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MPs to question reporter about Omagh 'bugging'

By Sam Lister
Saturday, 14 March 2009

Allegations made in a BBC documentary about the Omagh bombing will be scrutinised by Westminster politicians.

The Northern Ireland Affairs committee announced it plans to question Panorama reporter John Ware about claims made in the programme that British security officials were listening to the bombers.

It follows a calls from the families of the victims for a hearing by the MPs, who they hope will make a balanced report on the claims.

They also hope former Police Ombudsman Nuala O'Loan and retired RUC officers who held senior anti-terrorist positions at the time, will agree to tell MPs what they learned from GCHQ before and after the attack which left 29 people and unborn twins dead.

Michael Gallagher, whose son Aidan was killed in the explosion, sent a letter to the chairman of the Committee, Sir Patrick Cormack, asking him to set up a hearing to take evidence from Mr Ware and others who could help the MPs piece together what happened before and after the attack, and explain why the bombers were not caught.

He said the recent report by Sir Peter Gibson, the Intelligence Services Commissioner, into what GCHQ knew was inadequate.

The hearing will be held on March 25 in the Commons.

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