Giordano, described by historian Frank Donner as "one of Rizzo's favorite officers," as commander.

In late 1977 Philadelphia police, with Giordano as spokesman, laid siege to the black MOVE commune in the neighborhood of Powelton Village, erected an eight-foot fence and sealed off a four-block area. The Stakeout Squad surrounded the house and saw Mumia enter and leave to conduct radio interviews for his sympathetic coverage of MOVE. On August 8, 1978, over 600 police assaulted the compound, using a bulldozer, a crane, water cannons and smoke bombs to drive MOVE members and their children from the house. James Ramp, a longtime central figure in the Stakeout Squad, was killed in police crossfire that pumped thousands of rounds into the house. (There is now substantial evidence that he was killed by a police bullet.) Ramp became a hero and an annual award with his name is still given by the police department rifle sharpshooting team.

When the barrage ended, Delbert Africa crawled from a basement window, suffering from a bullet wound, without a shirt and covering his head with his hands. He was savagely beaten by the Stakeout Squad in front of television news cameras. At a press conference following the attack, Frank Rizzo looked straight at Mumia and blamed Ramp's death on the "new breed of journalism" and warned, "You're going to have to be held responsible and accountable for what you do." Rizzo used the killing of Ramp to call for the restoration of the death penalty: "Put them in the electric chair, and I'll pull the switch."

The beating of Delbert Africa, much like that of Rodney King 13 years later, became a symbol of racist police brutality. The *Philadelphia Inquirer* (20 August 1978) noted in an editorial that the beating of Delbert Africa "brought to a head an accumulation of resentment of police violence and frustration that the city administration and the Police Department have held no one accountable for it." The next year the federal government filed civil suits against the city and police department citing "widespread, arbitrary, and unreasonable physical abuse." In response, 400 off-duty cops sieged the offices of the *Inquirer* for running photos of Delbert Africa, 2,000 cops rallied to call for the firing of a black officer who demanded that those responsible for beating Africa should be fired, and when they were indicted, 500 cops marched on City Hall where the head of the F.O.P. cried, "They should have killed them all."

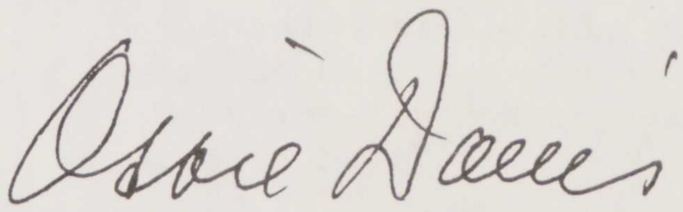
Mumia sympathetically covered the trial of the nine MOVE members falsely charged with killing Ramp and sentenced to prison terms of 30 to 100 years. He also covered the acquittal on all charges against the three Stakeout cops who beat Delbert Africa where CA head George Fencl was the key defense witness. And he covered the celebration when MOVE founder and leader John Africa was acquitted of federal conspiracy and weapons charges in July 1981.

On 9 December 1981, two Stakeout Squad members were the first to arrive at the scene where Mumia lay critically wounded and allegedly found his gun on street. Giordano was the highest ranking officer on the scene and reports show that George Fencl was called into the investigation. Giordano ordered that Mumia be taken to the Police Administrative Building for interrogation, but finally gave in to letting him be taken to the hospital. Later he was the first to concoct the claim that Mumia confessed. He was never put on the witness stand in the original trial and was under federal investigation for police corruption at the time. Five years later he pleaded guilty to massive corruption charges. Marcus Cannon, an eyewitness at the scene, reported that he saw two white men jump into the action with guns drawn and rush toward the site who fit the description of "granny" squads of the Stakeout unit who dress up to entrap, backed up by plainclothes policemen. Mumia's attorneys have long demanded that police and prosecution open their books so the full story may be told of how Mumia earned the enmity of the Philadelphia police and how they are trying to make him pay for this with his life.

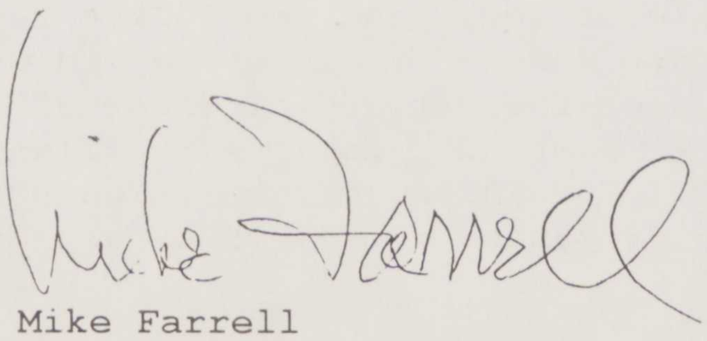
* * *

Mumia's attorneys will soon file a petition for certiorari with the United States Supreme Court which will consider only specific issues--such as Mumia's ban from the courtroom during the original trial--which were not dealt with in the Pennsylvania Supreme Court ruling. They continue to prepare for federal habeas appeal. Tax-deductible checks should be made out to the Bill of Rights Foundation, earmarked "Jamal legal defense," and sent to the Committee to Save Mumia Abu-Jamal, 163 Amsterdam Ave., No. 115, New York, NY 10023-5001. We have no more copies of *Live from Death Row* to send to contributors of $100 or more.

As always, our heartfelt thanks,



Ossie Davis



Mike Farrell