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NEWS RELEASE

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SACRAMENTO MAN SENTENCED FOR TAX FRAUD

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott, IRS Criminal Investigation Special Agent in Charge Roger L. Wirth, and Franchise Tax Board State Controller Steve Westley announced today that JOSE J. RAMIREZ, 54, of Sacramento, was sentenced today by United States District Judge David F. Levi to a year and a day in federal custody and fined \$10,000. He also has to pay the taxes he owes to the Internal Revenue Service and the California State Franchise Tax Board.

The defendant was investigated by the IRS and the California State Franchise Tax Board.

The defendant pleaded guilty to tax evasion before Judge Levi on September 22, 2005. Under the terms of the plea agreement, the defendant admitted that he filed false federal tax returns for tax years 1997, 1998, and 1999, as well as false state tax returns for tax years 1997 and 1998. The parties stipulated that the total tax loss to both the federal and state governments amounted to between \$90,000 and \$100,000.

According to Assistant United States Attorney John K. Vincent, who prosecuted the case, Judge Levi, in sentencing the defendant, noted the importance to society of everyone paying their taxes as required, and said that the crime was serious and merited the sentence imposed.

"Those who attempt to evade their tax liabilities are really cheating all the honest taxpayers for the United States" according to IRS Special Agent in Charge Roger L. Wirth. "The IRS will continue to stand with the U.S. Attorney and the California Franchise Tax Board in the enforcement of our tax laws."

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