



“We’re all watching The Traitors, right? And I’m not talking about the cut-throat presidential nominations. I’m talking about the cloak and dagger action down at Slane Castle

Róisín Ingle  
Life



ARE YOU USING  
YOUR SMART  
METER PROPERLY?  
IT COULD SAVE  
YOU THOUSANDS

Joanne Hunt  
Your Money

## Gaza City offensive intensifies as UN alerted on genocide

Israel rejects report’s finding of ‘pattern of conduct indicating genocidal intent’

‘Real sense of panic’ in Gaza City with heavy air strikes widely reported

SALLY HAYDEN  
in Beirut

Pressure is mounting on the international community to take action after a UN commission of inquiry announced yesterday that Israel is carrying out genocide in Gaza.

This inquiry’s findings coincided with Israeli forces announcing a ground offensive into Gaza City, calling it a “new phase of the operation”. Heavy air strikes have been widely reported in the city.

“Gaza is burning,” Israel’s defence minister Israel Katz posted on X. “The IDF is striking with an iron fist at the terrorist infrastructure. . . . We will . . . not relent and we will not back down – until the mission is completed.”

A humanitarian worker inside Gaza, who asked not to be named for security reasons, said mass displacement continues and there is a “real sense of panic”.

The UN commission’s 72-page report concluded that Israeli authorities and security forces have committed four of the five genocidal acts defined by the 1948 genocide convention: killing; causing serious bodily or mental harm; deliberately inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about the destruction of the Palestinians in whole or in part; and imposing measures intended to prevent births.

These were backed up by explicit statements by Israeli authorities and a pattern of conduct indicating genocidal intent, said the commission, which was established by the UN Human Rights Council.

Israel’s foreign ministry “categorically reject[ed] this distorted and false report”, calling its authors “Hamas proxies, notorious for their openly anti-Semitic positions”.

The commission – which does not speak for the UN – also highlighted an obligation on all states “to take all necessary steps to try to avoid or stop the commission of genocide”, a duty that arises the “instant that the state learns of, or should normally have learned of, the existence of a serious risk that genocide

will be committed”.

“The international community cannot stay silent,” said Navi Pillay, the commission’s chairperson. “Every day of inaction costs lives and erodes the credibility of the international community.”

The Irish Department of Foreign Affairs did not respond to an inquiry about whether Ireland will be taking specific steps as a result. President Michael D Higgins called the report “very, very important” and suggested excluding Israel from the UN, as well as the countries that supply it with weapons.

### Starvation and malnutrition

Nearly two years after Israel’s assault on Gaza began, following the Hamas-led attacks of October 7th, 2023, Gazan health authorities say the death toll has almost reached 65,000, with 165,312 people injured. Yesterday, 59 new deaths were recorded. There were three reported deaths due to starvation and malnutrition, including one child.

In August, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, a globally recognised food insecurity monitoring organisation, declared that an “entirely man-made” famine is taking place in Gaza.

Last year, the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for Israeli prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu and former defence minister Yoav Gallant. The charges – which they have denied – include using starvation as a method of warfare.

The latest developments come as a civilian effort called the Global Sumud Flotilla, comprising dozens of vessels, sails towards the besieged enclave, with organisers saying they aim to open a humanitarian corridor.

### Inside Page 6

■ Israel launches ground offensive in Gaza City

■ Genocide finding comes at key time for assembly  
Analysis: Michael Jansen



## Politics at the Ploughing Humphreys meets the electorate in Tullamore

Fine Gael presidential candidate Heather Humphreys with attendees at the National Ploughing Championships in Tullamore, Co Offaly. Some 78,500 people attended the opening day, up 3,000 on last year.

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Photograph: Dan Dennison

## McVerry trust to transfer €8m in property to DCC

ARTHUR BEESLEY  
Current Affairs Editor

The Peter McVerry Trust (PMVT) is transferring dozens of apartments and houses, worth almost €8 million, to Dublin City Council, under a deal to repay special Government funding that kept the charity afloat when it was struck by financial crisis.

The properties, some of which already have residents living in them, will be used for social housing.

