

ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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NEWS RELEASE

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MAYS LANDING – An Atlantic County jury convicted two men today of third-degree aggravated assault in connection with an August 2008 attack on a former co-worker of a Pleasantville pizza parlor, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced.

On Aug. 24, 2008, Dritan Jonuzi, 22, of Atlantic City, and Praful Somaiya, 22, of Galloway Township, were working at Jonuzi's Chelsea Pizza located in the K-Mart shopping center on the Black Horse Pike. At noon the day of the incident, Robert Dzwonar, of Egg Harbor Township, was leaving the establishment when Jonuzi and Somaiya punched and kicked him while in the rear parking lot. While the victim was on the ground, the two men continued to attack him. The assault was precipitated by a disagreement between the victim and the manager of the pizzeria and as a result of the attack the victim suffered a fractured jaw, lacerations, and multiple bruising, according to Assistant Prosecutor Lynn Heyer.

Dzwonar, 28, went to the Pleasantville Police Department and reported the incident. Jonuzi and Somaiya were arrested and charged with the crime. They were indicted in November of 2008, Heyer said.

The trial began on Monday and closing arguments were on Tuesday. The jury deliberated for approximately 90 minutes before reaching the guilty verdict.

"The interests of justice were definitely served today. The victim sustained significant bodily injury. The attack went on for some time," Heyer said. "It wasn't just one punch or one-kick. The defendants continued to punch and kick the victim even as he lay on the ground."

Superior Court Judge Bernard E. DeLury presided over the trial and will sentence the defendants on May 21. Third-degree aggravated assault carries a maximum prison term of five years and a fine of \$15,000.

Anyone with information involving serious crimes is asked to call the Atlantic County Prosecutor's Office at 609-909-7800 or go to the Prosecutor's Office Web site at <http://www.acpo.org/tips.html> and provide information by filling out the form anonymously on the Submit a Tip page. People can also call Crime Stoppers

at 609-652-1234 or 1-800-658-8477 (TIPS) or visit the Crime Stoppers Website at <http://www.crimestoppersatlantic.com/>. Crime Stoppers offers cash rewards for information leading to the arrest and indictment of those who commit crimes in Atlantic County.