

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: October 17, 2009

UNDERCOVER DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE OFFICIALS POSE AS MEDIA REPORTERS DURING CRIME SUPPRESSION OPERATION

FEDERAL OFFICIALS CONDUCT SURVEILLANCE OF SHERIFF

(Maricopa County, Arizona) Despite the Obama administration denying over 100 deputies of their ability to act as federal immigration agents, Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio's most recent crime suppression operation has entered its second day.

The operation is a multi-pronged effort incorporating all aspects of State illegal immigration law, including employer sanctions, human smuggling, and crime suppression. It is the 12th operation of its kind, and began only one day after the Sheriff's 287g immigration enforcement powers were restricted.

In the first eight hours of operation, deputies arrested 34 suspects. Nine more were arrested this morning during an employers' sanctions related raid at a carwash business in the Northwest Valley.

Yesterday evening, during Sheriff Arpaio's news conference, Sheriff's officials discovered undercover U.S. Department of Justice officials in the Sheriff's command post, without permission or approval, in an area restricted to media and law enforcement officers only. When contacted by a Sheriff's commander, the federal civil rights officials conducted themselves unprofessionally, and refused to provide official identification. Only one official from the covert team, which numbered approximately five, presented any form of identification when pressed.

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News Release

Among the DOJ officials was Senior Trial Attorney Je Yon Jung. Jung, who has directed the DOJ's investigation into alleged racial profiling by the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office, confirmed that those who refused to provide identification were in fact DOJ officials.

The presence of these officials further heightens the Sheriff's concerns about the ethical conduct and the motives of the DOJ during an investigation that he believes was initiated by Washington politicians.

Notably, Je Yon Jung is a known maximum financial contributor to the recent Obama presidential campaign, and according to press reports is actively seeking a judgeship.

On May 29, 2009, the Sheriff's Washington-based attorney, Mr. Robert Driscoll, filed a complaint with the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Professional Responsibility to request an investigation into ethical violations committed by Je Yon Jung's team in the politically motivated investigation.

Despite knowledge that Sheriff's officials retained legal representation, Jung and the DOJ team acted unprofessionally and unethically by surreptitiously posing as reporters in order to conduct surveillance on Sheriff Arpaio, and to have contact with Sheriff's officials. (The presence of the Civil Rights Officials was recorded on video and is available upon request.)

The Sheriff's Office immediately notified its attorneys and requested that they address what appears to be a serious breach of professional ethics.

Sheriff's officials and attorneys continue to be concerned about:

- 1) The DOJ's efforts to surreptitiously, and through unethical means, obtain interviews of Sheriff's officials.
- 2) The DOJ clearly showing a predetermined pattern and practice of "guilty by investigation."

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3) The “100 Day Report” to the Obama Administration in which DOJ investigators bragged and listed as an “accomplishment” the mere fact that it was investigating Arpaio only 60 days after the administration took office.

4) The DOJ admitting that it based its investigation into Arpaio and the Sheriff’s Office solely on “media reports.”

The Sheriff stated, “This Department of Justice team continues its attempts to discredit this elected Sheriff and his officers, because their investigation is going nowhere quickly.”

The Sheriff will brief members of the media today at 7: 00pm at Sheriff’s sub-station located at 13063 W. Bell Rd. in Surprise.

For further questions or media requests, please contact the on-call media spokesman at:

sheriffsmediarequests@mcsso.maricopa.gov

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