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## Opinion

### Viewpoint: Confronting our past

Wednesday, September 19, 2007

It sometimes appears there is no end to the pain of the people of Omagh in the wake of the Real IRA bombing that killed 31 of its citizens.

A row has erupted over a new memorial to the dead, with relatives demanding that the inscription should state a dissident republican terrorist organisation was responsible for the atrocity.

So far, they have not received assurances that the inscription on the 'Garden of Light' memorial will include such wording.

Grieving father Michael Gallagher says: "There can be no ambiguity over what happened on August 15, 1998 and no dancing around words can distract from the truth."






That sums up the position perfectly - how can this country hope to move forward when it appears incapable of confronting the horrors of its past?

It would be a crying shame if the memorial - using state-of-the-art technology to link the bomb site to the town's Memorial Garden - became bogged down in a bitter war of words.

The RIRA carried out this appalling atrocity. So, the sooner a form of wording on the memorial bluntly states this indisputable fact, the better for all concerned.

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