

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: October 17, 2007

SHERIFF'S OFFICE CONTINUES HUMAN SMUGGLING- HOSTAGE INVESTIGATION

Arpaio's Illegal Immigration Interdiction Unit Arrests Illegal Aliens Connected to Kidnapping Investigation

(Phoenix, AZ) Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio's Illegal Immigration Interdiction (Triple I) Unit has arrested 14 more illegal aliens today in Phoenix, while furthering yesterday's kidnapping investigation that involved a human smuggling operation.

According to Sheriff's Office spokesman Captain Paul Chagolla, undercover Sheriff's deputies arranged to meet the kidnapers of an illegal alien in order to pay a ransom. The deputies were successful in freeing the hostage, however the kidnapers spotted the Sheriff's S.W.A.T. team and fled. After a brief chase, the suspects crashed into an electrical utility box. Subsequently, a local school was placed into lock-down.

Sheriff Arpaio met with the media and advised that the investigation was not complete and that additional illegal alien hostages may be outstanding. Additional intelligence obtained during the investigation lead deputies to a separate home connected to the human smuggling operation.

Today, Sheriff's human smuggling investigators continued their investigation with surveillance on a home located at 11204 West Calle De La Luna in the city of Phoenix. Pursuant to a search warrant, the Sheriff's Triple I Unit served a search warrant this afternoon resulting in the arrests of 14 additional illegal aliens, with more arrests expected.

According to Sheriff's human smuggling detectives, the investigation continues to rapidly unfold, and may lead to a much larger organized smuggling ring.

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News Release

“I promised the citizens of this county, including Phoenix, that I would pursue illegal immigration, and arrest violators of both state and federal immigration law,” says Sheriff Joe Arpaio.

The Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office continues to be the only Arizona law enforcement agency enforcing all aspects of the felony Arizona state human smuggling law and federal immigration law using 160 deputies and officers trained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials.

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