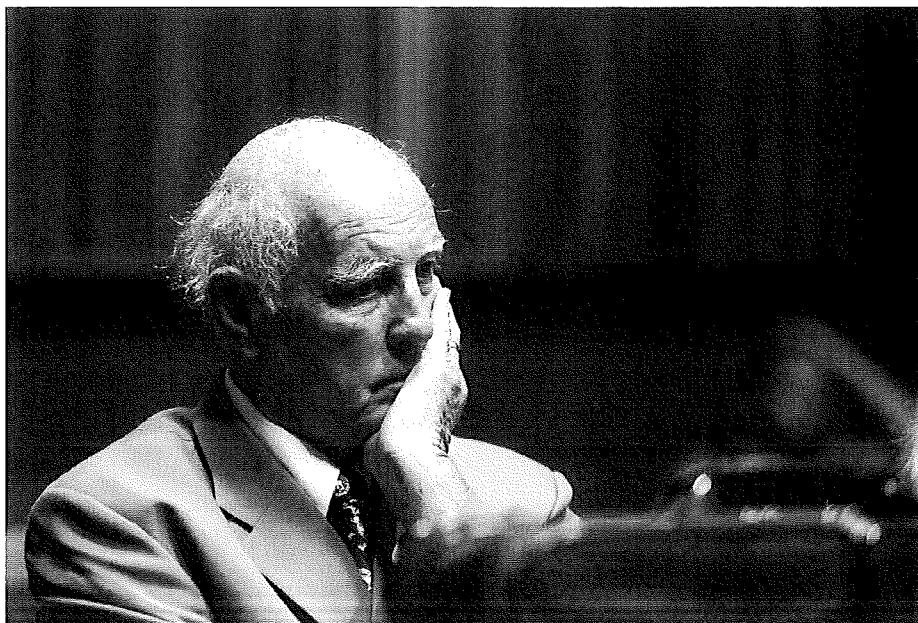


Rapist Bob Hewitt enters prison in Port Elizabeth

Tuesday 20 September 2016 - 11:46am



Australian-born former tennis champion Bob Hewitt appears in the Johannesburg High Court in Palm Ridge on February 10 2015.
Donald Lobelo

PORT ELIZABETH - Disgraced former tennis pro Bob Hewitt handed himself over to authorities at St Albans prison in Port Elizabeth on Tuesday.

Hewitt is expected to start his six-year jail term for the rape and sexual assault of three teenage girls who were his tennis students in the 1980s and 1990s.

It is just over a week since the Constitutional Court rejected Hewitt's bid to have his rape conviction overturned.

READ: Hewitt regrets replying to love letters

The Women and Men against Child Abuse (WAMACA) advocacy group said that Hewitt had approached the state for permission to hand himself in at the St Albans Correctional Facility, which is close to his home at Addo.

This was approved by the Johannesburg High Court due to Hewitt's ailing health and his inability to travel the distance to Johannesburg.

WAMACA director Miranda Friedmann said that she and her advocacy team would fly from Johannesburg on Tuesday to be at St Albans when Hewitt handed himself in.

She told eNCA: "It's an incredible relief, it's an incredible sense of achievement, it's an incredible sense of victory today. It's been a very long

struggle, it has taken a team ... it has really been a team effort to bring down Bob Hewitt."

Friedmann said that the odds had been stacked against his victims. "Our organisation has been with them throughout. I've seen their courage first-hand, as well as the toll the process has taken. Seeing Hewitt behind bars will be a victory for them."

One of the women who was abused by Hewitt, Theresa 'Twiggy' Tolken, said she had been waiting for justice for a very long time.

"My mother and I have been waiting for tomorrow [Tuesday] for a very long time. I just wish my dad was around to witness this day. Bob Hewitt has tried to evade justice and tried anything at his disposal to stay out of jail for the past few years! He has continually lied about his despicable actions," said Tolken.

"The truth always catches up with you and hopefully this is a lesson for other paedophiles out there: don't ever think you are above the law, you will be caught.

"To all the other victims, don't be afraid to speak up, there are people and organisations like Women and Men Against Child Abuse out there who will hold you up and support you through your ordeal."

<https://www.enca.com/south-africa/bob-hewitt-to-hand-himself-over-to-authorities-in-port-elizabeth>

