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Victims remembered

FRIDAY
07/03/2008
08:20:23

The wording of the Omagh bomb memorial has been agreed.

A new memorial to the victims of the Omagh bomb will incorporate a request from bereaved families and state that their loved ones were murdered in a dissident republican attack.

Relatives of some of the 31 people who died in the 1998 attack had voiced concerns that the inscription on a temporary memorial stone would be amended in a new remembrance garden, which is being built to mark the 10th anniversary of the atrocity.

Omagh District Council unanimously agreed to accept the recommendations of an independent panel that had been tasked to find an appropriate narrative for the tribute.

There will be three parts to the new memorial. And while less contentious language will be used to describe the bombing on an engraving at the site of the explosion and on a wall leading to the nearby garden of remembrance, the families` preferred wording will be carried on a stone wall in the garden itself.

The sentence is: "To honour and remember 31 people murdered and hundreds injured from three nations by a dissident republican terrorist car bomb."

Former Presbyterian moderator Rev John Dunlop, who headed up the the facilitation panel, said the length of the text enabled them to take in to account as many people`s views as possible.

He held 80 meetings with interested parties before finalising the report.

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He said he hoped the narrative would be accepted by all the people of Omagh as a fair compromise.

He said: "For Omagh to be divided on the 10th anniversary of the bomb would be a victory for those who planted the bomb."

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