

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: February 26, 2009

ARPAIO MORE DETERMINED EVEN AS CRITICISM MOUNTS

30 More Illegal immigrants Arrested

(Phoenix, AZ) In the last 48 hours, Maricopa County Sheriff's deputies have arrested 30 more illegal immigrants on state and federal immigration charges, this despite the ever growing mountain of criticism being levied at Arpaio and his office by Democrats and open border enthusiasts nationwide.

"I will not back down," Arpaio says. "What I am doing is upholding the laws of the state of Arizona and I will not be persuaded to turn my back on my oath of office as Sheriff of this county."

Last week, four out-of-state congressmen asked for a federal investigation of Arpaio based on allegations of racial profiling made public by some media and activist groups.

Sheriff Arpaio fired back at the Congressmen by inviting House Judiciary Committee Chairman John Conyers (D) of Michigan and other members of Congress to personally visit Maricopa County and take a look at the Sheriff's operation first hand.

100 West Washington, Suite 1900, Phoenix, Arizona 85003

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

Media Contact: SheriffsMediaRequests@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov

Later a passenger van was pulled over in North Phoenix containing 18 illegal aliens who admitted to paying coyotes up to \$6,000.00 each for entry into the country illegally. 12 of those illegal aliens were booked on class 4 felonies of human smuggling.

During another operation, Sheriff's deputies found a drop house in the West Valley when they were attempting to serve an eviction warrant for failure to keep up on mortgage payments. That warrant resulted in 12 suspected illegal aliens being taken into custody.

The Sheriff's Office has arrested 1,230 illegal aliens on state human smuggling laws which is a class 4 felony. The Office has also investigated and identified over 22,000 inmates in the county jail who are in the country illegally.

To date, the Sheriff's Office has arrested a total of 2,664 illegal aliens on both state and federal immigration charges. Of those charged, 135 were charged with identity theft.

The Sheriff's Office continues to be the only agency enforcing all aspects of felony Arizona state human smuggling laws and federal immigration laws using 160 deputies and officers trained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Officials.

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