

New evidence in West Memphis 3 case

by UPI

WEST MEMPHIS, Ark. -- New evidence emerged from defense attorneys for three Arkansas teenagers convicted of killing three 8-year-old boys in 1994. The three victims were last seen riding their bikes on May 5, 1993, in West Memphis, Ark. Their bound, naked and mutilated bodies were found the next day in a drainage ditch. Jason Baldwin and Jessie Misskelley are serving life in prison, while Damien Echols is on death row after their 1994 trial in which they were dubbed the West Memphis 3. However, in federal papers filed Monday at the U.S. Appeals Court in Atlanta, the defense team claims there was no physical evidence connecting the three clients with the homicides, the mutilation was done by animals and at least one person other than the defendants may have been present at the crime scene, The New York Times reported. "This is the first time that the evidence has ever really been tested," defense team member Gerald Skahan told the Times "The first trial was pretty much a witch hunt."

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