

 **Join in with Sky+ →** 

Further terms apply

**BELFAST TELEGRAPH**  
**SPORT**



ADVERTISEMENT

**Belfast Telegraph - IPR Website of the Year**

[Search Site](#)

[Advanced Search](#)

- [niCarFinder.co.uk](#)
- [Loadzajobs.co.uk](#)
- [Propertynews.com](#)
- [Belfast Telegraph TV](#)
- [Family Notices](#)
- [Ads For Free](#)
- **Belfast Telegraph**
  - [Home](#)
  - **News**
    - **Local & National**
    - [World news](#)
    - [Politics](#)
    - [Environment](#)
    - [Education](#)
    - [Letters](#)
    - [Opinion](#)
    - [Technology](#)
  - [Breaking News](#)
  - [Business](#)
  - [Business Telegraph](#)
  - [Sport](#)
  - [Health](#)
  - [Features](#)
  - [Columnists](#)
  - [Entertainment](#)
  - [Homefinder](#)
  - [Weather](#)
  - [Archive](#)
  - [Calendar 2008](#)
  - [Telegraph Travel](#)
  - [Shopping Directory](#)
- **Inside Belfast**
  - [Jobs](#)
  - [Training](#)
  - [Dating](#)
  - [Casino](#)
  - [Bingo](#)
  - [Reader Offers](#)
  - [Diners' Club](#)
- **Services**
  - [RSS](#)
  - [Media Kit](#)
- **Other Titles**

[Home](#) > [News](#) > [Local & National](#)

## Local & National

# Omagh: a final quest to get justice

Monday, April 07, 2008

By Lesley-Anne Henry

A landmark legal action being taken by relatives of the Omagh bomb victims will start in Belfast today.

The £14m civil action, scheduled in the High Court for the next four weeks, is thought to be the families' last hope for justice.

In the first legal action of its kind writs were served on five men, Michael McKeivitt, Seamus Daly, Seamus 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.

Members of nine bomb victim families were named among the 22 plaintiffs - however, a number of families have pulled out of the legal battle. It is understood seven families are now suing for physical and psychological damage.

A high-powered legal team headed by top London solicitor, Jason McCue, has been hired with senior counsel Lord Brennan QC representing the families.

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 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."

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 Gardaí 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 vengeance 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 every day.

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."

### More articles in Local & National

- [Shannon Matthews: Mother arrested](#)
- [Internet used to organise a riot between rival gangs](#)

Email Article  
 Print Version  
 Search

+Most Emailed  
 +Most Read

ADVERTISEMENT

### Don't Miss . . .

**City Guides**

Send us a review for the chance to win a free flight



**Charlton as you won't remember him**



Heston's role was as much political as it was theatrical

**Pregnant man on Oprah show**



Thomas Beatie tells Winfrey pregnancy is a miracle

**Magic Myleene**



BBC presenter talks about life as a working mother

**Eight glasses a day?**



No evidence that drinking extra water is good for you

**UK's worst dressed men?**



Are the stars being wronged by GQ magazine?

**Inspiring women**



Coronation Street's 'Cilla' speaks at conference

**Last post**



List of the Ulster post offices set to close

**Mark Steel**



You couldn't make it up unless you're Hillary

ADVERTISEMENTS

Sunday Life

Community Telegraph

- [Firemen flee blazing vehicle after ambush by violent mob](#)
- [More winter weather on the way as spring bites](#)
- [House sales to tumble](#)

LoadzaJobs.co.uk

The place  
to go when  
you want  
to go  
places



Letters to the Editor  
[Click Here](#)

BELFAST TELEGRAPH



Letters...  
[Click here to  
read your views](#)

ADVERTISEMENTS

## World in Pictures

### 2008

[January](#)  
[February](#)  
[March](#)

### 2007

[Jan & Feb](#)  
[March](#)  
[April](#)  
[May](#)  
[June](#)  
[July](#)  
[August](#)  
[September](#)  
[October](#)  
[November](#)  
[December](#)

## Video

### Video: Titanic town



Ship's Belfast beginnings celebrated in exhibition

### BT Woman of the Year



Applauding Ulster's most exceptional women

### Omagh blaze tragedy



Special report on Northern Ireland's worst house fire

### Belfast Telegraph Property Awards



Celebrating excellence at the inaugural awards gala

### Best view in town



Special multimedia report on Belfast Wheel

## In Pictures . . .

### News

[Paisley quits](#)  
[Victoria Square](#)  
[Building collapse](#)  
[Ulster Fry event](#)  
[The Twelfth](#)  
[Bull Run](#)  
[Award-winners](#)  
[Flooded Ulster](#)  
[Sunny Northern Ireland](#)  
[Devolution Day](#)  
[Assembly Elections](#)  
[Maze tumbles](#)  
[Blair quits](#)  
[Last watchtower](#)  
[Carrick-a-rede](#)

### Events

[St Patrick's Day](#)  
[Derry Xmas](#)  
[Boss is back](#)  
[Xmas: what a turn on](#)  
[Property Awards](#)  
[50 Cent](#)  
[Enrique Iglesias](#)  
[Halloween](#)  
[Fantasy Fest](#)  
[Rolling Stones](#)  
[Oxygen 07](#)

[Beach Party 07](#)  
[Balmoral Show](#)  
[Razorlight](#)  
[St Patrick's Day](#)  
[Mardis Gras](#)  
[Justin Timberlake](#)  
[Brit Awards 07](#)

**Sport**

[N Ireland v Georgia](#)  
[Spain 1 Norm Iron 0](#)  
[Win over Denmark](#)  
[Windsor win](#)  
[Golf: Rory McIlroy](#)  
[British Open](#)  
[Copa America Final](#)  
[N Ireland v Sweden](#)  
[Six Nations](#)  
[World in Sport](#)