



undefined

Sections

1. [The Irish Times](#)
 2. [Breaking News](#)
 3. [Sport](#)
 4. [Business](#)
 5. [Technology](#)
 6. [Weather](#)
 7. [In Focus](#)
 8. [Blogs](#)
 9. [Archive Search](#)
 10. [Family Notices](#)
- [Editions](#)

Search for

- [Jobs](#)
- [Homes](#)
- [Cars](#)

Services

- [Premium Email](#)
- [Games](#)
- [Dating](#)
- [Travel](#)
- [Frontpage Sales](#)
- [Photosales](#)

- [Ancestors](#)
- [Irish Times Training](#)
- [Mobile](#)
- [Reader Offers](#)

 [RSS Feeds](#)



Monday, June 9, 2008

[Previous Day](#)

- [Home](#) |
- [Irish](#) |
- [World](#) |
- [Business](#) |
- [Sports](#) |
- [Technology](#)
- | [News Quiz](#)

[Next Day](#) 

Last Updated: 09/06/2008 17:28

Garda denies concocting Omagh evidence

A senior Garda officer who investigated the Omagh bombing today denied he concocted and manufactured the interview notes of a prime suspect.

Detective Garda James Hanley rejected claims officers added a flavour of authenticity to statements by inserting stock Garda phrases.

Dermot Fee QC, for Colm Murphy, told the landmark civil action that similar statements appeared in the transcript of notes taken by the retired officer in other high-profile court cases in the Republic.

The barrister criticised Mr Hanley's evidence that Garda members did not exchange information between interviews.

Mr Fee also raised concerns over why interviews were not tape recorded, times they were conducted not noted, and queried why there were only a small number of notes from interviews which were up to four hours long.

“Mr Murphy says he made no incriminating admissions or remarks at anytime during his interview,” said Mr Fee. “What he says happened here is more has been added on to the interview notes by gardaí.”

Mr Fee accused the officers of concocting admissions in order to make Mr Murphy liable for the incident.

“I deny that happened,” said Mr Hanley.

The Omagh bomb exploded on August 15th, 1998, killing 29 people including a pregnant woman with twins.

Alleged Real IRA leader Michael McKevitt; Liam Campbell, said to be his number two; Colm Murphy; Séamus McKenna and Séamus Daly all deny any involvement.

The court heard Mr Murphy was arrested in February 1999 for the unlawful possession of explosive substances in Dundalk between August 13th and 15th 1998.

He was interviewed 16 times by three teams of gardaí during his three-day detention at Monaghan Garda Station.

Mr Fee said his client’s position throughout his criminal trial was that interviewing officers concocted and made an agreement to manufacturer admissions.

Mr Murphy (56), was convicted in connection with Omagh in 2002, but later had his conviction overturned following claims two officers lied during his trial.

Detective Gardaí John Fahy and Liam Donnell had pleaded not guilty to charges of perjury, forgery and using a forged document.

During their trial in October 2006, a judge at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court directed the jury to find the detectives not guilty on grounds that the forged interview notes and technical analysis of them were inadmissible.

Mr Fee claimed when Mr Murphy adopted a stance on day two not to comment on Omagh, gardaí stopped reading back notes and manufacturing admissions.

He said Mr Murphy’s statements included a number of “stock Garda phrases” which he claimed also appeared in previous interviews conducted by Mr Hanley following the murder of journalist Veronica Guerin.

The barrister read a line from one of Murphy’s interviews: “This is a dangerous scene I’m happy if I get

20 years. My conscious is clear. I wasn't in Omagh.”

“This phrase came from you, the garda interviewing Mr Murphy. He never uttered those words,” said Mr Fee.

Mr Hanley replied: “He said those exact words.”

The evidence from gardaí is being heard by District Judge Conal Gibbons in the presence of Mr Justice Declan Morgan who has presided over the case in Belfast Crown Court but has no judicial powers in Dublin.

© 2008 ireland.com

Related links

From The Irish Times

- [30/05/2008 Omagh bomb-accused gave selective explanations to questionin, gcourt told](#)
- [16/05/2008 Senior garda wanted e-mail suppressed, Omagh trial told](#)

 [Email to a Friend](#) |  [Email to Author](#) |  [Print this Page](#)

[BACK TO TOP](#) 

[ireland.com TV - News](#)



[New cancer drug reduces recurrence](#)

[View video](#)

Article Tools

 [Email to a Friend](#)

 [Email to Author](#)

 [Post to del.icio.us](#)

 [Print this Page](#)

 [Post to Newsvine](#)

ADVERTISEMENT

Most popular stories

- [Most Read](#)

- [Most Emailed](#)

1. [Transport chief's Dublin plan: confuse drivers to cut crashes](#)
2. [Same old story for Ireland](#)
3. [FitzGerald rules out redrawing Lisbon](#)
4. [Are we out of our minds?](#)
5. [Vote will decide State's future progress, says Cowen](#)

Based on usage over last 24 hours

Your Vote

Should drink-drivers be fined rather than put off the road for a first offence?

Yes

No

Archive

Click a date to view the paper on that day

			◀ ▶			
M	T	W	T	F	S	S

[Breaking News](#)

[Breaking news alert](#)

The Irish Times Breaking News Alert, a lunchtime (GMT) roundup of breaking news 5 days a week to your mailbox.

» [Click here to subscribe](#)

[Images of the Day](#)

[The day's best pictures chosen by The Irish Times picture editor.](#)



© 2008 ireland.com

- [About us](#) |
- [Privacy policy](#) |
- [Help](#) |
- [Contact us](#) |
- [Advertise](#) |
- [Terms & conditions](#) |
- [Site map](#)