

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: February 24, 2009

ARPAIO INVITES CONGRESSIONAL CRITICS TO MARICOPA COUNTY

(Phoenix, AZ) Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio sent a personal invitation to the four U.S. Congressman today who demanded a federal investigation of Arpaio for civil rights violations last week related to his illegal immigration arrests and operations. (Letter attached)

Arpaio sent a letter via fax this afternoon to the Chairman of the U.S. House Judiciary Committee, John Conyers (D), Michigan, who was the key Congressional advocate of the federal investigation.

The Sheriff's letter strongly suggests the Congressman come to Maricopa County and examine the Sheriff's human smuggling enforcement operations and the tents where 230 inmates, all of whom are convicted and many with immigration holds, were moved into a separate jail yard earlier this month.

Arpaio says, "If these out-of-state Congressmen are so concerned about what I am doing here in Maricopa County that they would demand a federal investigation of me, then I certainly hope they will view this invitation as a way to observe firsthand whether the allegations which prompted their request are even legitimate." END

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News Release