

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



February 10th, 2012

Illegal Aliens Fought with Deputies During Arrest of 12 by Human Smuggling Detectives

(Maricopa County, AZ) Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Human Smuggling detectives last night arrested 12 illegal aliens while being smuggled through the North East Valley of Maricopa County from Mexico.

During the incident, two illegal aliens, believed to be the group's leaders, fought with detectives, in an attempt to keep the remaining suspects from being arrested. During this struggle, the 10 remaining illegal aliens attempted to flee on foot into the desert. As a result of the fight with deputies, one suspect was taken to a local hospital for treatment of minor injuries.

Sheriff Arpaio stated "Violence against my deputies apparently is on the rise. Still, that will not deter us from enforcing the law. In fact, I am planning a crime suppression operation in the near future during which I will utilize my air posse"

All of the suspects admitted to being in the country illegally and told deputies they crossed the border near Nogales, Sonorita and Cananea. The suspects were on their way to New York, Texas, Colorado and Minnesota to find work and paid between \$1700 and \$4000 to be smuggled into the U.S. All suspects were identified as Mexican Nationals.

This week alone, 20 illegal aliens have been arrested by the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office on smuggling charges.

To date the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Human Smuggling Unit has arrested over 5,400 illegal aliens involved in human smuggling.

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