

***By Jan Schultz***

***The Imperial Republican***

Two men who have been charged with assault in the first degree remain in the Chase County Jail.

Armando Mejia, Jr., 17, and Jesus Casarez, 38, were formally charged with the Class 3 felonies during arraignment Aug. 25 in Chase County District Court.

Originally arrested in July after Baldemar Sanchez, 33, was beaten with a bat, the two men had been held on \$100,000 bonds. The bonds were reduced to \$50,000 on requests from their court-appointed attorneys.

To be released, the men must post 10 percent of the bond, or \$5,000.

Mejia and Casarez both pled not guilty to the felony charges during arraignment last month, and will be before the judge next on Sept. 29 for motions hearings.

The alleged assault was initially investigated by Imperial police in mid-July at Winters Trailer Court in Imperial after they were contacted about a fight that had broken out there.

Sanchez was found lying on the ground unconscious with a severe head injury by Officer Ryan Wisnieski, and was then transported to Chase County Community Hospital by Imperial EMS. He was later air-lifted to a Kearney hospital.

Sanchez has returned to Imperial, but reportedly is unable to return to work yet.

Representing Mejia in the case is Joel Burke of Imperial, while George Zeilinger of Grant is Casarez's attorney.