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Omagh trial in Dublin

MONDAY
 12/05/2008
 14:28:00

Omagh trial moves to Dublin

Legal argument today delayed the start of a landmark lawsuit against alleged terrorists accused of carrying out the Omagh bombing.

Barristers for the men said to be responsible for the attack told a judge in Dublin that the names of their clients could be tarnished if they were not permitted to question evidence as it is given.

More than 50 gardai have been summoned to testify at the civil case, which is the first time evidence from a Northern Ireland case will have been heard in the Republic.

District Judge Conal Gibbons will rule this afternoon if senior counsel will be allowed to object to evidence they deem inadmissible.

The bombing, the worst atrocity during the Troubles, killed 29 people, including a woman pregnant with twins.

Hundreds more were injured when the Real IRA bombed the Co Tyrone town on a busy Saturday afternoon in August 1998.

Although no-one has been convicted for the atrocity, named on the lawsuit are the alleged leader of the Real IRA, Michael McKeivitt, the man said to be his number two, Liam Campbell, and Colm Murphy, Seamus McKenna and Seamus Daly.

All deny any involvement.

Michael O` Higgins SC, for McKeivitt, said that if a question asked was clearly inadmissible, and an answer given damaging to his client, that answer was likely to be published the length and breadth of the country.

Dermot Fee QC, for Daly and Murphy, said the questions had been devised by the plaintiffs and there was a very clear risk of substantial unfairness to the defendants.





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STARRING: Nabine Labaki, Yasmin Elmasri, Joanna Moukarzel, Gisele Aouad.

DETAILS: France / Lebanon 95mins (PG)

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