



*"Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the rights of the lowly and the destitute. Rescue the weak and needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked"*

- Psalm 82:3-4 (NRSV)

[Interfaith Worker Justice](#) congratulates the [United Electrical Workers](#) Local 1110 for a historic victory that ended a six-day occupation of the Republic Windows and Doors plant in Chicago. Last night, the company's workers voted to accept a [\\$1.75 million settlement](#). The Republic workers would have been forgotten if they hadn't stood up -- by sitting down and occupying their factory. They captured the attention and the support of people of faith, and sent shock waves through corporate board rooms across the nation.



This is a victory to be celebrated by the thousands of people who stood in solidarity with the workers: people like you who took the time to send messages to Bank of America and rallied at banks across the country.

The Chicago Interfaith Committee on Worker Issues, an [IWJ](#) affiliate, has been working closely with Local 1110 since day one. On Tuesday of this week, IWJ members from around the country rallied alongside Chicago Interfaith Committee in supporting workers.



Both the Republic Windows victory and this week's news of [Wal-Mart's \\$54 million settlement](#) of a class-action suit over unpaid wages highlight [wage theft](#), a national crisis on which IWJ and its national network of workers centers are playing a [leading role](#) in tackling.

IWJ Executive Director Kim Bobo has written the first book to deal with this issue. In a happy coincidence, her [Wage Theft in America: Why Millions of Working Americans Are Not Getting Paid-And What We Can Do About It](#), was published this week, during the Republic sit-in.

While we celebrate the Republic victory, we are going to see hundreds of factory closings in the coming months, and the question is: will workers be paid what they're owed? And while the Wal-Mart settlement is welcome news, 60 additional wage theft lawsuits remain pending, cases involving billions of dollars that have been stolen from and are owed to millions of workers.

IWJ is leading national efforts against wage theft. We need your help to move this work forward. Please consider [making a contribution to IWJ](#) or visit our [website](#) to learn more about how you can get involved.

