

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: August 25, 2008

MARICOPA COUNTY NOW HAS NATION'S HIGHEST NUMBER OF IMMIGRATION HOLDS ON INCARCERATED ILLEGAL ALIENS

(Phoenix, AZ) While the Sheriff's illegal immigration and human smuggling operations conducted on the streets and roadways here have netted nearly 2300 arrests, another very successful effort to locate illegal aliens has been quietly happening inside Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio's jails.

Despite the growing criticism of the Sheriff's illegal immigration fight by some valley politicians and activists, Sheriff Arpaio says 60 detention officers trained by ICE officials have conducted over 106,000 interviews and investigations of inmates booked into jail since April of 2007.

In those 18 months, 16,000 inmates were determined to be illegal aliens. Either they have already been deported or will be deported after being tried and/or serving their sentences for crimes committed in the valley. The work being done by Arpaio's detention staff is a likely contributor to the recent reduction in crime in the valley.

That number of 16,000 represents a full one third (1/3) of all inmates in the United States who have had holds placed on them after being identified by jail or prison officials as illegal aliens.

"No other jail system in the United States has done a better job of identifying incarcerated illegal aliens. This effort ultimately makes these particular inmates subject to deportation rather than returning them to the streets," says Sheriff Joe Arpaio. "Not even jails larger than ours and populated with far more illegal aliens like Los Angeles for example, has

News Release

100 West Washington, Suite 1900, Phoenix, Arizona 85003

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

Media Contact: SheriffsMediaRequests@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov

done such exemplary work in this area.”

A snapshot of the Maricopa County jail system today shows that of the current 10,000 inmates incarcerated, 20% are illegal aliens.

Of the approximate 2000 illegal alien inmates, 70% were arrested on felony crimes.

Here is a breakdown of the types of crimes these illegal aliens stand accused of today:

Forgery 12%
Kidnapping 10%
Aggravated Assault 7%
DUI 7%
Drug Charges 27%
Robbery 3%
Murder 3%
Theft 4%

>>END<<

100 West Washington, Suite 1900, Phoenix, Arizona 85003
Phone: (602) 876-1801 Fax: (602) 258-2081
Media Contact: SheriffsMediaRequests@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov