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away

By David Young
Monday, 11 August 2008

Ten years on from the Omagh bomb and Godfrey Wilson's pain is as raw as it was that bleak day when a policeman told him his daughter Lorraine had died.

He knows some claim the Co Tyrone town has recovered and put the past

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behind it. But for him that isn't an option. Like many victims of the

Northern Ireland Troubles he feels the world has moved on without him: "The victims have been left behind," said the 52-year-old.

"We are in a rut and can't get out of it. I've met victims who've lost loved ones over 30/35 years and they're still the same."

And with the pain there is anger, anger that no one has yet been brought to justice for the Real IRA attack that claimed the life of his 15-year-old daughter and the lives of so many other innocent people: "I was brought up to believe democracy and justice was the road to go if somebody offended or hurt you. Where is the rule of justice?"

"You have nobody been put in jail for the murder of 31 innocent people (one of the 29 victim's was pregnant with twins), call it political murder, but murder is murder no matter what way you look at it.

"It was premeditated murder, they plotted and created a situation where innocent people were going to lose their lives."

The Provisional IRA was on ceasefire when it happened and leading Sinn Fein figures, who months before it had signed the historic Good Friday Agreement peace accord, condemned the attack outright.

But Mr Wilson is deeply sceptical of the new political dispensation and and resentful that IRA men are in government.

"The system doesn't work for victims of terrorism, nobody wants to catch these people and any in jail on the Good Friday Agreement have been let out on the whim of getting terrorists into government."

Mr Wilson admits the anniversary will be hard, but no harder than any other day since he lost Lorraine: "To me it's just another day. It's hard to believe it is ten years on and where time went to so quickly.

"But the thoughts in my mind are still as fresh as the day it happened and the hurt still there and the love for my daughter who I lost," he said.



What are these?



Godfrey Wilson holds a photograph of his beloved daughter Lorraine (inset).

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