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Joe Arpaio guilty of criminal contempt. What's next? Jail time or a pardon?



Joe Arpaio, the Arizona lawman who once proclaimed himself to be "America's Toughest Sheriff" and was largely praised by conservatives for his hard-line policing tactics, was found guilty Monday of criminal contempt, bringing his tenure as a relentless crusader against illegal immigration to an end. (July 31, 2017) (Sign up for our free video newsletter here <http://bit.ly/2n6VKPR>)

By **Luis Gomez**
Contact Reporter

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Once deemed America's toughest sheriff, **Joe Arpaio** on Monday faced six months in jail and a fine after a **federal court found him guilty** of criminal contempt for defying a 2011 court order to stop profiling Latinos in his Arizona jurisdiction of Maricopa County.

Arpaio's lawyers **vowed to appeal**, but the former sheriff was immediately branded a criminal and the conviction marked a sharp turn in his crusade against illegal immigration that made him a nationally divisive figure. His targeting of unauthorized immigrants has attracted supporters and critics for years.

News of his conviction drew quick reactions from those who disagreed with his tactics and those who praised his tough-on-crime approach. Some of his critics saw the conviction as a form of poetic justice and some even hoped to see him wear pink prison underwear in a **similar fashion** to what Arpaio enforced in his jail.

a man has no name @joshua_ward
Put @RealSheriffJoe in #TentCity with the pink underwear and stripes! 🤡 #Karmatheatlantic.com/news/archive/2...
2:45 PM - Jul 31, 2017

Georgianna Parisi @Georginez
Arpaio faces 6 months in jail.
If so, I hope he's given pink underwear and gets to live in a tent 🤡
fb.me/1BWO0mLL
3:35 PM - Jul 31, 2017

Some saw the case as **politically motivated** because it was former President Barack Obama's Justice Department that brought charges against Arpaio last year. Arpaio, at the time, was an outspoken supporter of **Donald Trump**.

Some of Arpaio's supporters suggested that, as president, Trump should be encouraged to pardon the former sheriff.

Gary S. 100% Trump @holdem00
Everyone please write our @POTUS to pardon Sheriff Joe Arpaio who was railroaded by the Obama Admin. He should run the DHS. Good man. twitter.com/StockMonsterUS...
1:01 PM - Jul 31, 2017

Charter @MAGACHarter
Joe Arpaio found guilty for enforcing the law?
3:24 PM - Jul 31, 2017

The case hinged on whether Arpaio had understood the court order — which he did, according to U.S. District Judge Susan Bolton. One legal commentator, James Goodnow, pointed out that it was Arpaio's own words that were used as proof of his intent to violate the court order. On June 2012, just days after receiving the court order, **Arpaio told CNN's Don Lemon** that he "will continue to enforce illegal immigration laws."

James Goodnow @JamesGoodnow
Words matter in the law. In the 14-page ruling convicting Arpaio, the judge seized on Arpaio's campaign statements as proof of his intent. twitter.com/thehill/status...
3:29 PM - Jul 31, 2017

Arpaio's fall from grace comes less than a year after he **lost his bid** for reelection to a Democrat, Paul Penzone. It left some reflecting on their faith in the justice system.

Soledad O'Brien @soledadobrien
"The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice"—Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King.
twitter.com/ap/status/8920...
1:00 PM - Jul 31, 2017

Raul M. Grijalva @RepRaulGrijalva
Justice has finally been served to America's "toughest sheriff". So long @RealSheriffJoe... azc.cc/2weQe11
2:43 PM - Jul 31, 2017

So, what's next for the former sheriff? His sentencing hearing is set for Oct. 5.

Share your thoughts on this major news development: Does ex-sheriff Joe Arpaio deserve jail or a pardon from President Trump?

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Join me in a conversation: **Shoot me a private email** with your thoughts or ideas on a different approach to this story. As always, you can also **send us a tweet**.

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