The housing and homeless

body established by Jesuit priest Fr Peter McVerry received €15 million from the State after then housing minister Darragh O’Brien agreed in November 2023 to provide emergency financial support.

A succession of reports by charity and housing regulators and the Comptroller and Auditor General later highlighted multiple governance failings in the PMVT.

The trust has pledged to restore public confidence in it. Delayed financial accounts for

2023 are scheduled to be filed next month, after aspects of its 2022 accounts are restated for a second time.

The trust received €164.3 million in funding from the State between 2018 and 2022 and €72.6 million in donations. Trust properties used for its housing and homeless services were valued at €162.33 million at the end of 2022.

The rescue package was agreed on the basis that the Government would recover the value of the €15 million with the transfer of “unencumbered

properties to local authorities from the PMVT.

Unencumbered property generally means real estate free of debt. The PMVT agreement, however, specified that unencumbered property was real estate the charity acquired without State money, using its own funds.

### Total value

In reply to questions, the Department of Housing said: “PMVT own 54 such properties and 27 of these properties, with a total value €7,890,000,

are in the process of being transferred to Dublin City Council.”

The remaining 27 properties were being prepared for transfer to local authorities elsewhere, the department added. This preparation includes valuation and survey work.

“When all such properties are transferred from PMVT to the local authorities the State will have recovered the €15 million of emergency funding,” the department said.

The department, the PMVT and the council each declined

to provide addresses for apartments and houses.

Still, the council said the first 27 properties were located across the Dublin city area. “For privacy reasons we do not give specific address identifiers but I can advise they are located in Dublin 3, 8, 12, 7, 11,” the spokesperson said.

PMVT said it was working closely with the department to identify and transfer unencumbered assets “including housing units and vacant properties” to the appropriate local authorities.

## DAA and Jacobs agree almost €1m exit pending approval

JOE BRENNAN,  
MARTIN WALL and  
ARTHUR BEESLEY

DAA’s board has reached an exit agreement with chief executive Kenny Jacobs. Under its terms, Mr Jacobs would leave the airport operator by mutual agreement with an exit package of close to €1 million, The Irish Times has established.

The deal, reached after weeks of mediation between both sides following the emergence of a serious rift, will need to be ratified by Minister for Transport Darragh O’Brien and Minister for Public Expenditure Jack Chambers, sources said. This is likely to take some days.

A spokeswoman for DAA declined to comment, while Mr Jacobs did not respond to a request for comment. Mr

O’Brien was not available for comment.

The accord follows a period of tension in recent months between Mr Jacobs and the wider board, chaired by Basil Geoghegan. There had been intense board scrutiny of the chief executive’s management style.

Mr Jacobs (51), a former Ryanair executive, took charge of DAA at the start of 2023. He succeeded Dalton Philips, who left to become chief executive of sandwich maker Greencore.

### Protected disclosure

While Mr Jacobs was the subject of two protected disclosure complaints by DAA staff members in relation to dignity-at-work matters, it is understood that the allegations were not upheld after being examined by senior counsel.

Despite this, tensions be-

tween Mr Jacobs and the board have persisted. Both sides engaged lawyers, while industrial relations veteran Kieran Mulvey was called on to act as mediator earlier this month.

The matter had also been brought to the attention of senior Government figures. There were concerns that the fallout could affect the group as it faces challenges on a number of fronts.

DAA is keen to advance a complex €2.4 billion infrastructure plan, while it also wants limits on night flights to be eased. Additionally, it is moving forward with litigation over a 32 million annual passenger cap at Dublin Airport.

It is likely that DAA will appoint an interim chief executive from within the group as it begins the process that leads to a permanent replacement.

## Weather

Damp start but sunny spells likely through the afternoon. Highs of 15-19 degrees with fresh and gusty winds.

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## World News



**Britain:** US president Donald Trump’s second state visit to the UK comes at a tricky time for prime minister Keir Starmer. Page 6

## Business + Commercial Property

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**Housing:** There was a fall of 12.5% in the number of dwelling units approved for planning permission in the second quarter. Page 15

## Sports Wednesday

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**Soccer:** Arsenal got off to a winning start in the Champions League last night by winning 2-0 away to Athletic Bilbao. Page 23

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