

# Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

## Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: July 6, 2009

### **SHERIFF ARPAIO LIFTS LOCKDOWN INITIATED TO PREVENT RACIAL TENSION IN JAIL**

#### *Racial tensions Continue after Restrictions Lifted*

(Phoenix, AZ) A large scale assault took place at the Lower Buckeye Jail following the Sheriff's order to begin lifting the restrictions that were initiated a week ago. Sheriff Arpaio ordered that Maricopa County jails be placed on lockdown June 29<sup>th</sup> after receiving intelligence that racial tension may escalate into a large scale assault.

The fight between approximately 20 inmates occurred after restrictions were lifted causing the housing unit to be placed back on lockdown. Minor injuries were reported but Sheriff's intelligence officers confirmed that the multiple inmate fight was race related.

Sheriff Arpaio confirmed that the lockdown will still be in effect at the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue Jail indefinitely which houses 1,700 of the County's most violent inmates.

Arpaio says "I want to send the inmates a message that I run these jails and I will not be segregating inmates based on race, which is what they want."

Tents, Towers, Durango, and Estrella Jails are no longer under the restriction at this time and will be accepting visitors during the regular visitation hours.

News Release

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