Omagh: a final quest to get justice - Local & National - News - Belfast Telegraph Hi: 7°C / Lw: 4°C Weather: Monday, April 07, 2008 padzaiobs L Propertynews | Sunday Life | Communit Join in with Sky+ → Further terms apply BELFAST TELEGRAPH SPORT Belfast Telegraph - IPR Website of the Search Site **Advanced Search** niCarFinder.co.uk Home > News > Local & National Don't Miss . . . Loadzaiobs.co.uk Local & National City Guides Send us a review Belfast Telegraph TV Omagh: a final quest to get justice for the chance to **Family Notices** win a free flight Ads For Free • +Most Belfast Telegraph Email Charlton as you Emailed Article won't remember him Home +Most Heston's role News was as much political as it was Local & National Search heatrical • World news Monday, April 07, 2008 ADVERTISEMENT Politics By Lesley-Anne Henry Pregnant man on Oprah show Environment A landmark legal action being taken by relatives of the Omagh bomb victims will start in Belfast Thomas Beatie ltoday. Education tells Winfrey pregancy is a The £14m civil action, scheduled in the High Court for the next four weeks, is thought to be the families' last Letters miracle hope for justice. Opinion In the first legal action of its kind writs were served on five men, Michael McKevitt, Seamus Daly, Seamus Technology Magic Myleene McKenna, Liam Campbell and Colm Murphy, in July 2002. The families believe all five were involved in the 1998 atrocity which killed 29 people, including a mother pregnant with twins. **Breaking News** Business Members of nine bomb victim families were named among the 22 plaintiffs - however, a number of families mother have pulled out of the legal battle. It is understood seven families are now suing for physical and **Business Telegraph** psychological damage Sport A high-powered legal team headed by top London solicitor, Jason McCue, has been hired with senior Eight glasses a day? counsel Lord Brennan QC representing the families. Health Speaking ahead of the special non-jury case, Mr McCue said: "Three tonnes of boxed court evidence travelled from London to Belfast. It feels symbolic of the weight the families have tirelessly carried on their **Features** you Columnists backs during their courageous journey to court in search of justice. Today the content of those boxes will be revealed and in due course the judge will rule. Just getting here is a moral victory for the families. Entertainment

It is understood that court proceedings could shift to Dublin in May to hear evidence from 24 Garda officers.

Michael Gallagher, whose son 21-year-old Aiden was killed in the blast, said their quest for justice had been difficult: "It has been a long and difficult seven years and there have been many struggles and hurdles. We haven't had any reassurance from the Gardai that officers will give evidence. We have concerns about the Irish government dragging their heels But nothing can take away from the fact that it is a magnificent achievement that we have finally got to court.

"We are not seeking vengence we are seeking justice."

In December last year, south Armagh man Sean Hoey was cleared of 29 counts of murder relating to the 1998 Real IRA atrocity.

During his lengthy trial the families were able to watch in Omagh proceedings via videolink. This time, however, no arrangements have been made, meaning the families have to make a 150-mile round trip

Victor Barker, whose 12-year-old son James was also killed in the blast, is expected to travel from England for the hearing.

He said he would like to see senior RUC officers from the time called to give evidence.

"I have already commented before that I think the state should be responsible for prosecuting criminals and that's still my view.'

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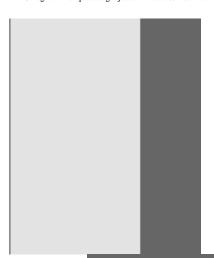
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