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## FORMER SHERIFF ARPAIO FOUND GUILTY OF CRIMINAL CONTEMPT

*Court finds ex-sheriff defied court order on immigration patrols*

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Joe Arpaio, the former Arizona sheriff famous for his aggressive pursuit of undocumented immigrants, was found guilty Monday of [criminal contempt](#) for defying a judge's order to stop conducting immigration patrols in the state.

Known simply as "Sheriff Joe," Mr. Arpaio was the sheriff of Maricopa County for 24 years before [losing a re-election bid](#) last fall amid mounting legal problems.

He gained national fame for his enforcement tactics against illegal immigrants, as well as his treatment of jail inmates, making them wear pink underwear and holding some outside in tents. He spent years investigating President Obama's birth certificate.

U.S. District Judge Susan Bolton ruled Monday that Mr. Arpaio "willfully violated" a 2011 court order that prohibited his deputies from stopping and detaining Latinos without reasonable suspicion that a crime had been committed.

The 85-year-old Mr. Arpaio, who called himself "America's toughest sheriff," could face up to six months behind bars. He will be sentenced in October.

Attorneys for the former sheriff said he would [appeal the verdict](#) to get a trial by jury.

"Joe Arpaio is in this for the long haul, and he will continue his fight to vindicate himself, to prove his innocence, and to protect the public," Mr. Arpaio's attorneys said in a statement.

Mr. Arpaio's tactics won him celebrity status among those who admired him for standing up to a federal government that they believed was turning a blind eye to illegal immigration.

But his approach toward immigration and crime was derided by human-rights groups, attracted hundreds of lawsuits and ultimately ran afoul of the Justice Department, which launched an investigation into whether he had targeted Latinos and abused his authority.

The criminal contempt charges stemmed from a 2007 lawsuit accusing his department of racial profiling.

Mr. Arpaio had admitted that a judge's court order to stop carrying out immigration patrols wasn't carried out, but he denied directing his sheriff's deputies to [defy the court](#).

The Justice Department didn't respond to requests for comment.

Maricopa County Sheriff Paul Penzone, who defeated Mr. Arpaio at the ballot box, was quick to laud the judge's ruling.

“Although the election in November was a statement by this community to put an end to the prior administration’s practices, the verdict today by U.S. District Judge Susan Bolton is a conclusion to the disservice and distractions caused by former Sheriff Joe Arpaio,” he said.