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By Global News Service  
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## Global News Dispatches: 4 Stories

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**Note to Editors:** This is a selection of news wire reports that have been edited to be relevant for audiences for the next two weeks. You are welcome to select and publish individual items or the whole stack.

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- **‘It Is Clear That Israel Is Committing Genocide in Gaza,’ UN Panel Concludes**
- **One of Africa’s Largest Peasant Organizations Condemns Israel’s Genocide in Palestine**
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- **Activists Condemn Pakistan Supreme Court’s Decision to Allow Military Trial of Civilians**

[NEWS ITEM TEXT]

**‘It Is Clear That Israel Is Committing Genocide in Gaza,’ UN Panel Concludes**

[238 words]

Amid the growing international consensus that the atrocities Israel has been committing in Gaza amount to genocide, a UN panel has also concluded that “genocide is already happening” in Gaza.

The UN-mandated Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People (CEIRPP) convened this panel at UN headquarters in New York City on December

12, ahead of the vote in the General Assembly on the resolution calling for an “immediate humanitarian ceasefire.”

As of December 19, [over 19,000 Palestinians](#), mostly women and children, have been killed by the Israeli occupation forces.

But the number of the killed is not the only factor determining whether or not the mass killing amounted to genocide, Katherine Gallagher, Senior Staff Attorney at the Center for Constitutional Rights, [explained](#) at the UN panel discussion. It is the deliberate nature of the targeting of a group, “that intent, coupled with actions,” that determines that a mass killing amounts to genocide, said Gallagher.

“In this case... the intent” has been made “explicit” in the statements “by the Prime Minister, by the President, by senior cabinet members and by military leaders. These statements clearly constitute the... mental element of the crime of genocide,” Hannah Bruinsma, a legal advisor at Law for Palestine, said at the panel discussion.

“We have collected so far over 500 statements that demonstrate” the genocidal intent, “often of those who are in the chain of command,” she added.

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## **One of Africa’s Largest Peasant Organizations Condemns Israel’s Genocide in Palestine**

**[221 words]**

Mtandao wa Vikundi vya Wakulima Tanzania (Network of Farmers Groups in Tanzania), commonly known as [MVIWATA](#), one of the largest peasant organizations in the African continent, has just issued a statement in solidarity with Palestine.

“We join others not only to show solidarity with [Palestine’s] UAWC (Union of Agricultural Work Committees) but with all Palestinians at this most difficult moment they go through, as the whole entire world witness[es] and remain[s] silent including nations and international bodies with trust and responsibilities to protect humanity,” reads the [statement](#). “We condemn and denounce the genocide and war crimes that are done by the Israeli regime in... Palestine.”

MVIWATA represents more than 300,000 members of the Tanzanian peasantry. Fifteen hundred delegates from the organization gathered in Njombe, Tanzania from December 12-15 for their [Annual General Meeting](#).

“We are all so... frustrated with the suffering of the innocent civilians; the old, the sick, the children and women who are indiscriminately killed in the name of conducting... vengeance,” writes the MVIWATA.

“We are even further frustrated with the prevailing hypocrisy of highest order; on one side military assistance to the killing machinery of the Israeli regime, notably [from] the United States of America, while on the other side shutting down of all humanitarian aid to this typically evil and man-made action and crime.”

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### **Largest Health Workers Union in United States Calls for Ceasefire**

**[147 words]**

The largest health workers’ union in the United States, [Service Employees International Union Local 1199](#), just joined the global movement for a ceasefire in Palestine. Representing over 450,000 working and retired health care industry workers, SEIU 1199 is now the second-largest union in the U.S. to call for a ceasefire, behind the [United Auto Workers](#).

“We reject the notion that Israel’s attacks on hospitals filled with patients, apartment blocks filled with families, and the deaths of 11,000+ Palestinian women and children are acceptable collateral damage,” reads 1199’s [statement](#). “We urge an immediate ceasefire.” With this statement, the local builds on an anti-war legacy. 1199 was the first union to call for an end to the U.S. war in Vietnam.

1199’s statement reflects a broader willingness within the labor movement to join the global call for a ceasefire, initiated by Palestinians living under occupation.

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### **Activists Condemn Pakistan Supreme Court’s Decision to Allow Military Trial of Civilians**

**[252 words]**

On December 13, a six-judge bench of the Supreme Court in Pakistan suspended its own past ruling and allowed the trial of civilians in military courts. The majority ruling of the country’s highest court was condemned by opposition political parties and activists.

Ammar Ali Jan, of the Haqooq-e-Khalq party, [said](#) that military courts are a “collective shame and humiliation for all those who believe in democracy.”

The main opposition party, Imran Khan’s Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf, [called](#) the verdict a “violation of fundamental human rights.”

Munizae Jahangir, co-chair of the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan [said](#), “Those advocating the trial of civilians in military courts are denying citizens a right to [a] fair trial.”

The judgment paves the way for the trial of opposition party leaders and members in these military courts. The ruling allows such trials on the condition that the final verdicts would be conditional on the Supreme Court's orders which may be passed in the future.

In June, Pakistan's National Assembly adopted a [resolution](#) seeking the trial of those accused in the May 9 violence under the Pakistan Army Act, 1952. The act provides for a trial of "enemies of the state" and members of the military in courts operating differently from the rest of the country's legal system.

Over 100 civilians, some of them leaders of the opposition party, are being tried by military courts for their alleged role in the attacks on military installations during the protests following the arrest of former prime minister Imran Khan on May 9.