

## **Injunction Against Armed Monitoring of Polling Places by a Private Entity**

*Council on American–Islamic Relations—Minnesota  
v. Atlas Aegis (Nancy E. Brasel, D. Minn. 0:20-cv-2195)*

A district judge entered a preliminary injunction against a private organization, forbidding the intimidation of voters by deploying armed agents at polling places.

*Subject:* Polling-place activities. *Topic:* Early voting.

Two organizations filed a federal complaint in the District of Minnesota on October 20, 2020, alleging that the defendant organization “and an unnamed ‘consortium’ of individuals and businesses are deploying armed ex-soldiers to intimidate and threaten eligible voters.”<sup>1</sup> With their complaint, the plaintiffs filed a motion for a temporary restraining order and a preliminary injunction.<sup>2</sup>

Judge Nancy E. Brasel set the case for a videoconference hearing at 3:00 p.m. six days later, posting contact information in the public docket sheet.<sup>3</sup> On the morning of October 26, Judge Brasel checked for settlement among the parties and found none.<sup>4</sup>

On October 29, Judge Brasel enjoined the defendants from “deploying armed agents within 2,500 feet of Minnesota polling places or otherwise monitoring Minnesota polling places.”<sup>5</sup> Judge Brasel approved a consent decree on February 16, 2021.<sup>6</sup>

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1. Complaint, *Council on Am.–Islamic Relations—Minn. v. Atlas Aegis LLC*, No. 0:20-cv-2195 (D. Minn. Oct. 20, 2020), D.E. 1; *Council on Am.–Islamic Relations—Minn. v. Atlas Aegis LLC*, 497 F. Supp. 3d 371, 375 (D. Minn. 2020).

2. Motion, *Council on Am.–Islamic Relations—Minn.*, No. 0:20-cv-2195 (D. Minn. Oct. 20, 2020), D.E. 4; *Council on Am.–Islamic Relations—Minn.*, 497 F. Supp. 3d at 375.

3. Docket Sheet, *Council on Am.–Islamic Relations—Minn.*, No. 0:20-cv-2195 (D. Minn. Oct. 20, 2020) (D.E. 20); *see Minutes, id.* (Oct. 26, 2020), D.E. 38; Notice, *id.* (Oct. 26, 2020), D.E. 18.

4. Minutes, *id.* (Oct. 26, 2020), D.E. 34.

5. *Council on Am.–Islamic Relations—Minn.*, 497 F. Supp. 3d at 381.

6. Order, *Council on Am.–Islamic Relations—Minn.*, No. 0:20-cv-2195 (D. Minn. Feb. 16, 2021), D.E. 61; *see Proposed Consent Decree, id.* (Feb. 3, 2021), D.E. 57 (proscribing the defendant’s deployment of armed agents near election activities).