



Monthly Newsletter

YOUR SOURCE FOR COMMUNITY INFORMATION

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Immigrant, Faith, Civil Rights, and Victim Advocacy Organizations Defeat Commissioner Johnson's Anti-Immigrant Resolution: Another Victory for Our Hard Working Immigrant Families!

On Tuesday, August 8th, our members, and allies rallied at the Bernalillo County Commission to reject an anti-immigrant resolution introduced by Commissioner Johnson. El CENTRO's members, together with hundreds of immigrant families, faith leaders, civil rights organizations, and allies spoke out against a proposed county resolution that would have compelled county-operated detention facilities, including the Metropolitan Detention Center (MDC), to cooperate in the enforcement of federal immigration law. Building on over a decade of work with the County, the resolution overwhelmingly failed on a 4:1 bi-partisan vote, with only Commissioner Johnson voting in favor of his own resolution. The proposal would have rescinded the county's official status as an "immigrant friendly county" and capitulate to Trump and U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions' recent demand that county-operated detention facilities aid in the enforcement of federal immigration law, a scheme both unconstitutional and dangerous to the public safety of our communities and the rest of ABQ.

Back on March 14th, thousands of our members and allies worked tirelessly to pass the resolution of Bernalillo County as "immigrant friendly" on a bi-partisan vote with Commissioners Hart-Stebbins, O'Malley, Quezada, and Talbert voting in favor and Commissioner Johnson being the sole vote against. Amongst other provisions, the resolution reaffirms the County's commitment to upholding the civil rights of all residents in Bernalillo County, regardless of their immigration status, and to not enforcing federal civil immigration laws (in line with federal law).

Jessica Rodríguez, mother, worker, small business owner, and active member of El CENTRO condemns this attack on immigrant communities, "The impact that Commissioner Johnson's resolution would have had on our communities is not hypothetical. When ICE had a permanent presence at MDC, and after Mayor Berry invited ICE to the Transportation Center, our communities experienced firsthand the devastation that deportation can have on the social, economic, and cultural fabric of communities. We must not go back to that dark time in our history."

We, at El CENTRO, will continue fighting to demonstrate that immigrants, like all Albuquerqueans, work hard for the welfare of our families and communities, contribute in countless ways, and try to build communities where justice and equality prevail for all. We will not normalize the deportation of our communities. Contact Commissioners Talbert (505-468-7010; email: district4@bernco.gov), Hart Stebbins (505-468-7108; email: district3@bernco.gov), Quezada (505-468-7000; email: district2@bernco.gov), and O'Malley (505-768-4329; email: district1@bernco.gov) and thank them for rejecting Trump's agenda and standing behind our collective values and our families!



Our Members in Action: Tirelessly Continuing to Fight for Our Labor Rights and Our Immigrant Families

Our members and immigrant workers across New Mexico take care of our elderly and children, build and roof our adobe homes, pick the chile that we are so proud of, work in the dairies and oil fields, and work in the service industry. Since Trump's inauguration, we experienced an uptick in ICE activity in ABQ: targeting people in their homes, at work, and in our public spaces. However, we as El CENTRO along with our members do not sit passively while our families, co-workers, and neighbors are targeted. As examples of our collective resilience throughout this month, our base has been active in informing our communities about their rights, ways to fight back against deportations and to protect our labor rights and the minimum wage.

On the labor rights front, our working families have been active in several court cases and city council meetings fighting for a fair municipal election by demanding that the city print the Healthy Workforce Ordinance in a clear and legible form on the ballot. The Healthy Workforce Ordinance would allow all ABQ workers to earn paid sick days for every 30 hours worked up to 40 hours if workers are employed by a business with less than 40 employees, and up to 56 hours if the business has more than 40 workers. In addition, we are involved in lawsuits with ally organizations to defend ABQ's minimum wage and to hold the Department of Workforce Solutions, under the direction of Governor Martinez, accountable for not enforcing New Mexico's labor laws. ¡Que vivan los trabajadores!

In addition, we have had the privilege to do multiple interviews with Radio La Jefa 101.3 FM and some of our active members Edgar Salinas and Manuel Sanz, including recording two PSAs to inform workers on their labor rights and the importance of earned paid sick days.

