

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: *May 20, 2008*

63 More Illegal Aliens Captured In 24-Hours By Sheriff's Human Smuggling Unit

Governor's Funding Cuts to Arpaio's Budget Isn't Stopping His Anti-Immigration Efforts

(Phoenix, AZ) Two days after Arizona Governor Janet Napolitano cut funding for Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio's efforts to enforce illegal immigration laws, the Sheriff's Human Smuggling Detectives arrested 63 more illegal aliens in approximately 24 hours during several investigations spread through out the county.

Last night at 6:50pm, Sheriff's detectives stopped a white colored 1998 Chevy Astro Van near Interstate 17 and Table Mesa Road. Inside the van, deputies found 14 occupants, including one smuggler, *Melo Porfirio-Bautista (DOB 11-08-1974)*. Porfirio's human cargo was determined to be in the country illegally. The destination for the group was Chicago, Illinois.

Twenty minutes later, Sheriff's deputies stopped a red Dodge Caravan near Wickenburg, Arizona. Inside the van were three (3) occupants. Deputies determined all three adults were in the United States illegally.

Five minutes later, Sheriff's investigators near Wickenburg stopped a green Dodge Caravan with eight (8) occupants inside that vehicle. The investigation by Sheriff's deputies determined all eight were in the United States illegally.

Two hours later at about 9:30pm, the Sheriff's Human Smuggling Unit responded to assist with a shooting investigation at 20840 E. Pickett in Queen Creek, Arizona. Through investigation, Sheriff's detectives determined 13 of 15 individuals within the home were illegal aliens.

Then at daybreak this morning, Sheriff's deputies stopped a blue Dodge Caravan again near Wickenburg. In the van, 14 illegal aliens were discovered and arrested.

News Release

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The total number of arrests is 63 illegal aliens in only seven hours time for violations of the state and federal immigration laws.

Though Sheriff Arpaio has come under heavy criticism from elected public officials, pro-illegal immigration activists, and others for conducting crime suppression efforts, including efforts to combat illegal immigration within the towns and cities of Maricopa County, he continues to enforce all laws. Despite the critics, the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office continues to be the only Arizona law enforcement agency enforcing all aspects of the state and federal illegal immigration laws.

“I want everyone to know that even with my funding being taken away by Governor Napolitano and the Arizona Department of Public Safety, my deputies will continue to enforce state and federal illegal immigration laws everywhere in Maricopa County.”

Contact SheriffsMediaRequests@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov with inquiries.

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