

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: April 14, 2009

SUSPECTED ILLEGAL ALIEN EARNING \$85 THOUSAND A YEAR ARRESTED BY SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES FOR IDENTITY THEFT AFTER WORKPLACE SEARCH

(Phoenix, AZ) His employer characterized him as “the most honorable man I have ever met...one who has never once not told the truth.” In an ironic twist of fate, Sheriff’s deputies this morning arrested Gabriel Garcia Jiminez on felony ID theft and forgery charges.

Jiminez, a foreman earning over \$85,000 a year, was one of two employees arrested today for identification theft and forgery after a search warrant was executed at the Scottsdale business seizing employee’s personnel and pay records. Both men arrested are suspected of being illegal aliens and have refused to cooperate with authorities.

The company is Stealth Demolition, 7820 East Gelding Drive, and employs nine people. A tip came to the Sheriff’s Office hotline months ago from a former employee who told Sheriff’s investigators that the company was hiring illegal aliens.

Today’s operation marks the 17th investigation conducted by the Sheriff’s Office in the past year relating to business establishment’s involvement with illegal immigration. To date, these operations have netted 241 arrests of illegal aliens, 145 of whom were charged with felony ID theft and forgery.

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Sheriff's deputies made the arrests as workers were coming to work. Later in the morning, a search warrant of the building was conducted and personnel and payroll records were confiscated.

Arpaio says his office went ahead despite Janet Napolitano, U.S. Secretary of the Homeland Security Department, whose recent policy indicating that federal immigration authorities will now only focus their efforts on employers, not employees who are in the country illegally. Also the Sheriff stated that his 100 deputies trained by ICE (287g program) will continue enforcing both federal and state laws and will continue to arrest illegal aliens employed in business establishments.

The controversy surrounding Arpaio's illegal immigration fight reached critical levels recently when the Department of Justice announced an investigation of Arpaio and his office as well as a national call for Arpaio's resignation or removal from office by the vociferous and controversial Reverend Al Sharpton. Sharpton also plans to lead a massive protest against the Sheriff in June if he does not resign his elected position.

Arpaio repeatedly says critics will not dissuade him from his fight to slow the tide of illegal immigration. In fact, he is planning a new crime suppression operation later this month.

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