

24 of 1000 DOCUMENTS

# THE TIMES

The Times (London)

September 12, 2008 Friday

## Man raped deaf children on camping trip

**SECTION:** HOME NEWS; Scotland; Pg.11

**LENGTH:** 532 words

Three men who were sexually abused as children by a teacher who ran camping and skiing trips for deaf children have urged other victims of his attacks to come forward.

The three men, who are deaf, said that Colin MacDonald, 61, had attacked them during school holidays at his youth camps, saying that he had plied them with alcohol.

Speaking outside the High Court in Glasgow yesterday, George Drinnan, 45, Jim Colhoun, 48, and Joseph McIntyre, 46, said that they had endured years of anguish as a result of MacDonald's abuse.

MacDonald, who is also deaf and without speech, was earlier convicted of sexually abusing ten boys from 1973 to 1983. The men believe that there may be up to 100 other victims who have yet to come forward.

Mr Drinnan said: "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."

Referring to the abuse, Mr Drinnan said: "It mostly happened on camping holidays. I'll never forget it. It's always on my mind. It sticks there. I still get flashbacks."

Mr Colhoun said: "He ruined my childhood. I just hope I can get closure when he is jailed."

Mr McIntyre added: "I have suffered for over 30 years. The abuse happened on skiing trips. They were good. But at night MacDonald plied us with alcohol and he would touch us up while other people were sleeping.

"You carry this around when you get brought home and you can't tell your parents because you're terrified. We couldn't tell anyone. It ruined lives. There is something in your head. It's not nice.

"When Colin is sent down deaf people will be happier. We're not going to let him get away with it."

During his trial at the High Court in Kilmarnock, MacDonald, of Sun Lane, Wakefield, but formerly of Glasgow, denied the charges against him, forcing his victims to give evidence through sign language interpreters. The accounts were harrowing. One victim told the court that when MacDonald abused him he screamed out, but no one could hear him because all his companions were deaf.

Man raped deaf children on camping trip The Times (London) September 12, 2008 Friday

The abuse took place during camping trips in Aviemore, Glencoe, Mallaig, Harris, Rhum and Sutherland and at various addresses in Glasgow and Ayrshire. His youngest victim was 10 and his oldest 15.

MacDonald's attacks came to light two years ago, after Mr Drinnan went to the police to report what had happened to him.

During a police interview, MacDonald claimed that his accusers were troublemakers.

Paul Burns, the solicitor advocate, said that MacDonald had an international reputation in mountaineering and had taken part in the Deaf Olympics.

MacDonald, who has been placed on the Sex Offenders' Register, was due to be sentenced at the High Court in Glasgow, but because a psychiatric report was unavailable, the case was deferred until next month.

Judge Lord Malcolm said that the four-week delay was "unfortunate and unsatisfactory".

MacDonald's victims had travelled from across Britain to see him being sentenced. They said that they were disappointed the case had not been concluded. MacDonald will be sentenced at the High Court in Edinburgh next month.

Paedophile blackmail, page 28

**LOAD-DATE:** September 13, 2008

**LANGUAGE:** ENGLISH

**PUBLICATION-TYPE:** Newspaper

**JOURNAL-CODE:** tt

Copyright 2008 Times Newspapers Limited  
All Rights Reserved