



## Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

*Joe Arpaio*  
*Sheriff*

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February 24, 2009

Chairman, John Conyers, Jr.  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on the Judiciary  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Conyers:

We recently learned through published media reports that you and three of your Democrat congressional colleagues have requested a federal investigation of me and my Office concerning potential civil rights violations of Hispanic persons residing in the Phoenix metropolitan area. Your request was dated February 12, 2009, and directed to U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder and Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano.

While I read your press release about this request with much interest, I was disappointed that you, the Chairman of the U.S. Judiciary Committee, relied solely on newspaper reports replete with inaccuracies. It would have been more appropriate for you to have contacted me directly or at the very least, made an independent inquiry into the validity of the media's accusations before calling for a federal investigation.

I can assure you that this Office is abiding by the rules and regulations set forth by our 287(g) agreement with the Department of Homeland Security. We do not racially profile people nor do we scour Latino neighborhoods looking for undocumented immigrants, as you suggest in your letter to Holder and Napolitano.

Also, contrary to the assertion in your letter, the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office does not segregate inmates in Tent City based on national origin. The relocation was designed to more effectively utilize available tent space and those moved included people from Korea, Vietnam, Central Africa, Mexico and Jamaica.

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**CHAIRMAN, JOHN CONYERS, JR.**  
**U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
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Those moved into Tent City on February 4, 2009 are all sentenced and have holds placed on them for eventual deportation or transfer to other law enforcement agencies. They were not paraded down public streets as falsely reported by my immigration foes.

Mr. Conyers, I served in the federal government for over 30 years ultimately serving as Regional Director for the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) stationed in Mexico, Latin America, Turkey, and the Middle East. I also served as the head of the DEA in Texas and Arizona. As such I understand how to follow all the laws. As Sheriff of Maricopa County going on 20 years, I have taken an oath of office to uphold federal and state laws.

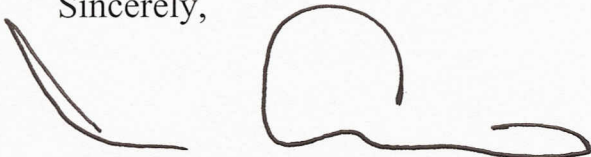
I understand how a person can be unduly influenced by the media and stridently vocal critics whose primary aim is to misrepresent law enforcement to the community at large, with their tenuous regard for the truth.

Do not be taken in by their false cries. Instead I cordially invite you and your colleagues to see for yourselves the job my deputies are doing here in Maricopa County. Visit Tent City, talk with the inmates there, question our human smuggling team of experts and decide, independent of the media and other critics, whether we are abiding by the rule of law.

You are not the first elected official to be misled by media inaccuracies, lies, and innuendo. Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon, Democrat, supported by several other democrats who are his political allies, cited the same allegations and asked the former U.S. Attorney General to investigate me. To date, little, if anything, has come from that request.

I do hope to hear back from you regarding my invitation. Your visit would signal a bi-partisan effort to get to the bottom of these allegations.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Arpaio', with a large, stylized initial 'A'.

Joe Arpaio  
Sheriff, Maricopa County

**cc: Honorable Eric H. Holder, Attorney General of the United States**  
**Honorable Janet Napolitano, Secretary of Homeland Security**  
**Zoe Lofgren, Chairman, Subcommittee on Immigration**  
**Jerrold Nadler, Chairman, Subcommittee on Civil Rights**  
**Robert C. "Bobby" Scott, Chairman, Subcommittee on Homeland Security**