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## Cochise County Sheriff's Office - Mark J. Dannels Sheriff

...

February 24 at 8:35 PM ·

### SHERIFF'S OFFICE INVESTIGATES AGENT INVOLVED INCIDENT

Thursday February 24, 2022

- For Immediate Release – Update

Douglas—

On Saturday February 19, 2022, at approximately 10:00 pm, the Cochise County Sheriff's Office was advised of an incident involving a United States Border Patrol agent and a group of illegal immigrants. This incident was reported to be one mile north of mile post 30 on East Geronimo Trail, which is approximately 30 miles northeast of Douglas, Arizona.

The investigation indicates that two US Border Patrol agents were in the area due to sensor hits indicating multiple persons present. Both Border Patrol agents were initially on horseback, and prior to getting to the group they dismounted due to the rough terrain.

As the agents approached, the group scattered resulting in one agent chasing one downhill, while the other agent chased two uphill. After the three subjects were regrouped, a fourth subject was observed under a tree and began running downhill. One of the agents followed down the hill, both the agent and the subject tripping and falling several times, before the agent was able to apprehend the fleeing subject.

During the agent interview, he advised that the male subject turned and struck him in the left shoulder with the fist glancing up into the agent's cheek. The agent then tackled the subject who was face down with his hands under his body and refusing to change position. The scuffle reportedly continued, and a second assault occurred on the agent when the subject threw his elbow backwards into the agent before getting up from the ground. The subject then ran approximately six feet away before picking up a large rock and turning back towards the agent making a throwing motion with the hand that held the rock.

The agent advised that he fired his weapon an unknown number of times as he was in fear for his life and safety. The second agent responded from his location a short distance away and noted that the injured male subject was on the ground.

Additional Border Patrol Agents responded, and the Cochise County Sheriff's Office was advised of the incident.

The group of illegal immigrants initially detained and agents involved



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The Pima County Medical Examiner conducted an autopsy of the deceased on Tuesday, February 22, 2022, and determined the cause of death to be multiple gunshot wounds. Further information gathered from the deceased provided a positive identification of 32-year-old Carmelo Cruz-Marcos from Puebla Mexico. The Mexican Consulate was advised of the identification and confirmed that they have contacted the family of Mr. Cruz.

The Cochise County Sheriff's Office is solely conducting the criminal investigation, and additional information will be released as it becomes available.



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Write a comment...

**Kathy Days**

Grateful the agent is safe and no innocents were harmed.

Like Reply 2d



20

**Bronco Beverly**

Thank You to the Border Patrol agents for their job that they have to do. Along with all our Police Officers as well. Let's Go Brandon!

Like Reply 3h



1

**Peggy Gattis**

A rock is a deadly weapon.

I am thankful the BP Agents are ok. Prayers for safety for all our Law Enforcement 🙏💙💚🙏

Like Reply 2d



23

**KnotKay Gardner**

wow, what a shame we don't have the numbers to send our agents out in teams to keep them safe! Sad that this had to happen but I am relieved that our agents are okay.

Like Reply 2d



6

**Karen Roberts-Vietz**

Prayers for this officer. Thanks again to our border patrol, they are the first line of defense against those willing to do anything to come to America, anything that is except legally immigrate. Crack down on those

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**Mary Jo Martin**

Looks like the officer was justified. Unfortunate, but that's the case. We can't expect our officers to just stand there and have a "large rock" thrown at them.

[Like](#) [Reply](#) 2d

32

5 Replies

**Jeanella Malvezzi Mathis**

BP Agents put their life on the line 24/7 to protect us. I am sorry the illegal was shot but I pray that we all have the backs of our brave agents.

[Like](#) [Reply](#) 2d**Danee Bertram**

Lord, protect our border patrol agents, our officers, and our citizens as we all work together to secure our country from illegal entry and infestation of human and drug trafficking so that our children can remain safe and secure.

[Like](#) [Reply](#) 2d Edited**Peggy Jenior Klein**

God bless our Border Patrol! I can't imagine what they must go through to keep America safe. They put their own lives on the line just trying to defend our great Country!

[Like](#) [Reply](#) 2d**Vanessa Anglin**

Thank you to the Border Patrol and Cochise County Sheriffs.. Great job even tho a life was lost.. so thankful no agents were lost

[Like](#) [Reply](#) 1d**James Parks**

Lord only knows the motives of those who flee from their homeland. Thankfully the officer was able to protect himself.

[Like](#) [Reply](#) 2d**Cynthia Arthur**

I wasn't there of course, but I sure do stand behind our border patrol. People have to realize that job is horrible! What they have to encounter every day could mean their life. I certainly support them and our police officers. They must come first!

[Like](#) [Reply](#) 2d



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**Martina Espinosa**

I'm so sorry that one of our Agents has to go through this now.

Like Reply 2d

3 Replies

**Darlene DeArman**

No investigation necessary. Self defense.

Like Reply 2d

**Chad Barten**

If CCSO is solely conducting the investigation that means all the Feds have looked at the facts and passed.

Like Reply 2d

1 Reply

**Luke Burrow**

I don't understand why our government supports the use of deadly force to enforce other countries borders but not or own!!!!

Like Reply 1d

**Dani Eddinger**

Sorry we're already asking people that are in danger every day to take on these dangerous people coming across the border because some of them are very dangerous to put their lives in danger even more why are we having to fight for their rights to defe... [See more](#)

Like Reply 2d

**Cynthia Roer**

Bless there hearts! Such a rough job! I'm so glad they are okay!

Like Reply 1d

**Ron Beerer**

Finish the wall and patrol it!

Like Reply 2d

**Donni Kraft**

At least the agent is safe!!

Like Reply 28m

**Cyndi McLemore**



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**John Saint**

Thank you for the report

[Like](#) [Reply](#) 2d**Bobby Smith**

Why investigate sounds like a good shooting to me

[Like](#) [Reply](#) 1d**Killian Sheridan**

Fair enough. Easily avoidable, stay on your side.

[Like](#) [Reply](#) 2d

Most Relevant is selected, so some comments may have been filtered out.