

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: February 6, 2008

SHERIFF'S IMMIGRATION INTERDICTION UNIT ARRESTS 28 ILLEGAL ALIENS LAST NIGHT

TIP FROM ARREST LEADS DEPUTIES TO WEST VALLEY DROP HOUSE

(*Phoenix, AZ.*) Detectives from Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio's Human Smuggling Unit interdicted three separate load vehicles inside one hour last night in and around Wickenburg, Arizona resulting in the arrests of 28 illegal aliens.

Totals on state charges arrests by the Sheriff's anti human smuggling team now rests at 845 people. The Sheriff's Office continues to be the only Arizona law enforcement agency to enforce all aspects of the state anti human smuggling laws.

"We're hitting the illegal immigration problem from every angle," Arpaio says. "Next week we will unveil a new enforcement operation, the reason for which may surprise or anger county residents."

Last night's three traffic stops were made on SUVs between 10 and 11PM. A Dodge Durango with Arizona plates had six (6) adults inside including the driver (coyote). Interviews with the occupants determined that each agreed to pay between \$1800.00 and \$2000.00 for illegal transport to the Los Angeles, California area.

A Ford Expedition with California plates was found to have 12 occupants inside all of whom, other than the driver, were from Guatemala and each said they agreed to pay between \$200.00 and \$5000.00 for transport to Los Angeles, San Francisco, Miami and Boston.

The third load vehicle was an Isuzu Rodeo with ten (10) occupants who said they agreed to pay up to \$3400.00 for transport into the Los Angeles area as well.

Total state charges arrests from last night's stops include three coyotes and 20 co-conspirators. Five others (three juveniles traveling with two fathers) were turned over to federal immigration authorities for immediate deportation. MORE

News Release

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A tip from one of the 28 arrested led deputies to a west valley drop house this morning in the area of 81st Avenue and Osborn Street. The Sheriff's SWAT team made entry into the house and determined it to be a legitimate drop house although no one was found inside at the time of entry. Deputies took evidence from the scene for processing and then boarded up the home.

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