

# Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

## Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date 07/13/11

### ***SMUGGLERS AVOIDING MARICOPA COUNTY***

#### **Ten Illegal Aliens Arrested by Maricopa County Sheriff's Office** **Human Smuggling Unit**

(Phoenix, AZ) The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Human Smuggling Unit arrested ten illegal aliens on Tuesday evening in the north valley.

The ten illegal aliens had agreed to pay between \$1,800 and \$3,500 for entry into the United States. Their final destinations included California and North Carolina.

Sheriff Arpaio has learned through intelligence sources that smugglers of both illegal aliens and illegal drugs have begun to avoid passing through Maricopa County with their illegal cargo. These smugglers are now choosing to use alternate routes through Arizona once they have crossed the border in order to avoid the effective enforcement by the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office Human Smuggling Unit (HSU).

A recent seizure of approximately one ton of marijuana also indicates that these smugglers are using more and more evasive techniques to avoid capture, sometimes abandoning their drugs or human loads to escape.

Arpaio says "This Sheriff will continue to enforce all state and federal laws combatting human smuggling and illegal drug trafficking within Maricopa County". To date the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office (HSU) has arrested nearly 2,500 illegal aliens entering from the border.

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