

# Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

## Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



January 31, 2011

### **68 ILLEGAL ALIENS NABBED BY SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES IN TWO DAY LONG CRIME SUPPRESSION OPERATION**

### **U.S. CITIZEN ARRESTED LAST NIGHT ON SMUGGLING CHARGES**

(**Maricopa County AZ**) Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio announced today that his 18<sup>th</sup> crime suppression operation once again proved successful with the apprehension of 83 law breakers, most of who were arrested for crimes relating to human smuggling.

After a total of 17 hours of operations, deputies and members of the newly formed Illegal Immigration Enforcement Posse arrested 83 suspects, 68 of whom were later confirmed to be illegal aliens involved in human smuggling.

Late last night, after the operation concluded, Sheriff's patrol deputies made a traffic stop outside Gila Bend and arrested seven persons including six illegal immigrants and one US citizen. The U.S. citizen arrested for human smuggling was Steven Jones, a Caucasian male. Jones admitted to being involved in this incident of human smuggling in order to pay off a debt owed to a drug dealer.

"Department of Justice officials are currently here in town interviewing my officers pursuant to a lawsuit filed by the US government against me and my officers for alleged racial profiling. This arrest, I believe, shows yet again that my deputies arrest anyone who breaks the law, regardless of race, gender or national origin," Arpaio says.

Arpaio said that the remaining 15 detained over the two day operation were United States citizens arrested for crimes ranging from warrants, drug possession, possession of a stolen vehicle and various traffic violations.

**100 West Washington, Suite 1900, Phoenix, Arizona 85003**

**Phone: (602) 876-1801 Fax: (602) 258-2081**

**Media Contact: [SheriffsMediaRequests@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov](mailto:SheriffsMediaRequests@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov)**

During the operation, a total of 725 pounds of marijuana were seized from illegal aliens currying drugs into the county. In a separate seizure, several grams of methamphetamine were also seized during the operation.

Leading up to the two day operation, the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office arrested 56 illegal aliens involved in human smuggling bringing the total of illegal immigrants arrested this month by Maricopa County Sheriff's deputies to 124.

Sheriff Arpaio stated his officers and deputies have investigated over 44,000 illegal aliens who were either booked into jail or detained on the streets since his crack down on illegal immigration began in 2008.

Arpaio added, "Human smuggling and drug traffickers seem to be joining forces because of the motive of profit." Arpaio will be increasing his crime suppression, employer sanction and human smuggling operations. Also, he will not be deterred by the Department of Justice investigation against his office currently in progress. END

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