

Wednesday, June 04 2008

with

ur?



National News



15° Dublin Hi 15°C / Lo 10°C

John Giles
A
good reason we
can be optimistic
See John Giles

News

Business

Sport

Entertainment

Health

Lifestyle

Education

Travel

Jobs

Property

Cars

PlaceMyAd

More Services

from the Irish Independent & Sunday Independent

You are here: [Home](#) > [National News](#)

Omagh families want Spanish judge to have a role in inquiry

powered

by



By Alan Murray
Sunday June 01 2008

Relatives of the [Omagh](#) bomb victims have asked the Spanish government to nominate a retired judge to serve on the cross-border public inquiry they are campaigning to have established.

A letter has been sent to [Maria Fernandez](#) at [Spain's Ministry of the Interior](#) in [Madrid](#) asking her to consider selecting a retired Spanish judge to oversee any inquiry set up to examine the circumstances

Share • Print • Email

Also in National News

- Road death toll reaches 12 in five days as three more lives lost
- Solicitor faces being struck off over €1.6m funds scandal
- Funeral flights bring in best profits, says Ryanair boss
- Court releases priest arrested in

Advertiser Links

News	National News	World News	Sport	11:09
------	---------------	------------	-------	-------

Advisor

- told Bertie loans and gifts were untaxable
- 10:56 Suspicious package found at US Embassy in Dublin
- 10:53 60 jobs to be created at Hamleys store in Dublin
- 10:50 Limerick set to experience mini construction boom
- 10:07 Man's body found in undergrowth at Dublin

surrounding the devastating Omagh attack which killed 29 people and unborn twins.

Ms Fernandez is Deputy Director General for Support for Victims of Terrorism in [Spain](#) and met with [Michael Gallagher](#) and some other Omagh families during a recent trip they made to the Spanish capital.

In a letter sent by the Omagh Support and Self Help Group, Michael Gallagher says that the families have been campaigning to have a public inquiry set up to examine the Omagh bombing.

"When the time arrives that the motion for a cross-border public inquiry is passed, it is important that an international judge be part of the process to ensure the inquiry is fair and effective.

"As [Fernando Blasco](#), Baselga and [Rocio Abad Ramos](#) were both from Madrid and were killed in the bomb, the international representative should be Spanish. A retired judge or legal representative with judicial and investigative experience would be suitable for the position.

"Due to the connection between Spain and Omagh, the families represented by Omagh Support and Self Help Group are formally requesting that a judge from Spain be involved in the cross border public inquiry", the letter states.

Michael Gallagher said yesterday that even though neither the British nor Irish Governments had agreed to set up a cross border inquiry he felt it was important to be prepared for that eventuality and for the Spanish government to have an input into any inquiry.

"At the moment people are saying there is no mechanism for a cross-border inquiry but we feel that when governments choose to do something they create the mechanism that is needed at the time.

"Four appointments of the Victims Commissioner were illegal but the Government found a mechanism to make them legal and our civil action has seen a court in [Belfast](#) moving to [Dublin](#) for the first time and taking evidence, so it proves that a cross border institution can be made to work in the interests of all those affected by the Omagh bomb," he said.

"Let us now see an example of co-operation across [Europe](#). The nomination of a Spanish judge would take that forward. The families are not standing still and we are working to bring this forward at different levels. We want the Spanish government to have an input to any inquiry and give their support."

Tomorrow afternoon representatives from the families will meet the junior minister [Jeffrey Donaldson](#) at Stormont to lobby for the establishing of a cross-border inquiry.

- *Alan Murray*

[dispute over woman's will](#)

- [Man who killed friend awaits sentence](#)

[National News Home](#)

[park](#)

[more breaking news](#)



End of road?

D-Day for shamed F1 boss Mosley

Behavioural problems

Are drugs really the answer to issues?

- **Rat's entertainment**
Jason O'Callaghan is the Irish Dean Martin
- **A star's best friend**
Celebrities and their cuddly companions
- **Spain's drought**
Is Barcelona's crisis a glimpse of the future?



©[independent.ie](#) [Sitemap](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [About Us](#) | [Terms & Conditions](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Advertise with us](#) | [Group Websites](#)

Share • Print • Email