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Wednesday, 21st May 2008

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Derry lawyer hails Dublin bomb victory

Published Date: 18 May 2008

By Staff reporter

A Derry solicitor has hailed as 'unprecedented' an order issued by a court in Dublin which could see the release of sensitive documents relating to the Dublin/Monaghan bombings of 1974.

Mr. Desmond Doherty has been involved in the case for several years and represents some of the families of those who lost relatives in the loyalist bombing on May 17,1974.

A group of school children from St. Mary's in Derry had a lucky escape when

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they went back to collect something from where they were staying just minutes before the bombs exploded. Their bus driver has long claimed that he saw one of the bombers, a man he said he recognised from Derry.

Last week the High Court in Dublin ordered the state to produce the documents rejecting the defence that to release the papers would be a risk to life, endanger state security and breach confidentiality guarantees.

The court order refers to documents received by the McEntee Commission which looked into the bombings. It states that the state must produce "all notes, memoranda, correspondence statements receivedduring the course of its work from the British government and any of its agencies including

MI5 and MI6 and from any Northern Ireland Agency. It also ordered the state to produce any documents held by the Gardai.

Hailing the court victory Mr. Doherty said: "What makes this unprecedented is that the court did not simply accept the state's version that the release of these documents would be prejudicial to state security. We have come up against this time and time again in relation to Bloody Sunday and in relation to the Omagh bombing where the state claims privilege or alarmist security reasons for withholding documents.

"Where there are allegations of conspiracies or cover ups and where there are agents of the state involved the withholding of documents or information for spurious reasons simply adds to the suspicion."

He added: "This court decision comes at a time when we have had a letter from the Chief State Solicitor's Office which has confirmed that the holding of a public inquiry in relation to the Dublin/Monaghan bombings would not be 'impractical'."

The full article contains 368 words and appears in Journal Sunday newspaper.

Page 1 of 1

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