

Groups to protest at immigrant day-laborer site

By Myung Oak Kim, Rocky Mountain News

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Two groups pushing for a crackdown on illegal immigrants are planning a protest today outside a downtown Denver day-laborer center in conjunction with similar protests scheduled across the country.

Members of the Colorado Minutemen and the Colorado Alliance for Immigration Reform will gather at 7:30 a.m. outside El Centro Humanitario para los Trabajadores on California Street to protest the center's role in helping illegal immigrants find work.

Demonstrations are scheduled for the same time in 16 other states, including Arizona, Texas and California and states across the Northeast.

"We just want to draw attention to El Centro as an illegal hiring hall," said Robert Copley, a spokesman for the Colorado Minutemen. "The main concern is the illegal aliens that are being hired there. . . . It's bringing down the wages in our city and basically attracting crime."

Minsun Ji, El Centro's executive director, said dozens of people are expected to stage a counterprotest to "show that Denver will not stand for mean-spirited and short-sighted attacks on vulnerable workers."

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