

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: July 29, 2009

SHERIFF ARPAIO'S CONTINUED CRACKDOWN ON ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION NETS THE ARRESTS OF 52 ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS, INCLUDING 48 ON STATE FELONY CHARGES

GUNS AND LEDGERS FOUND

(Phoenix, AZ) Sheriff Joe Arpaio's crackdown on illegal immigration continues with the arrest of 52 illegal aliens, 48 of which are being charged with human smuggling.

Two traffic stops made by Maricopa County Sheriff's anti-human smuggling deputies late yesterday led to the arrests today of 13 illegal aliens and to the discovery of a drop house with four illegal aliens inside.

At nearly the same time that deputies were investigating the first drop house, Sheriff's deputies were surveilling another drop house with 35 illegals inside.

Both traffic stops and drop houses yielded 52 illegal aliens arrested, 48 of whom will be charged with state felony charges. All are currently either in process of being booked by Sheriff's deputies on state felony immigration charges or being turned over to federal immigration authorities (Immigrations and Customs Enforcement, ICE).

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In the first traffic stop, deputies pulled over a van on I-17 near New River Road and found five people inside. After questioning, deputies determined that all occupants were in the country illegally. All will be charged with co-conspiracy charges.

The driver of that vehicle then led Sheriff's deputies to the first drop house at 4032 west Osborne. Four illegals were inside. Also found were a .45 caliber handgun and business ledgers consistent with human trafficking business.

The second stop occurred at I-17 and Anthem Way. Eight (8) illegals were taken into custody during this traffic stop.

Illegals from the two load vehicles admitted to Sheriff's deputies they were being smuggled into the U.S. and each paid between \$300.00 and \$3,000.00 for illegal entry to destinations of Los Angeles and New York City.

The second drop house was located at 8145 west Westview Drive. During the surveillance, a car with two people leaving the residence fled from deputies. A vehicle and foot pursuit by deputies resulted in the apprehension of the two suspects who will be charged with several felonies including felony flight, prohibited possession and resisting arrest.

Inside the Westview Drive home, deputies found 33 illegal aliens, ledgers and another hand gun. All are currently being processed by deputies at this time.

Arpaio says, "This is yet another example of my continued promise to enforce all the illegal immigration laws in Maricopa County regardless of the ever changing policies emanating from Washington D.C."

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