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*PRESS RELEASE*

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**For Immediate Release**

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***ABQ “Rises-Up” on May Day***  
**Against Targeting and Persecution of Immigrants by Trump Administration**

Albuquerque--In the wake of President Trump’s first 100 days in office, El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos (El CENTRO), along with hundreds of immigrant families, low-wage workers, elected officials, faith leaders, labor unions, educators, and dozens of civil rights, LGBTQ, and community-based organizations will Rise Up in resistance to the Trump administration’s targeting of immigrant communities and working families at a peaceful rally at Tiguex Park. The rally is one of over 200 events taking place across the nation on May 1st, International Workers’ Day, and is being held in conjunction with a national call for a general strike.

Over 200 local immigrant-owned businesses in Albuquerque have committed to shutting their doors on May 1st in addition to hundreds of workers across the state who will participate in the national general strike to protest Trump’s anti-immigrant agenda and to highlight the economic contributions of immigrants. Marian Mendez, a workers’ justice organizer with El CENTRO explains, “In New Mexico we take the attack on immigrant communities personally. We are talking about our parents, neighbors, co-workers, the small business owner down the street, and the workers who clean our homes, and take care of our parents and children, who harvest the chile of New Mexico, who construct our homes, and who work in oil fields and dairies. Immigrants are doing our part to grow our economy and create a brighter future for all our children. We must all do our part as a community to fight back against the persecution of our fellow-New Mexicans.”

Edgar Salinas, a carpenter, father of three, and a member of El CENTRO’s workers’ committee supports the national strike, “I work hard to realize my dream that my children have a better future and more opportunities. But my work doesn’t only benefit my family. We immigrants help to grow and subsidize the US economy. I am participating in the national strike to demand the equal treatment that we all deserve.”

Elected officials, from all levels of government, support the Rise Up ABQ rally. State Representative Javier, explains, “Real leaders don't hide, we rise up to protect our communities. We must stand behind our proud legacy in New Mexico of working to pass policies that are conducive to integrating our immigrant communities into the mainstream and that recognize the vital role immigrants play in the economic, cultural, and social fabric of New Mexico. To keep our families together, the New Mexico Congressional delegation must vote against funding the Trump administration's deportation machine. At the state level, we must hold the Martinez administration accountable for keeping hard working New Mexicans in poverty by continuing to veto a raise in the minimum wage and refusing to enforce our labor laws. In Albuquerque, we are proud of the immigrant friendly policies that we've implemented to protect immigrant families, but they are not enough in this Trump era. We must continue to work together to ensure that Mayor Berry' doesn't implement Trump's deportation programs.”

The Albuquerque Teachers Federation (ATF) is one of the co-sponsors of the rally. “The members of the Albuquerque Teachers Federation stand united with our community on May 1<sup>st</sup>,” explains Ellen Bernstein, President of ATF.” She continues, “Our public schools are our communities and our communities are our public schools. Each is strengthened with the existence of the other; the two cannot be separated. In the current context of national political efforts to destroy public education and tear apart our families under the guise of "threats to public security", educators stand firmly in support of our students and families and our families stand in firm support of our public schools. We come together to embody what May Day is all about: Solidarity.”

Taqueria Mexico was one of the first businesses that publicly vowed to close their business in solidarity with the national strike, “We are a very hardworking and close family and for over 24 years we have worked so our business could thrive,” states Francisco Hernandez. “Our communities have already demonstrated who we are. We are good people. We are families, workers, and small business owners. We are generating jobs and we are very proud to be part of this beautiful country and to be generating revenue for New Mexico. Unfortunately, with the current anti-immigrant climate, our families are being targeted and our businesses have been targets of hate crimes. We are proud to be standing with the over 200 businesses that are also closing on May 1st to say “Ya Basta” (enough is enough) to this administration.” Immigrants in New Mexico are twice as likely to start a business as U.S. born citizens and immigrant-owned businesses generated approximately \$389 million dollars in economic activity in New Mexico between 2006 and 2010.

Father Frank Quintana from Blessed Oscar Romero Catholic Community echoes the sentiment of many faith leaders and communities supporting the rally, “We must rise up and resist the inhumane nature of current policies that harm those who need sanctuary from violence, oppression and war. We must establish immigration policies that are both compassionate and just, and economically fair and equitable for ALL workers. We must respect the human dignity of all those whose hands are callused by hard work, and whose talents are utilized for the service of all.”

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*\*El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos is a grassroots, immigrants' rights and workers' justice organization based in Albuquerque, NM that works with Latino immigrant communities and allies to defend, strengthen, and advance the rights of our community.*