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Omagh bomb aftermath

WEDNESDAY
24/10/2007
08:20:23

Man fails in Omagh retrial bid

An man who had his conviction over the Omagh bomb quashed has lost his long-running battle to stop a retrial.

Colm Murphy, from Co Louth, is the only man to have been imprisoned in connection with the no-warning atrocity and now faces a second high-profile prosecution in the New Year.

He tried to stop the new action, claiming memory loss and systematic delays by prosecutors.

At Dublin`s High Court yesterday, Mr Justice Iarfhlaith O`Neill dismissed the case.

"I am satisfied that the memory impairment which inflicted the applicant has not at all affected his ability to recall relevant events and in particular his participation in interviews with members of An Garda Siochana," the judge said.

The judge also said memory loss would not have affected the instructions Murphy gave his legal team and that it was entirely unconnected to his right to a fair trial.

He also ruled Murphy was to blame for delays in the High Court action, and ultimately the pending retrial, and cleared the Director of Public Prosecutions of any fault.

Murphy was jailed at Dublin`s Special Criminal Court in 2002 for conspiring to cause the Real IRA explosion which killed 29 people, including a mother pregnant with twins, in August 1998.

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