



Mayor Kieran O'Hanlon lays a flower at the monument in Rhodes, Greece, which was erected in memory of the 33 people who died at Oscar restaurant, including three women from Limerick city

# Rhodes tragedy that claimed three Limerick lives recalled

■ Mayor attends monument unveiling in memory of 1972 fire in which 22 perished

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THE 1972 Greek fire in which three Limerick women were killed has been officially commemorated in Rhodes, Greece.

Mayor of Limerick City and County Council, Cllr Kieran O'Hanlon was in Greece for the unveiling of a monument in memory of the

33 people who lost their lives, including Theresa O'Shaughnessy, Mary Allen and Josephine Deenihan from Limerick city.

The event, on September 25, signalled the first time in 44 years that the tragedy has been officially recognised by the Greek authorities.

"It was very dignified, and we feel it's what the girls deserve, because their lives

were so short," said Theresa's nephew Padraig Power.

Mr Power has tirelessly campaigned for three years for an official acknowledgement of the tragedy.

"It far exceeded our expectations, because they put up a big monument there, and there was a huge cross-section of Greek

society in attendance," he said.

"We were just overwhelmed by the generosity of everyone over there, and how the Rhodes mayor embraced us and acknowledged what had happened.

"It was a big deal for him as well, as he met some resistance. They hadn't wanted to acknowledge it

before, as it was such a blot on their history," Mr Power explained.

Thirty other people from Greece, Sweden and Denmark were also killed in the blaze. Ambassadors from Sweden and Denmark joined the Irish Ambassador to Greece, Noel Kilkenny, at the event. Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras also sent a representative to the

occasion.

"At the time, communications were difficult. For a tragic thing to happen at home is one thing, but to be abroad is unimaginable," said Mayor O'Hanlon.

"I am honoured as mayor to be able to remember these people on behalf of the people of Limerick."



Mayor of Limerick, Cllr Kieran O'Hanlon, Mayor of Rhodes Fotis Chatzidiakos and the Irish Ambassador to Greece, Noel Kilkenny PICTURE: DEIRDRE POWER



Brónagh Power holds a rose for her grand-aunt Theresa O'Shaughnessy during the unveiling ceremony PICTURE: DEIRDRE POWER



LIT is planning to the northside of

## LIT fa delays Coonagh

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**COLM WARD**  
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RATHKEALE Historical will begin its of historical Friday with a Tim

a member of negotiating te Northern Irel Process and Friday Agree

Mr O'Co native of Kill former secr eral to Presic McAleese, wi lecture enti Good Friday / -18 Years A-C View from V ick' in the Arts Centre t at 8.30pm.

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