Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
Joe Arpaio, Sheriff

News Release

Date: January 28, 2009

Sheriff Targets Scottsdale Business in ID Theft/Employers Sanctions Investigation

Deputies Arrest 37 Illegal Immigrants

(Phoenix, AZ) Despite the apparent lack of interest by Washington regarding the illegal immigration problem, Sheriff Joe Arpaio says his recent success in arresting illegal aliens underscores how acute the problem still remains.

Today, 40 Sheriff's deputies served a search warrant on a Scottsdale furniture business located at 7407 East Greenway and arrested eight illegal immigrants who were booked on felony identification theft charges. An additional four were arrested at the business for violating immigration laws. One of those was also charged with drug possession.

The Scottsdale business investigation began after a tip came into the Sheriff's illegal immigration hotline in March from a source who advised the Sheriff's Office that the business owner was knowingly hiring illegal aliens.

Also, the Sheriff's human smuggling operation stopped two vehicles traveling through the north valley area and arrested 25 illegal aliens on state and federal immigration charges.

In a third incident, a foreign national was stopped by Sheriff's deputies on a traffic violation in the north valley near Fountain Hills. The man was determined to be a prohibited possessor and found to be illegally carrying an AK 47 rifle, an AR 15 rifle and a Glock 27 pistol.

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Arpaio says, “Even though our country is facing serious problems on several fronts, illegal immigration is a problem that should not be ignored.” He added that his office will continue to conduct crime suppression operations and enforce the state human smuggling and employer sanctions laws.

Today’s employer sanctions/identification theft case in Scottsdale marks the 13th such investigation conducted by Sheriff Arpaio’s Office in the last year. Those cases have netted 160 illegal alien arrests, including 88 for ID theft and forgery, 64 for other illegal immigration violations, and eight (8) US citizens were also arrested on various warrants.

Since the Sheriff’s illegal immigration interdiction program began, 1376 illegal immigrants have been arrested on state human smuggling felony charges. An additional 1358 people have been determined to be in violation of other illegal immigration laws. In the Sheriff’s jails, over 157,000 inmates have been investigated and 21,000 of those were determined to be illegal aliens who now will stay in jail until their cases are adjudicated or they are processed for deportation.

“My office still remains the only Arizona law enforcement agency to enforce all aspects of the human smuggling laws,” Arpaio says. I will continue to fight this problem, despite Washington’s lackluster attitude toward illegal immigration and despite the budget cuts my office is facing.”

Arpaio says County Attorney Andrew Thomas and his staff are equally dedicated to the fight against illegal immigration and have been very successful in the prosecution of these cases.

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