

## Employer Threatens to Call Sheriff if Workers Protest

*Large Home Developer Cancels Jostes Contract*

Phoenix, AZ. – Former and current employees of Jostes Concrete cancelled their scheduled protest upon receiving news from T.W. Lewis that as requested they will stop doing business with its subcontractor Jostes Concrete, who owes workers thousands of dollars.

<b><u>What:</u></b>	<b>Press Conference</b>
<b><u>Date:</u></b>	<b>Tuesday, November 11, 2008</b>
<b><u>Time:</u></b>	<b>10:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.</b>
<b><u>Location:</u></b>	<b>PUEBLO</b> <b>1306 E. Van Buren</b> <b>(13<sup>th</sup> St. and Van Buren)</b>

While the workers were pleased to learn of the action taken by T.W. Lewis after a letter was sent to them, the workers were angered at the position being taken by their former employer, Todd Jostes. For months Jostes workers, who are collectively owed over \$50,000, have been demanding payment. What has instead been happening is that the employer, Todd Jostes, gives checks for \$100 or \$200 every pay period. When workers realize they are not going to be paid in full, Jostes simply hires new workers with the promise of paying them.

In addition to continuing to deny payment to his former employers, Todd Jostes has also threatened to call the Sheriff if any protests are to occur. “We have made him wealthier through our hard work and now he wants to threaten us for attempting to practice our freedom of expression,” said Raul Peralvillo, a former employee of Jostes Concrete and one of the lead organizers, “We will not be intimidated into not fighting for what is ours. If he wants to call the Sheriff, then let him, we will not back down and will continue our struggle.”

“We thank T.W. Lewis for taking the right action and for seeking resolution of this issue,” said Ray Ybarra, an organizer with PUEBLO, Center for Legal and Human Rights. “Unfortunately, the workers are still owed thousands of dollars and we will speak with others who contract with Jostes Concrete until the workers are paid in full.”

Jostes Workers in collaboration with PUEBLO and other community members will be holding a press conference to announce plans for future actions and denounce the exploitation of workers by companies such as Jostes Concrete who take advantage of workers. The outrageous intimidation tactics of people such as Todd Jostes’ will not be tolerated. The conference is scheduled to take place Tuesday November 11, 2008, at 10:30am.

##

For more information about the organization you can visit the website, [www.puebloaz.org](http://www.puebloaz.org).