Visit our website to listen and share our interviews and PSAs: <http://elcentronm.org/our-work/workers-justice/>



Finally, on July 28, our Workers' Committee hosted an interactive dialogue with Elizabeth Wagoner of the Center for Law and Poverty, on labor rights and the Healthy Workforce campaign to expand sick pay days for all ABQ workers. We had over 20 members attend this workshop!



The constant participation of our members is an example of how our immigrant communities will continue to fight back against deportation and labor rights' violations. We encourage all community members to continue to organize work to protect one another. Our message remains the same: we will not back do

Canvassing for Social Justice

New Mexican Youth Comes Together through the YES! 2017 Summer Program to Fight for the Rights of Immigrant and Working Families. This summer, we had the opportunity to work with seven youth leaders as a part of the Youth Employment Summer Institute (YES!): Amarissa Barboa, Eduardo Casas, Santiago Carrillo, Rosalinda Dorado, Ailyn Flores, Oscar Mendez, and Ingrid Ordoñez. El CENTRO's YES! 2017 project focused on canvassing ABQ voters to discuss issues regarding immigrants' rights and workers' justice and gain job skills along the way.

Maria Mendez, El CENTRO's field manager of the YES! Program explains the impact the program has had on our communities "our interns have knocked on over 3000 doors in ABQ to inform voters about workers' justice and local efforts to organize and protect immigrant families being persecuted by the Trump administration. We are heartened by the overwhelming support of voters. The majority of voters we are talking to do not want families to be separated through deportations, and they understand that ripping families apart create devastating effects on our communities."

In addition, on August 5-7 our youth leaders attended the Southeast Movement Building Training in Miami, a youth empowerment conference that brings young people from all over the country. Upon returning, the youth will work with El CENTRO's membership to urge Senator Tom Udall and Congresswoman Lujan Grisham, both on budget committees, to vote against investing one more dollar to separating our families. We are proud of our youth leaders as they continue to fight for the rights of immigrant families and low-wage workers!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MEMBERSHIP MEETING: PROTECTING OUR RIGHTS

WHEN: Thursday 17th of August from 6 pm to 8:30 pm
 WHERE: 714 4th St SW 87102
 DESCRIPTION: Come to this meeting and help decide how we will continue to fight deportations and Trump's hate agenda. We will also discuss our next steps to defend our labor rights.

WORKERS' RIGHTS ORIENTATIONS

WHEN: August 16th and 31st, and Sep. 14th at 5:30 pm
 WHERE: 714 4th St SW 87102
 DESCRIPTION: Attend these free workshops if you think you've been a victim of wage theft and/or discrimination, and want to learn about your rights and options. Call in advance to reserve your spot, 505-247-1023

CIVIL RIGHTS WORKSHOPS

WHEN: Contact us to schedule and sign up for workshops
 DESCRIPTION: Learn about your civil rights with ICE/police, how to do a family emergency plan and join the movement to fight back! Contact us at 505-246-1627 or sign up on line at www.elcentronm.org

LEGAL CONSULTATIONS WITH THE NM IMMIGRANT LAW CENTER

WHEN: Every Wednesday, 1 to 5 pm
 WHERE: 714 4th St. SW 87102
 DESCRIPTION: Do you need help applying for DACA, citizenship or obtaining a background check? Come on on Wednesdays to sign up for a free consultation with an immigration attorney.

NM IMMIGRANT LAW CENTER PHONE CONSULTATIONS

WHEN: Every Friday, 11 am to 1 pm
 DESCRIPTION: Free legal consults! Call 505-247-1023

Check out our complete Know Your Rights with ICE and Law Enforcement Toolkit at our Website!

