

Brothers' friends relieved

By Heather Kopp

EAST LONDON — Friends of the Weakley brothers who were shot dead near Port St Johns in 1993 said yesterday they were relieved that the trial of three men convicted of the killings had finally been completed.

The brothers, Alastair, 43, and Glenn, 48, were shot and killed while returning from a fishing trip in April, 1993.

Mr Alastair Weakley's partner at the time, Mrs Chloe O'Keeffe, said she felt the sentence of 25 years' jail for each of the three accused was fair.

Mrs O'Keeffe said she hoped the killers would serve most of the 25 years.

"But I feel we cannot only blame them; we have to bear in mind the political situation in the country at the time.

"I believe that those who instilled the apartheid policies also have something to answer for," Mrs O'Keeffe said.

She said besides herself, there were many other people, including family members, who had been following the case closely and now "we can all finally put this case behind us".

She thanked the Daily Dispatch for its coverage of the lengthy trial which took nearly four years to complete.

She said she hoped the case would force judicial authorities to give serious attention to the lengthy process of some trials.

25-year prison sentence for killers of Weakleys

By Stan Mzimba

UMTATA — After a marathon trial, three men convicted of murdering the Weakley brothers were each sentenced in the high court here yesterday to 25 years' jail.

Pumele Hermanus, 28, Mlulamisi Maxhayi, 22, and Lungile Mazwi, 27, were found guilty of murdering Grahamstown attorney Allistair Weakley, 43, and his engineer brother, Glenn, 48, on April 13, 1993.

They were also convicted on three counts of attempted murder related to shots fired at Mr Keith Rumble, Mr Brent Rumble and Thomas O'Keefe.

Maxhayi was ordered to serve a further one-year jail term, to run concurrently, for illegal possession of firearms and ammunition. All counts were taken as one for the purpose of sentence.



ALLISTAIR WEAKLEY

In his confession, ruled admissible after a lengthy trial within a trial, Hermanus said the killings were meant to avenge the death of the South African Communist Party leader, Mr Chris Hani.

Passing sentence, Mr Justice H E Davies said that since Hermanus and Maxhayi were ANC members they must have heard President Nelson Mandela's plea for restraint

after Mr Hani's death.

"It is ironical that Mr Allistair Weakley was born in Cofimvaba which is also the birthplace of Mr Hani.

Mr Weakley was a fluent Xhosa linguist and a friend of many black Transkeians, the judge said.

Although the accused displayed no remorse, Mr Justice Davies said he would not sentence them to life imprisonment as he did not find them aggressive. He said he saw nothing to reduce the moral blameworthiness of Mazwi because he was not a member of the ANC.

A warrant of arrest for a fourth accused, Mr Zongezile Mxhiza, was issued last November when he failed to attend court. A fifth accused, Mr Vuyani Nyolukana, died in a shootout with police in Flagstaff early last year.