



**Victor and Donna Barker**

4 comments  
 THURSDAY  
 24/01/2008  
 18:14:15

**Barker calls for Flanagan's resignation**

English solicitor Victor Barker, whose son James was killed in Omagh, has demanded Sir Ronnie Flanagan quit as Chief Inspector of the British Inspectorate of Constabulary.

It followed the acquittal last month at a court in Belfast of Sean Hoey, 39, from south Armagh, the only man charged with the 29 murders.

The trial judge Mr Justice Weir hit out at parts of the police investigation into Hoey. Two officers are under investigation for allegedly beefing up statements.

Sir Ronnie has insisted he will not resign his HMI job. But he did apologise to the Omagh families.

He told the Press Association tonight: "Their trauma and terror has been to the forefront of my mind since this happened.

"I feel desperately sorry that we have not to this point brought people to justice for that terrible attack and I wholeheartedly apologise to them for the failings and indeed for any shortcomings as highlighted by Mr Justice Weir."

Michael Gallagher, whose son Aidan was also killed, said Sir Ronnie`s apology was a positive step, but the victims families still wanted a full north-south judicial inquiry.

He added: "I think it is important people remember that there have been investigations into the Omagh bomb in Northern Ireland and the Republic for over nine and a half years.

"There have been serious failings at all levels on both sides of the border and the only way to address all these issues is through a comprehensive independent cross-border public inquiry rather than having them raised in a piecemeal fashion.

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"Sir Ronnie is someone who could bring a lot of knowledge and help to an independent inquiry and I would hope he would freely go and open up."

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On 24 Jan at 18:06 - [M Wilson](#) from Carrickfergus said:

People seem to forget that it was not Sir Ronnie who planted the bomb in Omagh in August 1998.

On 24 Jan at 19:43 - [ruc widow](#) from limavady said:

one can loose sight of the villains with this hunt to destroy ronnie who could only do what was humanly possible - i would be certain the ruc did all they could to catch the terror gang.

On 24 Jan at 20:13 - [maureen hancock](#) from COOKSTOWN said:

yes i feel ronnie flanagan should resign.

On 24 Jan at 21:12 - [Derek](#) from County Down said:

Why is it that nowadays whenever "Omagh" is mentioned it is always followed by criticism of the police?? The police tried to save lives in august 1998 and did not plant the car bomb that killed twenty nine people. The silence from senior republicans who could from day one have helped the investigation is deafening. Sinn fein say they support the police,now is the time to show that they mean it!!!

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FILM: CLOVERFIELD

**DIRECTOR:** Matt Reeves

**STARRING:** Michael Stahl-David, Mike Vogel, Lizzy Caplan, Jessica Lucas

**DETAILS:**US / 84mins (15A)

**RATING:** ★★★★★

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