

# Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

## Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: March 1, 2010

### **SHERIFF'S PATROL DEPUTIES RAMPING UP ENFORCEMENT OF HUMAN SMUGGLING LAWS**

#### *Early morning traffic stop nets 14 illegal aliens*

(Maricopa County, AZ) A Maricopa County Sheriff's patrol deputy arrested 14 illegal aliens, nine of which were for felony human smuggling charges, around 5:00 A.M. this morning during a traffic stop southwest of the Valley near Gila Bend.

These arrests are a result of Sheriff Joe Arpaio's recent promise to ensure that all 900 of his sworn deputies receive training on the enforcement of illegal immigration laws.

The Sheriff states that the rate of arrests made by his office for human smuggling violations at this point of the year is already double what it was this time last year. This is a significant increase considering the fact that Washington just recently stripped the Sheriff's authority to allow 100 federally trained deputies to act as Immigration and Custom's Enforcement (ICE) agents under the 287(g) program.

"This proves that I am keeping my promise to the people of Maricopa County and will continue to press forward on the illegal immigration problem we are facing. Obviously the numbers suggest that illegal aliens are still coming into this country and we are still arresting them," Arpaio says.

Since the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office began enforcing felony state human smuggling laws, 1,874 illegal aliens have been arrested and booked into the county jail on felony smuggling violations. The Maricopa County Sheriff's Office continues to be the only law enforcement agency to enforce all aspects of the state human smuggling law.

Information obtained by deputies during these recent arrests will be instrumental in the determination of the location for the Sheriff's next crime suppression operation.

News Release

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