

# Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

## Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: October 26, 2007

### **ARRESTED ILLEGALS PROVIDE INFORMATION TO SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES ...**

#### ***RESULT IS MORE DROP HOUSES, MORE ILLEGALS ARRESTED***

(**Phoenix, AZ**) While the Maricopa County Sheriff's tip line is generating information about the whereabouts of illegal aliens, some of the best information, Sheriff Arpaio says, is actually coming from illegal aliens themselves.

The Sheriff surmises it may be the level of violence associated with human smuggling which is encouraging illegals to share information with law enforcement. Every drop house raided by deputies in the last 21 days involved either guns, torture, beatings, kidnapping, or extortion associated with it.

In the past three weeks, Sheriff's deputies have raided drop house after house and arrested over 100 illegal aliens in the process. It was information provided by illegal aliens in the first drop house that has led deputies to the others.

In Avondale deputies arrested 15 during a search warrant operation at a home located at 11751 West Yuma. The stash house was the fourth location linked to the same criminal enterprise. Two of the suspects were armed, one was arrested. The other escaped, leaving his gun behind.

"Valley police chiefs have publicly stated that increased enforcement of our human smuggling laws will drive illegals into the shadows where they will refuse to cooperate with authorities," Arpaio. "We are not finding that to be the case at all. In fact, just the opposite is true."

The Sheriff vows to continue enforcing the state and federal laws, despite an increasing opposition from special interest groups. Deputies will arrest and jail, where appropriate, day laborers, smugglers and their customers, unlicensed street vendors and starting in January 2008, will enforce the new employer sanction laws as well.

Meanwhile tomorrow, the Sheriff says, he is preparing for the potential of a confrontation between illegal immigration activists and law enforcement as special interest groups are encouraging hundreds of people to stage a protest in front of Pruitt's Furniture Store at 34<sup>th</sup> Street and Thomas Roads.

News Release

100 West Washington, Suite 1900, Phoenix, Arizona 85003

Phone: (602) 876-1801 Fax: (602) 258-2081

Media Pager: (602) 238-8097

E-mail: [SheriffsMediaRequests@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov](mailto:SheriffsMediaRequests@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov)

Sheriff's deputies have been working off duty there securing the business after residents and business owners met with Arpaio to voice their frustrations about the growing problem of day laborers in the area. So far six arrests have been made there.

To insure the safety of those off duty deputies, Arpaio has ordered the posse and other deputies to be on stand by tomorrow in case conflicts emanate from the protests. The Sheriff's command post as well as a fleet of vehicles will be in the vicinity in case of trouble.

"We'll be enforcing all laws," Arpaio says. "And if there are violations, we will make arrests and take people to jail." END

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