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TUESDAY
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Palestinian teens to meet Omagh relatives

Teenagers from the war-torn West Bank are to meet with families of the Omagh Bomb victims

this week as the anniversary of the atrocity approaches.

The 16 youngsters from the Palestinian village of Zebabdeh are taking part in the Youth Connections for Peace project in conjunction with a Dublin school.

The group, which is part of an ecumenical group of Palestinian Christians, hope to learn peace-building skills during its week-long exchange visit.

The teenagers will meet privately in coming days with relatives of those killed and injured by the Omagh Bomb.

A total of 29 people died in the Co Tyrone town massacre on August 15, 1998 - the biggest single atrocity of Northern Ireland's Troubles.

The Omagh Support and Self Help Group has spent almost £2m preparing a civil action against those it believes is responsible for the bombing.

The Ireland/Palestine exchange project is the brainchild of Dublin school teacher, Lucinda Packham who recently visited Zebabdeh.

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- 11:50 First Trust profits up by fifth
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- 09:43 Magners sales dampened
- 09:25 Co Down sailor killed
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- 09:06 Freedom of information sought
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"It aims to connect young Irish and Palestinian people, explore their sense of identity and build confidence," said Ms Packham, from Ballinteer Community School in south Co Dublin.

The exchange is funded by the Leargas education service with additional support from aid agencies, Irish churches and the Glencree Centre for Reconciliation.

"Their activities will focus on peace-building skills and learning how to make a scrapbook about their faith in action in their communities," added Ms Packham.

Palestinian group leader Rev Fadi Diab said most of the teenagers have never travelled outside the West Bank before.

"They are excited by this opportunity to make new friends in Ireland," he added.

The group attended the All Ireland Senior Hurling Championship quarter final between Limerick and Clare at Croke Park on Sunday last.

They are due to visit St Patrick`s Cathedral on Friday to participate in an educational project which focuses on the story of St Patrick.

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