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## 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](#)

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

## Services

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

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

 [RSS Feeds](#)



Tuesday, May 27, 2008

[Previous Day](#)

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

Last Updated: 27/05/2008 06:52

## Omagh civil action to resume in Dublin

A landmark civic court case against five men accused of carrying out the worst atrocity of the Northern Ireland conflict will reopen in Dublin today.

The action by six families is against five men they believe are responsible for the RIRA blast in August 1998 which killed 29 people, including a woman pregnant with twins.

Alleged RIRA leader Michael McKeivitt, Liam Campbell, said to be his number two, Colm Murphy, Seamus McKenna and Seamus Daly all deny any involvement in the bomb attack.

The groundbreaking court case is the first time the victims of terrorism are confronting the alleged perpetrators and the first time evidence from a Northern Ireland case has been heard in the Republic.

More than 50 gardai were summonsed to testify in the District Court in Dublin.

When the case first sat two weeks ago, barristers had planned to take evidence from the first 29 officers.

However, just seven gardai took the witness box before the case was adjourned until today. A further four statements were read into the record in Belfast.

Lawyers for the families are now expected to apply for an extension to continue sitting in the Republic.

Evidence is being heard by District Court Judge Conal Gibbons in the presence of Mr Justice Morgan, who has presided over the case in Belfast Crown Court but had no judicial powers in Dublin.

**PA**

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