

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: April 6, 2009

Illegal Aliens Evade Deputy and are Caught Hours Later by the Same Deputy during Traffic Stop

(Phoenix, AZ) Last night near Buckeye, a Sheriff's deputy conducted a traffic stop on a van he noticed driving erratically. During that traffic stop, several illegal aliens fled from the van running into the desert.

Several hours later, the deputy conducted another traffic stop near the same area on a different van for excessive speed. During the second traffic stop, another large group of illegal aliens fled from the second van again running into the desert. During the second stop, the deputy was able to capture one of the fleeing suspects who admitted to him that this was the same group of illegal aliens pulled over hours earlier.

Deputies were able to catch 11 more illegal aliens who fled from the vehicle and determined that they had all paid to be smuggled into the country illegally. "These smugglers appear to be getting more organized in their efforts to evade my deputies but it is not working" Arpaio says.

Arpaio says "While Congress and the Attorney General are trying to intimidate me from doing my job through these hearings prompted by open-border activist and politicians, illegal aliens are still coming into the country and I will continue to enforce all aspects of state and federal immigration laws."

This marks the 11th incident in two months where illegal aliens have attempted to flee during traffic stops in the same area near Buckeye. Sheriff Arpaio said that he is concerned about the increase of human smuggling activity and will conduct another crime suppression operation soon. Since the March 10th letter from the U.S. Attorney General's Office advising Sheriff Arpaio of the intent to investigate civil rights claims of racial profiling, the Sheriff's Office has arrested 120 more illegal aliens.

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News Release