

Teens handed 8-to-10-year jail terms over brutal Koskela killing

The prosecution had demanded slightly longer sentences of 12, 9-and-a-half and 11 years. The three defendants still have the option to appeal the court's decision.

Helsinki District Court on Friday handed down prison terms to three teenage boys for taking part in a violent attack that left another boy dead in the Koskela district late last year. All three were convicted of murder committed as a minor.

According to previous testimony, the teens lured the boy to a hospital area in the district on the evening of Friday, 4 December 2020. Then, after brutally beating him, they left the victim at the scene, where his body was discovered three days later.

The perpetrators and victim were all 16 years old at the time of the deadly attack.

Testimony also showed that the boys had assaulted and relentlessly bullied the victim at the same location every Friday for a period of three weeks.

Following court-ordered psychiatric evaluations, the young defendants were found to be **criminally responsible** for their actions.

On Friday, the district court sentenced one of the defendants to a prison term of 10 years and 1 month. The second defendant was sentenced to 9 years and 2 months and the third was handed a prison sentence of 8 years and 2 months.

Prosecutor wanted longer sentences

The prosecution had demanded slightly longer sentences of 12, 9-and a-half and 11 years.

The boys were convicted of charges including manslaughter committed by a minor, as well as other crimes including assault and robbery committed by a minor.

Since the defendants were minors at the time of the crime, the penalties were less severe than if they had been adults. The court said its sentencing was also influenced by the extent to which each of the defendants had taken part in the violence.

According to the court, the defendants must have known that it was likely the victim would die as a result of their actions.

The defendants are jointly obliged to pay the victim's parents 12,000 euro, each, for pain and suffering.

The defendants were ordered to remain in custody. The boys have been held in pre-trial detention since 10 December 2020.

The district court ruling is not final, as the verdicts and sentencing can still be appealed.

When sentencing is eventually finalised, due to being convicted as minors, the defendants will be able to apply for parole after serving a third of their sentences.

4.9: Clarified that all three were convicted of murder.