

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



SB1070 Activists Convicted in Nationally Televised Protest That Caused Serious Disruption to Sheriff's Office

August 8, 2011

(Phoenix, AZ) Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio says "it's about time" that the courts found activist Salvador Reza and others guilty of acts of failure to comply with lawful orders on July 29th, 2010.

Arpaio said the actions of Reza and his followers last July during the SB1070 immigration law protests and civil disobedience were completely willful when they broke the law by creating a human chain preventing Sheriff Deputies from entering the downtown jail.

The protest was staged to receive national publicity from virtually every media outlet as well as to cause disorder to Sheriff Arpaio's crime suppression operations being conducting on that July day.

Arpaio says, "The court was correct to convict all 13 people, including activists Salvador Reza (founder of Puente) and Peter Morales (president of the Boston based Unitarian Universalist Association) for their actions as they relate to the protests against SB1070 last year. These activists willfully disregarded the law causing a severe disruption to the Sheriff's Office. This Office will not tolerate acts of civil disobedience. Arpaio adds that if similar events occur again, participants will be arrested and booked into jail."

News Release

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Reza is a long-time critic of Sheriff Arpaio's stance on fighting illegal immigration. Reza shows his discontent by routinely showing up at crime suppression operations conducted by the Sheriff's Office and has been a key organizer of several major protests against Arpaio along with some of his political allies. Reza has even gone to Washington DC along with some elected officials to plea with the President and U.S. Justice Dept. to investigate Arpaio regarding alleged civil rights violations.

Arpaio fully expects that Reza and his cohorts will show up during the next neighborhood crime suppression operation that Arpaio has planned in the very near future in a major North East Valley city as well as Phoenix.

"These people are your typical activists who want law enforcement to enforce only the laws of this country they agree with and unfortunately for them, that's not how things are done. Anyone who violates the public disturbance laws should expect to be arrested," says Arpaio.

Reza and the others found guilty could face jail, fines and/or probation. Sentencing is slated for later this month. END

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