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**Special
report**
Northern
Ireland

Victims: Toll from three generations

The 29 lives taken in the biggest single atrocity of the Troubles

Esther Addley
Friday December 21, 2007
[The Guardian](#)

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Some of the Omagh bomb victims. Top row, left to right: Geraldine Bresslan, Esther Gibson, Brian White, Elizabeth Rush. Bottom row, left to right: Gareth Conway, Alan Radford, Veda Short, Fred White

The Omagh bombing took the single biggest death toll in three decades of the Troubles, killing 29 people, including 11 children, and injuring more than 200.

Among the dead were four boys, aged between eight and 12, on a day trip to the town. Three - **James Barker**, **Oran Doherty** and **Sean McLaughlin** - were from Bunrana, Donegal; the fourth, **Fernando Blasco Baselga**, was on an exchange trip from Madrid. Their Spanish group leader,

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Rocio Abad Ramos, 23, was also killed.

Twenty-month-old **Breda Devine** died; her mother Tracey had 60% burns and was not told of the death for six weeks. But the youngest victim was **Maura Monaghan**, 18 months, killed with her mother **Avril Monaghan**, 30, and grandmother **Mary Grimes**, who died on her 66th birthday. Mrs Monaghan was seven months pregnant with twins. They had been shopping for clothes in SD Kells, which bore the brunt of the explosion. **Philomena Skelton**, 39, was in the shop with her three daughters when she died.

Alan Radford, 16, received fatal shrapnel wounds while shopping with his mother. His GCSE results arrived three days later. Best friends **Lorraine Wilson**, 15, and **Samantha McFarland**, 17, died after being evacuated from the Oxfam shop in which they were volunteers, and walking towards the bomb. Another Oxfam worker lost her brother **Fred White**, 60, a prize-winning daffodil grower, and nephew, Fred's son **Bryan White**, a 27-year-old horticulturalist.

Geraldine Breslin, 43, was on a tea break from her job as an assistant in Watterson's clothes shop when she was killed with her friend **Ann McCombe**, 48. **Veda Short**, 56, who had worked in the shop for 20 years, also died. Earlier that day she had attended the birth of her grandson.

Brenda Logue, 17, left her mother and grandmother in a shop to find out what was happening outside and was caught in the blast, while 17-year-old **Jolene Marlow**, a keen footballer, had been evacuated from a cafe towards the bomb. **Elizabeth Rush**, 57, died while serving in her first floor cafe.

Also killed were **Aidan Gallagher**, 21, a mechanic, **Gareth Conway**, 18, a student from Carrickmore, **Deborah-Anne Cartwright**, 20, a student who worked part time in a beauty salon, **Esther Gibson**, a 36-year-old factory worker recently engaged, and **Julia Hughes**, 21, an accountancy student who had a summer job in a photographic shop. Both **Brian McCrory**, 54, and **Olive Hawkes**, 60, had to be identified by fingerprints taken from their homes. **Sean**

McGrath, who died three weeks after the bombing, was born 61 years earlier in the street in which he was fatally wounded.

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