

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: June 1, 2009

ARPAIO AND ATTORNEYS SAY DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

INVESTIGATION HAS ULTERIOR MOTIVE:

OBAMA ADMINISTRATION FORCING SHERIFF TO BEND ON
ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT

(Phoenix, AZ) In a press conference today, Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio and his attorneys outlined their reasons for demanding an investigation of the U.S. Departments of Justice (DOJ) and Homeland Security (DHS) for unethical conduct and improper political influence during the course of their investigation of Arpaio's illegal immigration enforcement policies.

On March 10, 2009, the U.S. Department of Justice announced it was launching an investigation of Sheriff Joe Arpaio's illegal immigration enforcement for alleged racial profiling.

Since that investigation began, Arpaio's attorneys say the DOJ investigators have lied to senior Sheriff's Office officials and engaged in an orchestrated scheme designed to acquire documents and witness testimony surreptitiously in order to discredit the Sheriff and his Office. Specific elements of this scheme are listed in the (attached) letter to U.S Attorney General Eric Holder and Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano.

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News Release

The major concerns by Sheriff's officials and attorneys are:

- 1) The Department of Justice (DOJ) and Department of Homeland Security (DHS) officials obtained interviews and documents from senior Sheriff's officials who should have been entitled to legal counsel/representation but were denied.
- 2) The DOJ has clearly shown a predetermined pattern and practice of "guilty by investigation."
- 3) In the "100 Day Report" to the Obama Administration, DOJ investigators bragged about the accomplishment of the investigation into Arpaio even before having any evidence or facts.
- 4) The DOJ admitted it based its investigation into Arpaio and the Sheriff's Office solely on "media reports". Even one of its chief engineers, Congressman John Conyers, Chairman of the Judicial Committee, said he had no facts or evidence other than what he read in the paper before he asked the DOJ to launch its probe.

While Arpaio is concerned about the ethical problems surrounding the DOJ's investigation, the Sheriff says he is equally concerned about the political nature of it.

Arpaio and his attorneys are certain this investigation is not about justice but rather about a new Washington D.C. administration that wants Arpaio to do things the President's way, for the President's purposes.

"After serving with the DOJ for nearly 30 years as a ranking official with the DEA, it is almost painful to have to ask for this investigation," Arpaio says. "But I must take a stand. Every law enforcement agency the DOJ has investigated in the past has bowed down or rolled over to the federal government. This agency and this Sheriff will not. Washington should not tell an elected Sheriff how to conduct his law enforcement responsibilities."

END

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