called his order **the “first concrete step” toward the release** of nearly \$2 billion in suspended foreign aid.

Ali’s order had been bounced to the Supreme Court, which at first granted the administration a short reprieve before pushing the case back to Ali, with [the Supreme Court ultimately stating](#) the District Court should clarify what the government is obligated to pay — and within what timelines.

The hearing also tangled with a topic that’s been repeatedly brought up by both parties in the case: **The Trump administration’s review of thousands of foreign aid programs**, and the [cancellation of nearly 10,000 as a result](#).

While the organizations questioned **how that review** — which the Trump administration has described as a case-by-case process done by Secretary of State Marco Rubio — **could have been completed in just over 30 hours**, Indraneel Sur, the lawyer representing the Trump administration, said it was a “problem of [the plaintiffs’] own litigation choices.”

“Agencies did the work of making decisions quickly” because of the organizations’ lawsuit and Ali’s resulting mandate, Sur said, refuting the vast number of award cancellations as a “mass termination.”

Ali and Sur also went back and forth on the separation of powers between the U.S. Congress and the executive branch, with Ali asking Sur if cutting money that was appropriated by Congress — such as foreign assistance — **would create a constitutional problem**. Ali said the idea that “appropriations were optional” would be a “country-shaking prospect.”

Read: [Trump administration ordered to pay select USAID partners by Monday](#)