

***Maricopa County Sheriff's Office***  
***Joe Arpaio, Sheriff***  
***News Brief***

*October 29, 2007*

**24 ILLEGAL ALIENS SURRENDER**  
**TO SHERIFF'S JAIL**

**(Phoenix, AZ.)** Despite knowing that doing their civic duty will get them a one way ticket back to Mexico, 24 illegal aliens self surrendered this weekend to serve their court ordered jail sentences.

“They’re illegal immigration status was ignored by the arresting agencies and by the courts but not by my detention officers,” Arpaio says. “They’re doing the job that other law enforcement agencies refuse to do.”

The 24 men were recently sentenced by the Arizona courts for various minor violations and for different sentences but all will have one thing in common – a bus ride back to the Mexican border courtesy of the Sheriff’s agreement with federal authorities.

Since April 2008, Sheriff’s detention officers have investigated 16,642 inmates in all the Sheriff’s jails, including Tent City, to determine their immigration status. Officers have placed immigration holds on 5900 of them. All those with holds will be deported once their sentences are completed, Arpaio says.

Arpaio says he wishes more would surrender in lieu of having deputies arrest them for other immigration violations like running unlicensed businesses, human smuggling, loitering as day laborers and operating drop houses.

The Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office now affects about 25% of all immigration holds placed in inmates in U.S. jails.

“This is a remarkable contribution made by my officers in the fight against illegal immigration,” the Sheriff said.