

Belgian identical twins in tragic case of euthanasia



The identical twins ... tragically chose to die

A PAIR of deaf identical twins chose to be killed by doctors when they discovered they would go blind - because they couldn't bear the thought of never seeing each other again.

The 45-year-old men from Antwerp, Belgium, had spent their entire lives together, shared a flat and both worked as cobblers.

They were euthanised by doctors at Brussels University Hospital, in Jette, on December 14 by lethal injection.

Dr David Dufour, who oversaw the euthanasia, said: "They were very happy. It was a relief to see the end of their suffering."

He also said: "They had a cup of coffee in the hall, it went well and a rich conversation. The separation from their parents and brother was very serene and beautiful. At the last there was a little wave of their hands and then they were gone."

The men were killed by doctors at Brussels University Hospital, Jette, on December 14 by lethal

injection.

The case is the first of its kind because under Belgian law euthanasia is only allowed if the person is able to make his wishes clear and a doctor judges that he is suffering unbearable pain.

The twins were not terminally ill, nor were they suffering unbearable pain.

As a result, the law is due to be changed to allow minors and people with Alzheimer's to seek euthanasia.

Belgium is the only European country other than Switzerland to allow euthanasia.

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