****

**For Immediate Release:** Thursday, October 15, 2015
**Contact:** Rachel LaZar (505)217-5189

**Pro-Immigrant Advocates Launch a 9 Day “Fast to Keep Families Together”
to Demand the 5th Circuit Court Issue a Ruling on Administrative Relief**

**Denounce 5th Circuit Judges Functionally Acting on behalf of**

**Far-Right Anti-Immigrant Extremists**

Albuquerque, NM— As thousands of immigrant families continue to be torn apart every day by the 5th Circuit Court delay strategy on administrative relief,  Nora Hernandez, a member of El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos, along with directly impacted immigrant families and national leaders representing faith, labor, civil rights and the community launched “The Fast to Keep Families Together” - a powerful 9 day fast and vigil outside the courthouse in New Orleans to demand the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals rule on the administrative relief case they have been sitting on for almost a year.  A delay on the part of the 5th Circuit prevents the Supreme Court from making a final decision on DACA+ (expanded DACA) and DAPA and defers justice for millions of immigrant communities.

“The delay strategy of anti-immigrant extremists is affecting millions of people who might have a little bit of security knowing they can keep their families together,” said Nora Hernandez, at a press conference on Wednesday in front of the the courthouse.

In Albuquerque, members of El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos organized a series of actions in solidarity with the action in New Orleans, including a solidarity fast, generating calls to the 5th Circuit Court urging the Court to take swift action, in addition to a social media campaign.

“Our communities are paying attention to what these judges and anti-immigrant extremists are doing and we will not forget who stood with us and who was against us,” said Fabiola Bawden, a community organizer from El CENTRO.  “We must continue to take action— by organizing and growing our movement, by becoming citizens, and by turning out to vote. Together we will overcome the anti-immigrant rhetoric and  hate and will fight hard until we ultimately prevail in the courts and can move to implement DACA+ and DAPA.”

For more information about how to get involved in their efforts, call El CENTRO at (505) 246-1627 or look for them on Facebook.

WHERE: El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos (714 4th St SW)
WHEN: Thursday, October 15, 2015 at 11:30 AM.

XXXX