

Latest Ruling from Judge Amir Ali. Devex, 11 Mar 2025

Checks and balances

Last night, U.S. District Court Judge Amir Ali [ordered the Trump administration to pay USAID's implementing partners](#) billions of dollars in foreign assistance for work completed before Feb. 13, although he did not restore the [roughly 10,000 contracts recently canceled](#) by the administration that gutted over 80% of USAID's portfolio.

Still, the judge had **a clear warning about the separation of powers** between the executive and legislative branches: **The president does not have "unbounded power"** in the realm of foreign affairs, he stated, and because of that, the Trump administration must spend the money that's already been appropriated by Congress.

"The Executive not only claims his constitutional authority to determine *how* to spend appropriated funds, but usurps Congress's exclusive authority to dictate *whether* the funds should be spent in the first place," he added.

"This ruling sends a really clear message that **the administration acted inappropriately**, and that no one is above the law," said Mitchell Warren, who heads the [AVAC](#), one of the organizations suing the Trump administration. "The administration is being told that there is another branch of government, the legislative branch, that needs to be involved. That you have to respect the power of the purse, which resides in Congress. And, that you have to pay your bills."

It's expected that the government will appeal Ali's order. In the meantime, both the Trump administration and the organizations suing it are required to provide a status report by Friday, March 14, after which Ali will hold another hearing.

Read: [Judge orders Trump to pay USAID partners, rejects 'unbounded' power](#)