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT

- REMAIN SILENT**
If you are being interrogated by a police officer, jail personnel, corrections officer, or ICE agent you have the right to remain silent—unless if you are arrested. You do not have to give information about your country of origin, immigration status, or social security number. Everything you say or do can be used against you. You can give the officer your know your rights card.
- IN YOUR HOME**
You have the right to not open your door to law enforcement, including ICE. ALL law enforcement needs a warrant signed by a judge to enter your home (an arrest warrant or deportation order is not sufficient).
- IN YOUR CAR**
Ask the officer why he/she stopped you. Show your driver's license, vehicle registration, and proof of insurance if requested. Without probable cause, a search warrant, or your permission, an officer does not have the right to inspect your vehicle.
- NEVER SHOW FALSE DOCUMENTS DON'T SIGN AWAY YOUR RIGHTS!**
Do not give false information, including about being a citizen. Do not show any foreign document, such as a passport, consular identification or expired visa that can be used to identify your country of origin/citizenship. Do not sign any documents that you do not understand or without talking to a lawyer.
- REMAIN CALM!**
If you run, you may be giving the officer a reason to arrest you. Calmly ask the officer, "Why are I stopped?" Ask them being detained? If he/she responds, "NO" ask "Can I leave?" If he/she says "YES" assert your right to remain silent and give them your know your rights card. If you are arrested, don't resist, remain silent, and contact your attorney.
- IF YOU ARE DETAINED!**
 - Ask if you are under arrest. If so, you have the right to know the reason. Do not resist an arrest.
 - You have the right to remain silent, not to reveal your country of origin, or how or when you came to this country, or your legal status (including if you are in jail and receive a call from an ICE official or you are interrogated in person or by video).
 - Do not lie or present false papers.
 - Do not sign anything if you do not understand it or without talking to a lawyer about your rights.
- USE "MOBILE JUSTICE-NEW MEXICO"!**
Download the mobile application of the ACLU NM to be able to record and keep track of any incident with law enforcement or federal agents.

Updated March 2017
 FOR MORE INFORMATION: elcentronm.org (505) 244-1427

El CENTRO joins in Solidarity with the New Mexico Faith Coalition for Immigrant Justice to Keep Kadhim Here: Standing in solidarity with Iraqi and Muslim refugees in our fight against deportations



Luchadora del Mes: Hilda, a single mother, grandmother, worker, and a committed hard working activist

Every month we highlight one of our active members in the fight for immigrants' and workers' rights. This month we feature one of our members from our Workers' Committee: Hilda.

Hilda became a member with El CENTRO in 2016 after she and her friend were victims of wage theft, retaliation, and labor abuses from their former employer in ABQ. After not receiving their salaries for several weeks, the two of them demanded their payments, to which their former employer responded violently and threatened them for speaking out. Hilda's stolen wages and the threats from her former employer created a sense of anxiety and other stressors experienced by her family. In addition, Hilda has never had earned paid sick days which means that she has been forced to choose between getting paid and taking care of her family and herself. Her son is a single father who works long hours every day of the week, and Hilda helps by taking care of her grandchild. Not having had earned paid sick days has affected her family tremendously, especially her grandson, as she has been forced not to provide care for her grandchild when he is sick. She stresses that "the business owners that oppose to earned paid sick days do not understand the day to day sacrifices immigrant workers make to put food on the table. As an immigrant worker, I know that our desires to help our families strive inspire us to work every

day. I am tired of the fact that even though I sometimes work over 10 hours a day, I still do not receive earned paid sick days. We cannot continue allowing injustices like this. We must raise our fists and say "ya basta!" Hilda recognizes the role El CENTRO has had in her fight "the support I have received from the members and organizers of El CENTRO has been essential for my health as I recover from the mental and emotional stress caused by my wage theft cases. I make a call to fellow members to continue la lucha and to get more involved in the wage theft, and the earned paid sick days campaigns." We, at El CENTRO, recognize that our strength has always come and will continue to come directly from our members. Members like Hilda make our victories possible. Thank you!



If you would like to make a donation to El CENTRO, send a check to El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos: 714 4th St SW Albuquerque, NM 87102. Or donate through PayPal:

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EL CENTRO

de Igualdad y Derechos

JUNTA DE MEMBRESÍA
Jueves 17 de Agosto, 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm
El CENTRO de Igualdad y Derechos
714 4th St. SW

Hablaremos sobre:

- Nuestras victorias defendiendo al condado de Bernalillo como amigable para inmigrantes y nuestro salario mínimo**
 - Nuestro próximos pasos DEFENDIENDO NUESTROS DIAS PAGADOS POR ENFERMEDAD**
 - Cómo continuar en la lucha para defender a nuestras familias.**
- ¡No te lo pierdas!**

Habrá cuidado de niños y una cena ligera.
Para más información, llama a El CENTRO al
(505) 246-1627 o danos "LIKE" en nuestra página de Facebook y
busca el evento.