

# Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

## Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: May 5, 2009

## Thousands Protest Arpaio's Immigration Enforcement Policies over Weekend

### Arpaio Responds with the Arrest of 54 More Suspected Illegal Aliens

(Phoenix, AZ) Sheriff Arpaio responded to the thousands of protestors with the arrest of over 50 more illegal aliens within 24 hours of the weekend. Arpaio says "The open-border activists can continue to march every day if they want to but that is not going to intimidate me from continuing to enforce federal and state immigration laws. I will not back down."

The Sheriff's Human Smuggling Unit arrested 54 suspected illegal aliens during two separate traffic stops in the north valley and by serving search warrants at two separate suspected drop houses.

Both traffic stops were prompted by unreadable license plates resulting in the arrest of 31 suspected illegal aliens. One of those traffic stops also led deputies to the two drop houses where deputies believe illegal aliens were being held against their will under violent circumstances.

One drop house located at the 2900 block of West Indian School Road in Phoenix resulted in the arrest of 17 suspected illegal aliens and led deputies to the 8000 block of West Saguaro Drive in Peoria where six more were arrested. Of those arrested, six are suspected of being coyotes.

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During further investigation of the drop houses, weapons, ledgers, and a cell phone containing pictures of a suspected coyote holding a gun to one of the hostage's heads were recovered.

Sheriff Arpaio is routinely criticized for these types of traffic stops that often lead to the arrest of illegal aliens. In this case, the traffic stops may have prevented violence towards the people being held against their will.

These arrests come immediately after an estimated 2,000 protestors marched nearly six miles ending up in front of Arpaio's Tent City Jail where over 250 convicted illegal aliens are being held.

Felony state human smuggling and federal 287g charges are pending against the suspected illegal aliens. END

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