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## SHERIFF ARPAIO AND 287(G) AGREEMENT ON COLBERT NATION SHOW

On the heels of another shameful parade of 900 prisoners, Phoenix, Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio appeared on national TV to brag about his “crime suppression” sweeps which have resulted in the terrorization of Latino communities. The sheriff was interviewed on by Stephen Colbert on April 20, 2009, who noted the presence of protesters at the Comedy Central studio where the show is taped.

On Friday, April 17, Arpaio “relocated” [900](#) detainees from the county jail to another. Just as he had done on February 4, the sheriff called the media to witness a march of shackled prisoners, strung together with chains in another act of ritual humiliation that violates international human rights law.

“The media hungry sheriff continues to violate the basic human rights of his community and to thumb his nose at the Justice Department and Congressional investigators. Janet Napolitano and the Obama Administration must recognize that immediate federal intervention is necessary. They must terminate Sheriff Arpaio’s 287(g) contract immediately,” said Salvador Reza of Puente AZ.

“The horror stories of detained citizens, [abandoned children on side roads](#), [paraded immigrants in chains and shackles](#), and [pregnant women forced to give birth while chained to a bed](#) illustrate the urgency to suspend the 287(g) agreements and restore order and human dignity to terrorized communities across the country,” said Pablo Alvarado of the National Day Laborer Organizing Network.

Sheriff Arpaio is the national face of so-called 287(g) agreements, which allow poorly trained local police to enforce immigration laws. The program has come under fire as several reports including a recent Government Accountability Office report reveal the mismanagement of the program. The prestigious Goldwater Institute has also found that on Sheriff Arpaio’s watch, violent crime, 911 response times, unserved arrest warrants, and dollars paid out in budget overruns, overtime and lawsuit settlements have all risen dramatically.

In the past month, four Congressional committees have held hearings on the civil and human rights abuses conducted by police agencies when they purport to enforce immigration laws. Reports by the Government Accountability Office and private organizations have all concluded that the agreements lead to racial profiling and

interfere with legitimate police operations. During the TV interview, the sheriff defended his tactics, claiming that his office doesn't arrest individuals based on their race, but based on violations of the law such as "speeding, cracked windshields, and DUI."

More than 100 local and national organizations are calling for the revocation of 287 (g) agreements. National networking efforts have given rise to organized marches and rallies against the 287(g) agreements in major cities such as New York, Chicago, Phoenix, and Los Angeles. While Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano has said she will review the program, she is also considering the expansion of the 287(g) agreements as additional security measures.