



Maricopa County Sheriff's Office
Joe Arpaio, Sheriff

NEWSRelease

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CONTACT: Sheriff Joe Arpaio

HOUSING IMMIGRATION DETAINEES

SHERIFF ARPAIO SENDS LETTER TO I.C.E. OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON, D.C:

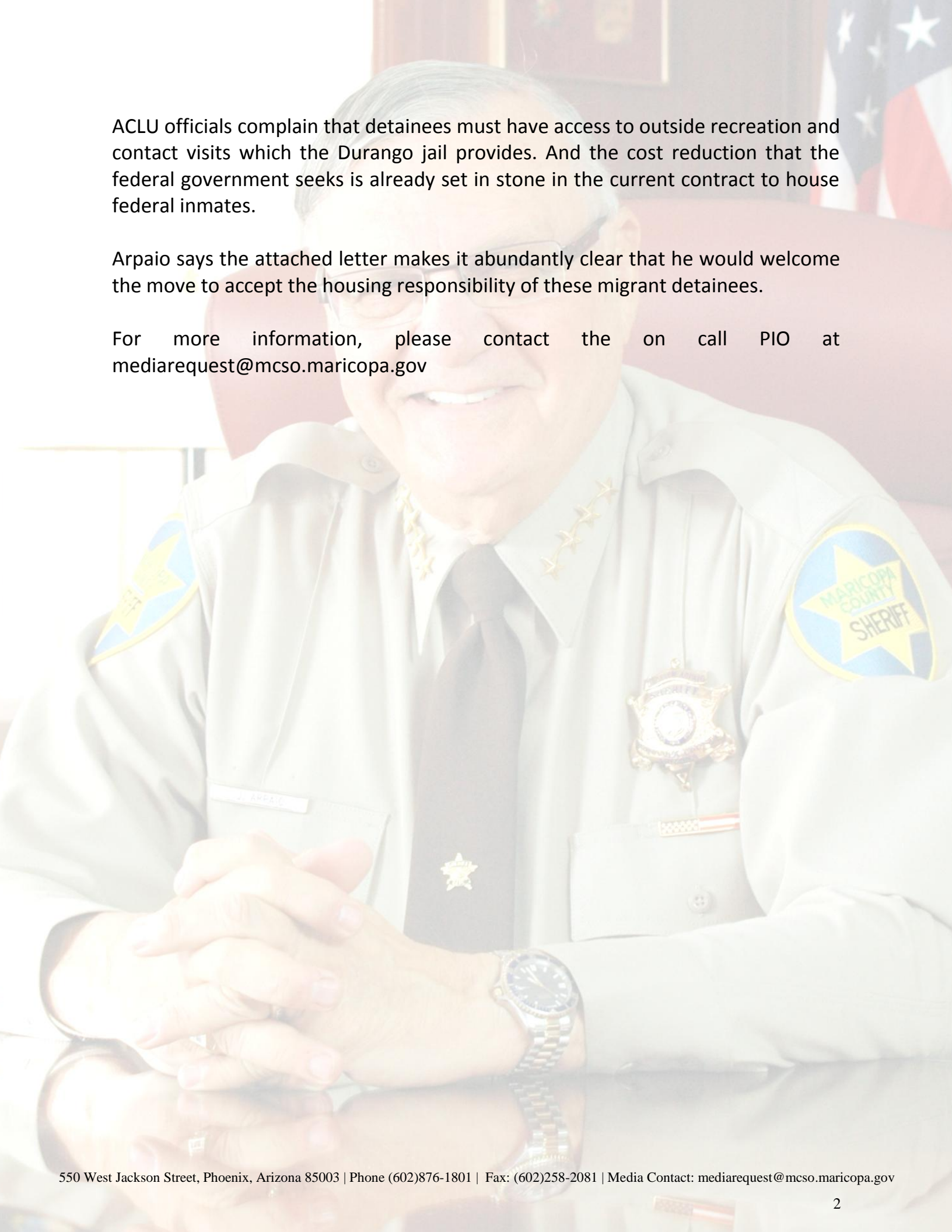
(Phoenix, AZ) Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio has stepped into the escalating dispute over the cost of housing migrant detainees between Pinal County, Arizona officials and the federal office of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) with a solution.

Pinal County claims its cost to house detainees since 2006 has been more than \$12 million. Unless the federal government agrees to renegotiate the contract and increase the inmate per diem rate from \$60 to \$90, Pinal County threatens to terminate the agreement with ICE. ICE will then be forced to find another detention facility.

In a letter sent April 17, 2014 to Thomas Homan, Executive Associate Director in Charge of Enforcement and Removal Operations in Washington D.C., Arpaio says the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office already has in place an existing contract to house any federal detainee at a rate of \$70 per day – significantly lower than the near \$90 per day which Pinal County now needs to house each detainee. (see letter attached)

Arpaio says his Durango Jail is newly remodeled, equipped with cutting-edge video visitation and able to accommodate 460 migrant detainees – well over the 356 migrant detainees currently housed in Pinal County. Arpaio says his jails currently house 925 illegal immigrants.

Sheriff Arpaio's letter addresses every issue raised by both sides, and explains how they can be handled in his jails.



ACLU officials complain that detainees must have access to outside recreation and contact visits which the Durango jail provides. And the cost reduction that the federal government seeks is already set in stone in the current contract to house federal inmates.

Arpaio says the attached letter makes it abundantly clear that he would welcome the move to accept the housing responsibility of these migrant detainees.

For more information, please contact the on call PIO at mediarequest@mcsso.maricopa.gov



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April 17, 2014

Thomas Homan, Executive Associate Director
U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement
500 12th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Director Homan,

I am writing to you at the behest of Albert Carter, the Deputy Field Office Director of U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforce (ICE) Phoenix office. Deputy Director Carter spoke this morning with my Chief of Custody, Mike Olson, regarding the ICE detainees currently in custody in another Arizona location. As a result of that discussion, I propose that the Maricopa County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) can offer your agency a viable alternative to housing these detainees.

The MCSO presently houses ICE detainees in the Durango Jail Facility. In that facility, the detainees enjoy outside recreation, contact visits, and video visitation over the Web (allowing visitations with those in their home countries). Moreover, MCSO provides programs, education and religious services in various languages and religious denominations. There are two new, remodeled dormitories at the Durango Jail that can readily house several hundred detainees.

Another advantage to housing detainees at MCSO is the productive working relationship already in place between detention staff and ICE personnel currently working the 287g Program within the jails. Over 58,000 ICE detainees have been placed in the past few years. Moreover, MCSO was in total compliance with the last two ICE inspections of our jails, and the Durango Jail, specifically, met compliance in the last U.S. Marshal's inspection held last August.

The fee for housing Federal inmates within the MCSO jail system has remained the same for the past several years: \$70.00 per day.

Thank you for considering this proposal; I believe it would prove to be advantageous for both of our agencies. Please do not hesitate to call me or Director Mike Olson to further discuss this matter.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe Arpaio", written over a horizontal line.

Joseph M. Arpaio
Sheriff

