



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of California*

*501 I Street, Suite 10-100
Sacramento, California 95814*

*916/554-2700
Fax 916/554-2900*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 24, 2004

JOSE RAMIREZ CHARGED WITH TAX EVASION AND MAIL FRAUD

United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott, IRS Special Agent-In-Charge Victor S. O. Song, and California State Controller and Chair of the California Franchise Tax Board Steve Westly announced today that last Thursday, a federal grand jury returned a four count indictment charging Jose Ramirez, of Sacramento, with tax evasion and mail fraud. Ramirez was arrested today without incident by IRS Special Agents and is scheduled to make his initial appearance before United States Magistrate Judge Kimberly J. Mueller this afternoon.

According to Assistant United States Attorney John K. Vincent, who is prosecuting the case, the indictment alleges that defendant Ramirez filed false federal tax returns for tax years 1997, 1998, and 1999. According to the indictment, Ramirez failed to pay approximately \$115,000 in taxes he owed to the United States. The indictment also charges that the defendant committed mail fraud by filing false state tax returns for tax years 1996, 1997, and 1998. The specific count of mail fraud charges the mailing of his 1998 tax return to the California State Franchise Tax Board

If convicted, the maximum penalty under federal law for each offense of tax evasion is five years, a fine of \$250,000, and the cost of prosecution. For mail fraud, the maximum penalty is five years in prison, and a fine of \$250,000.

The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless

proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

A copy of this press release is available at <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae/home>, select Press Releases.