

# Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

## Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: January 29, 2008

### **CANADIAN FELON CONVICTED AFTER INTERNATIONAL THREAT TO KILL SHERIFF ARPAIO**

#### ***SHERIFF'S DETECTIVES AND CANADIAN POLICE COOPERATION BRINGS SUSPECT TO JUSTICE IN TORONTO***

**(Phoenix, AZ)** A 37-year-old convicted felon tracked down by Sheriff's deputies and arrested by Toronto Police for threatening to kill Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio and his family was convicted in Canada.

Canadian native Matthew Carl Sanderson, DOB 7/10/69, made the threat against Sheriff Arpaio over the Sheriff's Internet website through a sophisticated web of communications to the Sheriff from computers located in Canada and in the United States, all in an effort to avoid detection by law enforcement.

Sanderson's threats to the Sheriff and his family came in June 2006. Sanderson told the Sheriff to get his affairs in order. Sanderson said Arpaio would be murdered in dramatic and memorable fashion. He would have Arpaio with "a bullet in the head or heart, poison him, blow up his car or burn him alive" sometime within the following two years, at the behest of a group who was offering to pay Sanderson \$250,000 for Arpaio's murder.

Sheriff's detectives were able to ascertain that Sanderson made the threat from inside Canada while attempting to make it look as though the crime originated from a Des Moines, Iowa school computer.

Sanderson accused the Sheriff of being a "disgusting person who violates, tortures and hurts too many Americans" and that the CIA, FBI and Homeland Security would not be able to protect the Sheriff from his executioner.

Arpaio says his is concerned about this threat because his family is mentioned several times as also being targeted.

Sanderson has an extensive criminal record in Canada and served time in a New York prison for impersonation, criminal weapons possession, and forgery. He is now the 12th person found guilty of threatening Arpaio's life in recent years.

**News Release**

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In an unusual move for any elected official, Sheriff Arpaio traveled to Canada to testify in the trial of his would-be assassin. Now, Sanderson's conviction brings with it a sentence that he cannot possess any weapon for ten years, three years probation, and three months incarceration. Also, Sanderson was ordered to have no further contact with Sheriff Arpaio and his family.

"I am pleased and thankful that the Canadian Justice System and the Toronto Police so vigorously pursued this threat on our lives," says the Sheriff.

Sheriff's Deputy Chief Jack MacIntyre says, "The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office is admittedly happy that Sanderson was brought to justice, even as the Phoenix New Times\*, a local adult entertainment publication, continues to publicize the Sheriff's home address on the World Wide Web, in violation of Arizona law and without regard for the safety of the Arpaio family. The Canadian Government's cooperation shows that it takes threats on public officials and the release of personal information onto the Web very seriously, especially when it endangers a victim and their family."

*\*The Phoenix New Times is a subsidiary of the Village Voice Media Company.*

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