

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: January 10, 2008

BROKEN BORDERS ... BROKEN JUSTICE

SHERIFF STEPS IN WHERE THE COURTS HAVE FAILED

ARPAIO BANS JAILED ILLEGALS FROM WORK PROGRAMS

(Phoenix, AZ) Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio says he is instituting a new jail policy aimed at fighting the illegal immigration problem which plagues not only the community at large but also the Sheriff's jail system.

The Sheriff is now suspending work release programs ordered by the courts which have allowed convicted illegal aliens to be released from jail during their work hours in order to go to jobs that they are prohibited by law from even having.

Despite the Employer Sanctions Law which took effect January 1, local law enforcement and courtroom judges continue to ignore arrestees' residential status which ultimately allows illegal aliens access to work release programs.

Arpaio says everyone connected to the criminal justice system, where possible, needs to inquire as to an arrestee's residential status to prevent convicted inmates from being diverted to work release programs when these same people are not allowed by law to be working in this country.

So far, it appears that only the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office is working to ascertain this information from arrestees, Arpaio say.

In the last four months, nearly 160 illegal immigrants have been identified by ICE trained Sheriff's officers as illegal aliens participating in court ordered work release programs. The Sheriff is revoking their work privileges and placing those illegal aliens into permanent lockdown to serve their full sentences.

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News Release

Upon completion of their sentences, these illegal aliens are subject to deportation to their home countries.

“To my way of thinking, judges have the opportunity to easily determine whether the person standing before them, who has been convicted of a crime, is here in this country legally or not. Judges apparently have an attitude of don’t ask, don’t tell,” says Arpaio. “So we’re going to ask and we’re going to tell.”

Arpaio says the criminal justice system is failing its citizenry by not adequately addressing the illegal immigration problem when the opportunity arises.

“The judges aren’t asking and the police officer on the street is often prohibited by department policy from asking a person’s residence status,” says Arpaio. “There are opportunities within our criminal justice system to identify and deport people who are in this country illegally and many are turning a blind eye. It’s a travesty.”

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