

Win a Holiday

Discover the lost city on an adventure holiday to Peru

# TIMES ONLINE



“We are creating a squad of monsters, for whom no English manager will be good enough” Martin Samuel

News Comment Business Sport Life & Style Arts & Entertainment Our Papers Audio / Video Classifieds

UK News World News Politics Environment Weather Tech & Web News Related Repdrts Top

Sponsored by Live Search

SHOP My Profile Sitemap

Where am I? Home News UK News Crime News

From Times Online December 20, 2007

## Analysis: back to square one for Omagh justice

David Sharrock, Ireland Correspondent of The Times

The acquittal of Sean Hoey, the only person to have been charged directly with the murders of the victims of Northern Ireland's greatest single act of terrorism, leaves the quest for justice back at its very beginning all over again.

In spite of the pledges of political leaders and police chiefs to leave "no stone unturned" in the aftermath of the Omagh bombing, almost a decade after a Real IRA car bomb devastated the County Tyrone market town not a single individual has been found guilty of carrying out the attack.

Sadly it is an all-too familiar record: more than 90 per cent of terrorist-related killings in Northern Ireland since the Troubles erupted in 1969 remain unsolved.

It is one of the reasons that a police-led Historical Enquiries Team is working its way chronologically through the more than 3,000 deaths, to try to finally provide answers to those who are still grieving the loss of their loved ones.

### Explore Crime News

- ▶ Crime News
- ▶ Education News
- ▶ Health News
- ▶ Science News

### Times Recommends

- ▶ Why all you need is cash for a fab advert
- ▶ O'Flynn wins Costa after 20 rejections
- ▶ Dentists defeat fashion giant over croc logo

### Law



### Related Links

- ▶ Electrician not guilty of Omagh

It is also why the past will continue not just to haunt Northern Ireland's new-found peace but also to endanger the great political strides which have been

### Today

- ▶ I pay a man for regular sex
- ▶ Angry fans home in on Sam Allardyce and...
- ▶ Tiger attack brothers 'were carrying...
- ▶ Flushed with shame at Britain

### Today

- ▶ What's smug and deserves to be...
- ▶ Tiger attack brothers 'were carrying...
- ▶ Flushed with shame at Britain
- ▶ All around me I hear the icy beast

### Today

- ▶ Air travel switches to electricity
- ▶ At 10 million years old, it's a giant baby...
- ▶ Why all you need is cash for a fab advert
- ▶ Dentists defeat fashion giant that cried...

### Focus Zone

#### Love Lager

Find out about the intriguing history of lager, from the initial brews created by Benedictine monks in the Middle Ages to today's beer

bombings

made in the last decade.

Next year a group of Omagh victims' families will finally bring their civil action to court, in which they accuse named persons of planning and carrying out the bombing attack which claimed the lives of 29 people, including an eight months pregnant woman carrying twin girls.

The trial is set to begin in Belfast on April 24, but today some of those weary relatives came close to acknowledging defeat. Michael Gallagher, who lost his 21-year-old son Aiden, conceded that the trial of Mr Hoey was "the last high-profile case that we will see over Omagh".

And he bitterly noted that for all the fine words in the wake of the bomb justice still has not been served. Omagh, he contended, was the terrorist attack of "which most is known about yet the least has been done about".

There were harsh words too for Sir Ronnie Flanagan, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary who was Chief Constable of the Royal Ulster Constabulary when the Omagh bomb took place.

Solicitor Victor Barker, whose 12-year-old son James died, blamed Sir Ronnie's "appalling inefficiency" in the early stages of the investigation for the failure to secure evidence which could lead to convictions.

Surely there can be no quarrel with the verdict. Hoey was charged before a British court and found not guilty. How can anyone quarrel with that?

Brian O Cinneide, eThekwini, Afrika Borwa

Have your say

\* Your View

\* Name

\* Email



The man who tried to sue God

... and other oddities in our list of the world's 20 weirdest legal disputes

Mccann family



Madeleine McCann

Full coverage and analysis of the latest twists in the investigation

Comment Central



Dead or alive?

Find out whether these 10 icons are still with us

Daniel Finkelstein's blog

Will human embryos be next?



