



Aftermath of Omagh

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 TUESDAY
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 14:09:39

Churchman in bid to resolve Omagh row

A churchman who led dialogue on parading disputes will spearhead independent efforts to resolve the row over the Omagh bomb memorial.

Former Presbyterian moderator the Rev John Dunlop will head a three-strong team including the Catholic and Quaker churches searching for appropriate wording on a shrine to the 1998 Real IRA victims.

Omagh District Council commissioned the monument in time for next year's 10th anniversary of the explosion. Victims' families claim the Sinn Fein-dominated council objected to having the words "dissident republican car bomb" on the memorial plaque.

Mr Dunlop said: "We were horrified by the atrocity and deeply moved by the events surrounding the bombing of the town.

"It shocked and brought tears to the eyes of people all over the world and brought messages of revulsion and support from many nations.

"We, as a team can only do what we have been asked to do with help from the bereaved or the injured and the people who were affected by the bomb."

A total of 29 people, including a woman pregnant with twins, were killed in the car bomb blast in the County Tyrone town's main shopping street.

The other members of the independent facilitation team are Father Brian Lennon, founder of Community Dialogue, and Olive Hobson, a peace-builder from the Quaker House in Belfast.

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On 30 Oct at 08:52 - Kevin from Warwickshire said:

"Dissident republicans" - what a great phrase! Does it refer to the men of 1916, or maybe to those who objected to the treaty. Or maybe those people who didn't join DeValera. Or was it those breakaway group that Mr Adams leads now? What benefit is there to be derived from using silly labels that have no meaning? Using such terminology should be a thing of the past. There will always be differences of opinion in Ireland, like in any country. Just like Nelson Mandela was once a "terrorist" and then a respected world statesman without, from what I can gather, ever changing his opinion on things. So Adams and co should look at being inclusive rather than trying to marginalise people who don't support them. If the victims don't want a momument, why impose one on them? Is Omagh Council trying to score points on one hand whilst rubbing people's faces in it on the sly?

On 30 Oct at 15:20 - Sean from Armagh said:

Whatever happened to the Sinn Fein calls for exposing the "truth", does this only apply when it isn't republicans involved? I suppose this would be the case when we are all expected to move on and forget the past, yet when the shoe is on the other foot we are supposed to expose the "truth", conveniently hypocritical isn't it.

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STARRING: Neil Armstrong, Buzz Aldrin, Mike Collins, Alan Bean.

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