



PRESS RELEASE

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JEMEZ PUEBLO MAN PLEADS GUILTY
TO FEDERAL ASSAULT CHARGE

ALBUQUERQUE -- This afternoon in federal court, Jerome Dominic Concha, 19, a member and resident of Jemez Pueblo, pled guilty to a one-count indictment charging him with an assault resulting in serious bodily injury. Concha entered his guilty plea without the benefit of a plea agreement.

At sentencing, Concha faces a maximum penalty of ten years of imprisonment to be followed by up to three years of supervised release, and restitution as ordered by the Court. Concha remains on conditions of release under pretrial supervision pending his sentencing hearing, which has yet to be scheduled.

U.S. Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Concha pleaded guilty to assaulting a Taos Pueblo man on Jan. 7, 2011. In entering his guilty plea, Concha admitted beating his victim about the head and face with his fists on Jan. 7, 2011, within the boundaries of the Taos Pueblo. Concha further admitted that the victim suffered serious bodily injuries as a result of the attack.

Court filings reflect that the victim had to undergo surgery to repair fractures to the orbit of his eye and nasal passages that he sustained during the assault. The victim also suffered orbital nerve injuries, visual problems and vertigo as a result of the attack.

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Services, Northern Pueblos Agency, with assistance from the Taos Pueblo Department of Public Safety. Assistant U.S. Attorney Niki Tapia-Brito is prosecuting the case.

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