JOIN THE DEBATE

Gun crime



Celebrate Sydney's Summer

sommeliers

- The Grade
- Your World
- New
- Entrepreneurs Horizons
- Business Fink Tank
- Podcast Football
- Britain's Best Business
- Kept Secrets Travel
- Wine & Dine

QUICKLINKS

Sudoku



Now Interactive

Love Sudoku? Play our brand new interactive game: with added functionality and daily prizes

Career/Jobs



Forget burnout, boreout is the new office disease

Are you irritable when you return from work? Drained of emotion? You could be suffering from boreout

Podcasts



The Bugle Podcast - Australians keep touching the Queen

Andy Zaltzman and John Oliver wonder quite what attracts Australian PMs to the Queen

Driving



BMW X5

Living in the city and buying an off-roader is like permanently wearing a condom for the one day a month you might get lucky, says Clarkson

Travel

52 great weekends for 2008

What are you up to at the weekend? And the

\* Town / City  Country / State

\* Required Field

Remember me

[Terms and conditions](#)



### Factfile: teenagers gunned down in UK

#### Crime News

### How worried should we be about gun crime?

#### Minette Marrin

### Police fiddle while children are killed

#### Money Central



### See you in court

How flat dwellers can win legal battles with landlords

#### Jean Charles de Menezes



The police shooting of Jean Charles de Menezes

#### Slide Show

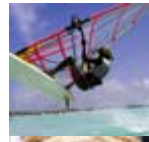
- Print
- Email
- Post to del.icio.us
- Post to newsvine
- Post to Yahoo!
- Post to Digg

#### Also in Crime News

- Container ship refloated after running aground on sandbank in the Channel
- Public shame for lawyers who break the rules
- Father in search for his runaway dog is beaten to death by gang

#### Also in UK News

- Flashman author George MacDonald Fraser dies aged 82
- Rejected author has last laugh
- Year of stress that ended with heart surgery for Sir Paul McCartney



one after? Chris Haslam has it all figured out for the whole of 2008

[Book a holiday](#)



#### Photo Galleries

### Pictures: Image of the Day gallery

A selection of photographic highlights from the last fortnight as featured in T2

[Su Doku](#)  
[Travel](#)

[Driving](#)  
[Podcasts](#)

[Career & Jobs](#)  
[Photo Galleries](#)

#### Services

- Business
- City Guides
- Free
- Finance
- Brochures
- IFA Search
- Times
- TV News
- Dating
- Free
- Credit
- Report

### Business City Guides

Overseas contacts and local business information



### THE RECKONING: how will you survive the credit crunch?



### Times Bazaar

Travel, Food & Wine, Home & Garden, Gifts, Tickets



#### Classifieds

#### Cars

**Ferrari F430 Spider**  
2007/57  
£149,500  
North West England

**Mercedes-Benz E320 CDI**

2003/53

£17,995

South East England

**Rolls-Royce Phantom LHD**

2004/04

£135,000 + VAT

South East England

**Car Insurance**

Great car insurance deals  
online

• Search for more cars and  
bikes

**Jobs**

**Account Managers (Sales  
Engineers)**

Daikin

Weybridge/Surrey/Bristol

**Analysts**

£21,633- £28,807

HEFCE

Bristol

**Sales Planner**

£

Daikin

Surrey

**Store Managers**

Competitive

Orange

Staines/ Birmingham

• Search more Jobs

**Properties**

#### **High Beech, London E4**

Beautiful 4 bedroom, 3 recep  
property

Guide Price £725,000

---

#### **Looking for a new Home?**

Visit Times Online Properties  
for Homes for Sale or Rent in  
association with  
PropertyFinder.com

---

#### **Leicester LE3**


Residential development site  
with planning permission  
£1,500,000

---

#### **Home insurance**

Great deals online

---

 Search for more properties

#### **Holidays**

##### **CHINA HIGHLIGHTS**

Eight Ancient Cities – 27 days  
From £1,990

---

##### **5\* Winter Sun**

7 nights in the Red Sea Riviera  
from only £389

---

##### **Enchanting China**

Essential highlights including  
the Yangtze - 16 days fully  
inclusive  
from only £1275

---

##### **Funway Holidays**

4 nights 3\* Las Vegas  
From £479 per person!

---

• Search for more holidays

Search Ad Reference:

Where am I? ▶ Home ▶ News ▶ UK News ▶ **Crime News**

 Contact us • [Back to top](#)

[News](#) [Comment](#) [Business](#) [Sport](#) [Life & Style](#) [Arts & Entertainment](#)

Sponsored by  **Live Search**

[Contact our advertising team](#) for advertising and sponsorship in Times Online, The Times and The Sunday Times.

© Copyright 2008 Times Newspapers Ltd.

This service is provided on Times Newspapers' [standard Terms and Conditions](#). Please read our [Privacy Policy](#). To inquire about a licence to reproduce material from Times Online, The Times or The Sunday Times, click [here](#). This website is published by a member of the News International Group. News International Limited, 1 Virginia St, London E98 1XY, is the holding company for the News International group and is registered in England No 81701. VAT number GB 243 8054 69.