

Maricopa County Sheriff's Office

Joe Arpaio, Sheriff



Date: June 9, 2010

MARICOPA COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPUTIES ARREST 40 ILLEGAL ALIENS IN 36 HOUR PERIOD

Deputies Turn Over 31 Illegal Aliens to Immigration and Custom's Enforcement; A Policy That Will Soon Change

(Maricopa County, AZ) Maricopa County Sheriff's deputies arrested 40 illegal aliens during several traffic stops and the investigation of a Mesa drop house which was being used to harbor people who were recently smuggled across the border.

Sheriff's deputies have arrested over 2,000 illegal alien smugglers and co-conspirators since the state human smuggling law went into effect. The law has produced a 94% conviction rate of the cases that have made it through the judicial process.

As a result of the recent arrests, deputies turned over 31 illegal aliens to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) because they were unable to gather enough evidence to arrest them under the state human smuggling law. The remaining nine were booked into the county jail on state human smuggling charges as either smugglers or co-conspirators.

Sheriff Arpaio says, "When the new state law goes into affect, my deputies will no longer have to turn illegal aliens over to the federal government when they suspect they are in the country illegally. They will be taking them straight to jail once they confirm their immigration status."

Sheriff Arpaio recently voiced concerns that he believes the federal government may soon be changing their policies on the usage of local law enforcement agencies to enforce illegal immigration laws in a measure to trump Arizona's controversial new state law.

100 West Washington, Suite 1900, Phoenix, Arizona 85003

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

Media Contact: MediaRequest@MCSO.Maricopa.Gov

News Release

“I was upset last year when Washington stripped 100 of my deputies’ authority to act as federal immigration agents. If recent public comments made by assistant secretary of homeland security John Morton are any indication of what’s to come with illegal immigration enforcement, I am deeply concerned,” stated Arpaio.

Morton recently made public statements to the media indicating that the federal government may not necessarily accept illegal aliens referred to them by local law enforcement authorities in Arizona. He also indicated that he believes Arizona’s new law is not the answer to the current immigration problem.

Since the Maricopa County Sheriff’s Office began cracking down on illegal immigration in 2006, his deputies and detention officers have been responsible for arresting, detaining, or investigating in the jail over 38,000 illegal aliens, many of which were under the authority of the federal government that the Sheriff believes may soon go away.

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