

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: October 18, 2008

TWO-YEAR-OLD BABY LEFT UNCLAIMED BY ILLEGAL ALIENS

SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES ARRESTED TWELVE ILLEGALS ON STATE CHARGES

(Phoenix, AZ) Early this morning, Maricopa County Sheriff's deputies working in the area of 43rd Avenue and Broadway Road became suspicious of a passenger van when it made an abrupt u-turn directly in front of them. Deputies stopped the 1998 Chevy van and found two smugglers and ten co-conspirators crammed inside the van. All twelve were later determined to be illegal aliens.

Amongst the eight males and four females, deputies found a two-year-old female unrestrained and wedged between bodies in the back of the van. When the Sheriff's Human Smuggling Unit detectives interviewed the illegal aliens no one would claim the little girl or provide accurate information on how to locate her parents.

Sheriff Arpaio is asking the community to look closely at the attached photo of the two-year-old girl to provide any possible information that may locate her parents. Sheriff Arpaio says, "I'm gravely concerned at the possibility that this child could have been kidnapped in Mexico and is being transported for sale here in the United States. I will ensure that my deputies vigorously investigate this case to locate the true parents of this child and determine how this child ended up being unclaimed cargo in the smugglers vehicle."

Two days ago deputies executed search warrants at a City of Mesa municipal building, arresting sixteen illegals, ten for identity theft, and today twelve are arrested on an unrelated investigation, this time a two-year-old baby is involved. It is evident that illegal immigration affects many areas and involves many victims, in this particular case a two-year-old left to fend for herself. The Sheriff vows to continue to enforce all aspects of the federal and state human smuggling laws.

The two smugglers were arrested on state human smuggling charges and the other ten were arrested on state co-conspirator charges. All twelve illegal aliens will be booked into the Fourth Avenue Jail.

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News Release

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