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Brave victims in court to face beast who abused them

BYLINE: By Wilma Riley

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THREE men yesterday relived the "sickening" sex abuse they suffered from a teacher more than 30 years ago.

Children from a deaf club were targeted at a youth camp organised by Colin Macdonald, 61, who plied them with drink before molesting them.

George Drinnan, 45, Jim Colhoun, 48, and Joseph McIntyre, 46, bravely waived their right to anonymity to urge other victims to come forward.

They spoke after sentence on Macdonald was deferred pending psychiatric reports at the High Court in Glasgow.

Macdonald, from Wakefield in West Yorkshire, was found guilty last month of 10 charges of abusing children in his care between 1973 and 1983.

But police fear there could be up to 100 more victims who have not come forward.

Mr Drinnan, Mr Colhoun, and Mr McIntyre described how Macdonald abused them on camping and skiing trips during school holidays.

Speaking through an interpreter for the deaf Mr McIntyre said Macdonald sickened him and he just wanted to see him jailed.

"When we went on skiing trips as young boys, he fed us alcohol and then he would touch us up while other people were sleeping, " he said.

"You carry this around when you get brought home and you can't tell your parents because you're terrified.

"It ruined lives. There is something in your head. It's not nice." Mr Drinnan said he would never forget what had happened and revealed he still suffering flashbacks.

"It's always in my mind, it's stuck there, " he said. "When Colin is sent down, deaf people will be happier. We are not going to let him get away with it.

"I hope that others who have been abused will come forward.

I think there are lots of them.

Some don't want to come forward. They are ashamed." Mr Colhoun spoke about how being abused by Macdonald had changed his life.

"He ruined my childhood, " he said. "I just hope I can get closure when he is jailed." During Macdonald's trial, the High Court in Kilmarnock heard that he was a trusted instructor whose skills in mountaineering and outdoor activities placed him in demand at youth camps.

But he carried out attacks on boys in his care at various locations including Glasgow, Glendoll, Sutherland, Mallaig, Glencoe, Aviemore and the isles of Rum and Harris.

His youngest victim was just 10 and the oldest 15.

Macdonald, who is originally from Glasgow, was finally caught after two of his victims exchanged text messages decades later and went to the police.

He later admitted abuse while being questioned by Northern Constabulary but fled after the allegations emerged.

During his trial, eight charges were dropped but he was found guilty of 10 charges of sodomy and attempted sodomy, sexual assault and lewd and libidinous behaviour.

Macdonald, who is deaf and unable to speak, was also put on the Sex Offenders Register.

When he appeared yesterday, Macdonald's victims were there from all over Scotland, along with two from London, in the hope of seeing him being sentenced.

Judge Lord Malcolm said the four-week delay, for psychiatric reports, was "unfortunate and unsatisfactory".

MacDonald will now be sentenced at the High Court in Edinburgh next month.

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GRAPHIC: SPEAKING OUT: Jim Colhoun, George Drinnan and Joseph McIntyre bravely revealed the horrific abuse they suffered at the hands of perverted Macdonald, above. The men say they fear there may be even more victims who were too scared to come forward

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