



Europe

Advanced Search



11° London Hi 11°C / Lo 0°C

On the Campaign Trail Live reporting from the US see Race for White House

News

Opinion

Environment

Sport

Lifestyle

Arts

Travel

Money

Extra

Student

Offers

- UK
- Europe
- World
- Business
- In the News
- People
- Science
- Media
- Education
- Robert Fisk
- Obituaries
- Corrections

from The Independent & The Independent on Sunday

Home > Europe

Omagh bombing relatives open civil case

By Anne Cadwallader
Tuesday, 8 April 2008

Relatives of victims killed in Northern Ireland's deadliest single attack launched a civil action yesterday against five people they believe were behind the 1998 Omagh bombing.

Families of those killed had reacted with outrage in December when a judge criticised the police investigation into the attack and acquitted a man of murdering 29 people, meaning no one has been convicted nearly a decade later.

The only person so far jailed in connection with Omagh, bar owner Colm Murphy from the Irish Republic, had his conviction quashed by a Dublin court in 2005. He faces a retrial.

Print Email

Search



Independent.co.uk Web

Bookmark & Share

Digg It

del.icio.us

Facebook



INDEPENDENT OFFERS

Click Here



Lord Daniel Brennan, representing six families of those killed, described the attack as a "massacre of the innocents".

"Private citizens are confronting terrorism in our courts," he told Belfast's High Court in an opening statement.

Lawyers for the four men who are defending themselves against the claim objected to them being referred to as terrorists, describing it as prejudicial, but Judge Declan Morgan said opening remarks were not a statement of fact.

In a sign of how much things have changed since the bombing, the case will also move south to the Republic of Ireland in order to hear evidence from members of the Irish police.

A spokesman for Ireland's courts service said that while cases from other jurisdictions had sat in Irish courts before, it would probably be the first transfer from Northern Ireland.

The case, expected to run for up to eight weeks, begins as Northern Ireland this week marks the 10th anniversary of a peace agreement which largely ended 30 years of violence that killed more than 3,600 people.

But tension persists between minority Catholics, who mostly want to see the province reunited with the rest of Ireland, and majority Protestants seeking to preserve British sovereignty.

The Omagh bombing, four months after the 1998 peace deal, wounded more than 200 people and was carried out by the Real Irish Republican Army, a breakaway faction opposed to a 1997 IRA truce in its campaign to oust Britain from Northern Ireland.

"The previous court appearances have always been acts carried out by the state and not always necessarily on our behalf," Michael Gallagher, whose 21-year-old son Aidan was killed in the bombing, told Reuters.

"This is something that we have complete control of and that is important."

Interesting? [Click here to explore further](#)

Print Article Email Article

Also in this section

- [Up in flames: humiliation for China as torch relay descends into chaos](#)
- [Bullfight fans lament the 'kittens' in the corrida](#)
- [Anti-abortion campaigner sparks violent clashes in Italy](#)
- [New film breaks box office record](#)



What are these?

Advertiser Links

[Mortgage](#) | [Personal Finance](#) | [iPhone](#) | [Cheap Flights](#) | [Utility Bills](#) |

Want to Make Money in Property?

I Made £30K In 4 Months - Join Free Seminar To Learn How I Did It?...

www.winpropertyinvesting.co.uk

mortgage

www.knockout-property.co.uk

Earn £14,576 Per Week Guaranteed

Work from home and earn £14k per week with this online business....

www.getrichathome.co.uk

Advertiser Links

- [Mortgage](#)
- [Personal Finance](#)
- [iPhone](#)
- [Cheap Flights](#)
- [Utility Bills](#)

Want to Make Money in Property?

I Made £30K In 4 Months - Join Free Seminar To Learn How I Did It?...

mortgage

Looking For a Low Interest Overseas Mortgage? We Can Help....

Earn £14,576 Per Week Guaranteed

Work from home and earn £14k per week with this online business....

DATING

Find your perfect partner with Independent Singles

Click Here

THE INDEPENDENT

EDITOR'S CHOICE



The tall guy: Goldblum gets personal



- [Scientists searching for the God particle](#)



- [Super drugs: Like Viagra for your brain](#)



- [The cheat's guide to marathon training](#)



- [Howard Hodgkin: What's in a name?](#)



- [What killed the beaked whales?](#)



- [The men who would be Mayor](#)



- [The love that made Mugabe a monster](#)



Photography:
Once upon a
time in Wales

Most popular in Europe

Read	Emailed	
1		Up in flames: humiliation for China as torch relay descends into chaos
2		Anti-abortion campaigner sparks violent clashes in Italy
3		The joke's on EU: A cartoon history of the European Union
4		Bullfight fans lament the 'kittens' in the corrida
5		Protests turn Paris Olympic torch run into farce
6		Stasi's official pornography department finally exposed
7		Ibiza: Is the party over?
8		The life and loves of Carla Bruni
9		Chary praise for French first lady
10		French dressing: France's first lady arrives in Britain

SPONSORED FEATURES



Independent Services

- Ticket Exchange
- Music Downloads
- Financial Brochures
- Dating
- Independent Jobs

[Independent.co.uk](#)

[The Web](#)



Day In a Page

© [independent.co.uk](#) [Legal Terms & Policies](#) | [E-mail sign-up](#) | [RSS](#) | [Contact us](#) | [Syndication](#) | [Work for INM](#) | [Advertising Guide](#) | [Group Sites](#) | [London Careers](#)

[Sun](#) | [Mon](#) | [Tue](#) | [Wed](#) | [Thu](#) | [Fri](#) | [Sat](#)

Submit