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## LONG ISLAND

# Injured Laborers File \$66M Suit

By Robert E. Kessler  
STAFF WRITER

Two Mexican day laborers have filed a federal civil rights lawsuit seeking \$66 million in damages from two men charged with brutally beating them in Shirley last year, as well as seven groups they say created an environment supporting violence against Latino immigrants.

The suit by Israel Perez and Magdaleno Estrada Escamilla, who have since returned to Mexico, is part of a class action on behalf of Latino day laborers across the United States. Besides the monetary damages, the suit seeks a court order barring both men, Ryan Wagner, 20, of Maspeth, and Christopher Slavin, 29, of Hicksville, as well as the seven groups that oppose illegal immigration, from harassing or assaulting any Latino day laborers.

The suit charges that the defendants deprived the laborers of their right to the same security enjoyed by white people, conspired to create a climate of fear within the Latino communities, and deprived the workers of their rights to free speech, free assembly and free association under the First and 14th Amendments.

Slavin was convicted in August of attempted murder and assault in connection with the attack and faces up to 50 years in prison when he is sentenced. Wagner's trial is scheduled for November.

## Suing men charged in bias attacks, 7 groups

Frederick Brewington of Hempstead, who filed the suit on behalf of the men in U.S. District Court in Central Islip on Sept. 17, declined to comment yesterday.

Slavin's attorney, Robert Del Col of Huntington, who maintains his client is innocent and is a victim of perjured testimony, said of the suit: "It doesn't surprise me that money was the bottom line . . . That's a motive to lie . . . fabricate."

Wagner's attorney, Thomas Liotti of Garden City, said his client isn't associated with racist organizations, nor is he a racist.

The organizations named in the suit are the Long Island-based Sachem Quality of Life, American Patrol, headquartered in Sherman Oaks, Calif., the Posse Comitatus and the Sheriff's Posse Comitatus, headquartered in Ulysses, Pa., the National Alliance in Hillsboro, Va., and the Creativity Movement and the World Church of the Creator, in East Peoria, Ill.

Ray Wysolmierski of Farmingville, a spokesman for the Sachem Quality of Life Organization, scoffed at news of the lawsuit.

Wysolmierski said the lawsuit would not stop the group from expressing its views. "They can't stop us from saying what we have to say," he said. "This guy [Brewington] wants to take away somebody else's civil rights."

Wysolmierski also suggested that Brewington is suing the wrong people, and said he should target the U.S. government, whose policies he said have allowed undocumented immigrants to enter the country.

He added that if the two Mexican men "weren't here they wouldn't have had anything happen to them."

Glenn Spencer of American Patrol said his organization opposes illegal immigration and was just exercising its right to free speech at meetings on Long Island. Spencer, in a telephone interview from his California office said, "I deny any connection between [the attack on the day laborers and] our attempt to warn the American people about the threat represented by illegal immigrants as evidenced clearly by the tragic loss of life on Sept. 11 [at the World Trade Center and Pentagon] — 7,000 people are dead in Manhattan because our government refuses to enforce our immigration laws."

Spokesmen for the other groups could not be reached for comment.

Staff writer Bart Jones contributed to this story.