

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: May 21, 2008

SHERIFF'S TASK FORCE MAKES LARGE METHAMPHETAMINE BUST

Head of Drug Enterprise is an Illegal Alien

His Son, an Arizona DOC Corrections Officer, Also Arrested

(Phoenix, AZ) After a seven month long investigation, Sheriff's detectives followed a car they had under surveillance and after making a routine traffic stop on that vehicle yesterday at 83rd Avenue and Indian School, detectives found four (4) pounds of pure methamphetamine in a hidden compartment inside the car.

Two people in the vehicle were taken into custody, including the driver, Domingo Ruiz, DOB 5-12-53, who was later determined by Sheriff's ICE trained deputies to be an illegal alien.

The investigation began last November after the Sheriff's Office received a tip from an undisclosed source saying that illegal drug activity was occurring. In all, five houses in the west valley were under placed under surveillance in the course of the investigation.

Yesterday search warrants were conducted on all five residences. In one of them, a house located at 111th avenue and Indian School, Sheriff's detectives found an additional 16 pounds of pure methamphetamine. Weapons, scales and over \$200,000 in cash were also seized.

The street value of the 20 pounds of methamphetamine is estimated at approximately \$2 million.

Search warrants of the other homes rendered more money counting machines, AK-

News Release

100 West Washington, Suite 1900, Phoenix, Arizona 85003

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

Media Contact: SheriffsMediaRequests@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov

47s, shotguns, pistols and drug weighing scales. Additionally, six vehicles were seized. Two the cars had “traps” inside, compartments built to hide drugs.

More drugs and cash were confiscated in other states including 35 pounds of methamphetamine, 12 pounds of cocaine and \$200,000 cash, all tied to the Ruiz family drug business.

Detectives say all the drugs were run through Nogales and Tucson, Arizona before being distributed to other states from Maricopa County.

Six people, all relatives from one family, have been taken into custody including Noe Ruiz (DOB 11-10-76). Ruiz has worked for seven years at the Arizona Department of Corrections as a corrections officer at the Lewis Prison Complex.

Ruiz’s father, Domingo Ruiz, is the purported head of this criminal enterprise. He resides in Tonopah, AZ. in a home valued at \$400,000. According to detectives, the home has been fully paid for despite the elder Ruiz’s claim that he lives on a \$45,000 a year income.

Also arrested were:

Maria Ruiz-Ochoa, DOB 10/31/80; Humberto Ruiz identified as an illegal alien, DOB 12/24/78; Ruben Ruiz, DOB 09/14/85 and Javier Serrano-Garcia, DOB 10/06/88.

This investigation is a culmination of efforts by the Sheriff’s Office, DEA and the FBI. Arpaio says he appreciates the cooperation of all the agencies involved including Phoenix Police, Mesa Police, Wickenburg Police and DPS.

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