

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: February 27, 2008

ILLEGAL ALIEN "SERIOUS" CRIME ESCALATING

FOUR HOMICIDES IN FOUR DAYS

(Phoenix, AZ) Undocumented aliens, mostly from Mexico and Central America, now total 1953 inmates in the Maricopa County Sheriff's jail system.

That number represents 21 percent of the overall inmate population of men and women housed in the nation's third largest jail system.

Sheriff Joe Arpaio says that is just a small part of the story about those incarcerated in his jails. He says that recent figures show that serious crime (class four felonies and above) are committed substantially by illegal aliens.

During two recent surveys, between 27 and 53 percent of all suspects booked into the jail on serious felonies had immigration holds placed on them. The vast majority of those with holds were in the United States illegally.

Date Range	Total Jail Bookings	Class Four Felony Interviews	Immigration Detainers
April 11, 2007 to September 20, 2007	16926	7191	3857
November 4, 2007 to December 6, 2007	3103	2267	612

According to the Sheriff's figures, illegal alien inmate population numbers have grown steadily in Arizona and other border states over the last several years. In March 2005, the illegal alien population in Arpaio's jails totaled approximately 700.

The increase in inmate population comes as 160 federal immigration trained Sheriff's officers have begun investigating the immigration status of every person booked into

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the Maricopa County jail, and as Arpaio's Deputy Sheriffs enforce the felony Arizona human smuggling and federal immigration laws. The increasing population also comes with increasing violence within Maricopa County. In just the last week, four homicide victims, described as younger Hispanic males, were murdered and dumped along thoroughfares in the Southwest Valley.

The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office remains the only Arizona law enforcement agency enforcing all aspects of the Arizona state human smuggling law and federal immigration laws to arrest and jail illegal immigrants.

"Zero tolerance in enforcing all laws, including all aspects of the state human smuggling and federal immigration laws to arrest and jail illegal aliens, will impact crime levels within our community, particularly crime committed by illegal aliens," says Arpaio.

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