

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: November 25, 2008

DESPITE DOWNTURN IN ECONOMY AND LACK OF JOBS, ILLEGALS STILL POUR INTO COUNTY, ARPAIO SAYS

30 MORE ARRESTED IN HUMAN SMUGGLING INTERDICTION

(Phoenix, AZ) With few jobs available and a national recession in progress, the numbers of illegal immigrants trying to make it into the country should be going down.

According to Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio, his deputies report little change in the numbers of illegals they are finding in routine traffic stops. Yesterday, within eight hours, 30 illegals were arrested, twenty of whom had felony charges. The three separate traffic stops all occurred west of Phoenix.

Deputies stopped the first two vehicles a few miles away from one another, near Wickenburg, AZ. The Ford SUV and Dodge Caravan were determined to be smuggling vehicles, containing 25 occupants, including two Coyotes. The co-conspirators admitted they each paid between \$500.00 and \$8000.00 each for illegal transport into the United States. A third vehicle was stopped later in the evening with six occupants, all determined to be in the country illegally.

“Our unemployment rates are through the roof. Americans everywhere are struggling to make ends meet,” Arpaio says. “Yet these illegal aliens are still coming. What other proof is needed to show that stricter immigration laws must be enforced?”

These latest arrests bring the total arrests made by the Sheriff’s Office under the felony Arizona State Human Smuggling Law to 1,357 to include both smugglers and their human cargo.

Arpaio says he will continue to enforce all aspects of the state and federal illegal immigration laws regardless of critics; as evidence proves in just over two weeks, sixty-one arrests made.

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