

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: August 13, 2008

SHERIFF INTENSIFIES SEARCH FOR HUMAN SMUGGLERS

100 Deputies and Posse Head to the West Valley

First Illegal Immigration Operation Largely Funded by Private Citizens

(Phoenix, AZ.) As part of his comprehensive fight against illegal immigration in Maricopa County, Sheriff Joe Arpaio today says his deputies and posse volunteers are in the west valley on an enforcement operation geared to capturing smugglers and their co conspirators. Human smuggling laws in Arizona are a class 4 felony.

Immigration trained deputies along side dozens of volunteers will patrol the west valley, traveling well known smuggling routes and arresting anyone violating the law, including immigration laws.

Sheriff Arpaio's enforcement efforts against human traffickers and their co conspirators netted 1051 arrests since March 2006. The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office remains the only agency in Arizona to enforce *all* aspects of the human smuggling laws.

The human smuggling laws have created a hotly debated controversy in Maricopa County. Yet, despite the protests, the Arizona Court of Appeals for the second time this year upheld the legality of arresting both the smugglers and the co conspirators.

Success occurs on the prosecution side as well. County Attorney Andrew Thomas has obtained over a 90% conviction rate in these human smuggling and co conspirator cases.

Because of Governor Napolitano's interference with Arpaio's crackdown on illegal immigration by taking away the \$1.2 million designated to the Sheriff by the Arizona state legislator for the enforcement of the human smuggling laws, private citizens have come forward to offer support. So far, they have donated over \$36,000 to the Sheriff's Office, some of which will be used to fund today's operation.

Since the Governor took the \$1.2 million away in May of this year, deputies have made 95 arrests

News Release

100 West Washington, Suite 1900, Phoenix, Arizona 85003

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

Media Contact: SheriffsMediaRequests@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov

under the state human smuggling law.

“I am proud to be doing the will of the majority of citizens in this county,” Arpaio says. I assure everyone that my deputies and posse handle these operations respectfully and professionally. And the unsubstantiated allegations repeatedly made by a select few elected officials and open border activists will not deter us from enforcing the law.”

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