

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



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SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES DISRUPT IDENTIFICATION/ FORGERY OPERATION FROM ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION HOTLINE TIP

Five Illegal Aliens Arrested and Hundreds of Fake ID's Seized during Execution of Warrant

(Maricopa County, Arizona) Maricopa County Sheriff's Deputies received a tip through Sheriff Arpaio's illegal immigration hotline that led to a six-month surveillance operation resulting in the arrest of five illegal aliens and the disruption of an identity forgery ring.

Two of the illegal aliens arrested during the execution of the warrant Eduardo Chavez-Elizalde (DOB 3/18/76) and Federico Velasco-Lopez (DOB 3/2/76) are suspected of running the forgery operation providing undocumented immigrants with fake identification in order to help them gain employment illegally in the United States.

During the raid, deputies seized computer equipment, weapons, ledgers, and hundreds of forged documents including social security cards, driver's licenses, and permanent residency cards issued by the federal government.

Sheriff Arpaio has constantly emphasized the importance of enforcing all aspects of illegal immigration laws stating that this type of activity directly affects everyone legally in the country, especially given the current state of the economy.

The information received relating to the six-month investigation originated from the illegal immigration hotline that Sheriff Arpaio established in July of 2007. Since that time, the hotline has received over 6,800 calls which have provided information on a majority of the 26 employer sanctions investigations, human smuggling activity, and the need for crime suppression operations conducted by the Sheriff's Office.

Employer sanctions investigations have resulted in the arrest of 332 illegal aliens, 214 of which were charged with felony Identity theft.

Interestingly, the U.S. Department of Justice has established its own hotline to solicit information from the public on complaints against the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office since initiating a civil rights investigation of alleged racial profiling by sheriff's deputies.

"It is very unusual that the U.S Justice Department would openly solicit information from the public on a law enforcement agency," stated Sheriff Arpaio. Despite all of the criticism from open-border activist groups, some politicians, and certain media outlets, the Sheriff will continue enforcing all aspects of federal and state illegal immigration laws.

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