

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: November 2, 2007

119 TOTAL ARRESTS IN LESS THAN A MONTH AS SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES CONTINUE TO CRACK DOWN ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

(Phoenix, AZ) A West Valley human smuggling ring is steadily being dismantled by Sheriff Joe Arpaio's human smuggling unit which has so far arrested 119 illegal aliens in the last four weeks and uncovered seven drop houses.

Last night, search warrants on three residences in the west valley cities of Tolleson and Surprise areas resulted in 19 arrests on state and federal immigration violation charges, Arpaio says. Drug paraphernalia was found in one residence that was consistent with large bags of marijuana, according to the Sheriff.

And while no acts of violence were associated with last night's arrests, violence associated with the human smuggling trade is encouraging illegals to share information with law enforcement. Every drop house raided by deputies in the last four weeks days involved either guns, torture, beatings, kidnapping, or extortion.

The search warrants in Thursday's operation resulted from information provided by illegal aliens in the first drop house that deputies uncovered in early October.

The Sheriff's Office remains the only Arizona law enforcement agency to enforce all aspects of the state human smuggling laws. Sheriff Arpaio has been repeatedly targeted by activists and politicians for his enforcement policies but says he will not be intimidated or forced to back down.

News Release

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“Demonstrations are threatened and racial slurs are hurled at me personally,” Arpaio says. “Apparently that’s the price I have to pay for trying to reduce the immigration problem.” END

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