

**Event: Worker Justice and Wage Theft in Oregon**

**Speaker: Ramon Ramirez, President of PCUN, Oregon's Farmworker Union**

**Date: Wednesday, Oct. 3**

**When: 7:30 – 9:00p.m.**

**Where: Temple Beth Israel (corner of University Street and E. 29th Ave. Eugene)**

**Event Sponsors: Temple Beth Israel, Beyond Toxics, Lane County Immigration Integration Network, Wayne Morse Center for Law and Politics**

**Cost: Free of charge**

**Bilingual Event: Interpretation will be made available between English and Spanish**

A diverse coalition of faith, academic and non-profit organizations are teaming up to host guest speaker Ramon Ramirez to talk about **Worker Justice and Wage Theft in Oregon**. Ramon is the president of the Oregon Farm Workers Union and struggled alongside Cesar Chavez in the California grape strikes of the 1960's and 1970's. He has a deep history in the workers justice movement in the Pacific Northwest.

The ethics of social justice, cooperation and human dignity form the framework for learning about the widespread and illegal practice of not paying workers for their work. Oregonians are coming together to call for fair and sustainable agriculture policies.

### **What is Wage Theft?**

Wage theft is the widespread and illegal practice of refusing to pay workers for all or part of their work. Wage theft happens with employers pay less than the minimum wage, don't pay overtime, steal tips, require employees to work "off the clock," or fail to pay at all.

In a recent five-year period, over 8000 wage claims were filed with Oregon's state labor bureau, totaling \$24.5 million. This represents only a fraction of the actual incidents of wage theft -- thousands more go unreported. In a national study, 2/3 of low-wage workers reported having been victims of wage theft in the last week!

This widespread problem often flies under the radar – but has a huge impact on the workers who don't get paid, as well as on other workers whose standards are undermined, honest employers who have to compete with scofflaws, communities robbed of local spending, and taxpayers who have to make up for the taxes that can't be collected on unpaid wages.

Come learn about what is being done to stop wage theft, and how you can join the coalition of labor, faith, and community groups coming together to combat the crisis of wage theft in Oregon.