

For Immediate Release  
May 27, 2011

**TAOS MAN DETAINED ON FEDERAL ASSAULT  
WITH DANGEROUS WEAPON OFFENSE**

***Non-Indian Allegedly Assaulted Member of Picuris Pueblo on Pueblo Land***

ALBUQUERQUE – Earlier today in federal court in Albuquerque, **Edward C. Gurule**, 32, of Taos, New Mexico, made his initial appearance on a criminal complaint charging him with assault with a dangerous weapon. If convicted of this offense, Gurule faces up a maximum penalty of ten years' imprisonment, three years of supervised release, and a \$250,000 fine. During today's proceedings, Gurule waived his right to a preliminary hearing and entered a not guilty plea. Gurule also waived his right to a detention hearing and will remain detained pending trial, which has yet to be scheduled.

United States Attorney Kenneth J. Gonzales said that Gurule, a non-Indian, was charged with assaulting an enrolled member of the Pueblo of Picuris (Victim) in a residence located within the Pueblo of Picuris. According to the criminal complaint, the assault occurred at approximately 2:30 a.m. on May 21, 2011 in the Victim's residence. The complaint alleges that the Victim's two daughters got into a verbal dispute that escalated into a physical altercation. The disturbance woke the Victim and, when he attempted to stop the fight by stepping in between his daughters, Gurule suddenly came out of a bedroom and attacked the Victim. During his assault on the Victim, Gurule struck him over the head with a lamp. The Victim allegedly sustained a laceration on the left side of the head, which bled profusely, and two lacerations on his left elbow as a result of Gurule's assault, and had to be transported to a medical facility for treatment. Gurule, the boyfriend of one of the daughters, allegedly was in the residence without the Victim's knowledge or permission.

The case was investigated by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Justice Services, Northern Pueblos Agency, and is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Shana B. Long.

A criminal complaint is only an accusation. All criminal defendants are entitled to a presumption of innocence until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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