

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: March 2, 2011

TEAR GAS USED BY SHERIFF'S SWAT TEAM DURING BARRICADE SITUATION OF ILLEGAL ALIEN DROP HOUSE

Sheriff Joe Arpaio Promises a Massive Operation Aimed at Trafficking of Drugs and Illegal Aliens

(Maricopa County, AZ) The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Human Smuggling Unit arrested a total of 13 illegal aliens yesterday as the result of a human smuggling "load vehicle" investigation and after a standoff between human smugglers and the Sheriff's SWAT team at a local Avondale home.

Sheriff's SWAT deputies ended the barricade situation by launching teargas through the windows of the house located at 10810 West Joblanca Road in Avondale.

Deputies were led to the residence after they received information from an earlier investigation of a "load vehicle" being used to transport illegal aliens out of Maricopa County. That information keyed deputies into the house that was actively being used by a human smuggling organization to harbor illegal aliens awaiting transport to other locations throughout the country.

The SWAT team was called in and gas was deployed to force the occupants from the home. No injuries were sustained. During the barricade situation, the head smuggler harboring the individuals attempted to flee the residence altogether but was quickly apprehended by Sheriff's deputies. Deputies also found one semi-automatic 9mm handgun and ammunition inside the home.

Sheriff Arpaio says, "Yesterday's arrests shows that the problem of smuggling drugs and illegal aliens seems out of control and is continuing within Maricopa County. I will soon be conducting a massive operation directed at the invasion of drugs and illegal aliens in the valley to include Phoenix very soon."

In the past two months, Maricopa County Sheriff's Deputies have arrested over 230 drug traffickers, and illegal aliens.

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