

MOVE Bombing: The Day That Shook the City of Philadelphia

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## Annotated Bibliography

### Primary Sources

Africa, Ramona, et al. "All Things Considered." Interview by Laura Sullivan. *National Public Radio*. National Public Radio, 16 May 2005. Web. 9 Jan. 2014.

<<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4651126>>.

Mr. Renfrow, a resident of Osage Ave., speaks of his experience with MOVE as his neighbors. Ramona Africa, sole adult survivor of the bombing, shares her account of what happened as the MOVE members tried to escape. Their first-hand retelling of their experience will provide the foundation of my research.

Africa, Shakur. "Some of John Africa's Guidelines Part 1." *YouTube*. YouTube, 18 Sept. 2009. Web. 26 Feb. 2014.

This video is useful to my research because it puts some of the beliefs outlined in "The Guidelines" into a video. Shakur Africa is a member of the MOVE Movement.

Carrey, Ricky. "A Haunting Look at When Phila. Burned." *Philly.com*. Philly.com, 21 Oct. 2013. Web. 25 Feb. 2014.

This article is useful because it contains a photograph of the devastation on Osage Avenue after the fire.

Capuzzo, Michael. "The Miracle of Birdie Africa." *Inquirer* [Philadelphia] 8 May 1988:

*Philly.com*. Web. 15 Jan. 2014.

The bombing that occurred on May 13, 1985 wreaked terrible physical and emotional pain in Birdie Africa's life. As one of the only two to survive in the MOVE home, which includes the death of his mother, he had to deal with the loss of almost his entire household. He moved in with his father, Andino Ward. His father had to treat his son's physical wounds by rubbing the wounds for three to four hours twice a day, everyday for four months which was excruciatingly painful for him. Many charities donated to the destroyed homes, but no one wanted to give anything to Africa originally. Finally, three charities gave him \$2,500. His father feels as if his son was treated like a criminal. This article helped to further my research because it shows the effect that the bombing had on the survivor.

Chavis, Duron. "The Bombing of Osage Avenue (1986)." *YouTube*. 28 Nov. 2011. Web. 25 Feb. 2014

This video is useful to my research because it helps to explain the events that occurred before the bomb and gives insight into public opinion of the bombing.

"Delbert Africa of MOVE Being Attacked by Philadelphia Police on Aug. 8, 1978." *Pan-African News Wire*. Blogspot, 25 Sept. 2006. Web. 9 Jan. 2014.

This blog post contains a photograph of Delbert Africa and the Philadelphia Police on Aug. 8, 1978. It is useful to my research because it provides a visual for viewers to see Delbert Africa and the police.

Gonzalez, Michael. "New Film Revisits the Tragic 1985 Bombing of MOVE." *Color Lines: News for Action*. 1 Oct. 2013. Web. 26 Feb. 2014.

This article contains a picture of a police officer looking on at the remnants of Osage Ave.

Helicopter Drops the Bomb. 13 May 1985. *Philly.com*. Web. 2 Feb. 2014.

<[http://www.philly.com/philly/news/The\\_MOVE\\_Crisis\\_Inquirer\\_Day\\_Five\\_coverage.html](http://www.philly.com/philly/news/The_MOVE_Crisis_Inquirer_Day_Five_coverage.html)>. This photograph shows the bomb being dropped. It provides viewers with an image of the bomb that caused lasting damage.

Imarisha, Walidah. "MOVE 20 Years Later: A Perspective from a Portlander." *Portland Inc.* Portland Independent Media Center, May 2005. Web. 25 Feb. 2014.

This article contains a photo of MOVE members protesting. It is useful to my research because it shows them fighting for their beliefs.

Lono, Normon Y. "Delbert Africa heads for a beating by police as he's dragged from the rubble after a shootout with police." *Philly.com*. Interstate General Media, 9 Aug. 1978. Web. 9 Jan. 2014. <<http://www.philly.com/philly/news/92185189.html>>.

A photograph of Delbert Africa being pulled by his hair by police. This source is useful because the photo portrays the police's brutality towards MOVE.

Matheson, Kathy. "Philly Blocks Still Not Recovered from '85 Bombing." *U-T San Diego*. The San Diego Union-Tribune, 11 May 2013. Web. 25 Feb. 2014.

This article is useful to my research because it contains a photograph of Osage Avenue's street sign.

"MOVE Aftermath: Sorting the Pieces." *The MOVE Crisis: Daily News 1978 Coverage | Philly*. Philly.com, 9 Aug. 1978. Web. 25 Feb. 2014.

This article contains a photograph of a police officer dragging Delbert Africa by the hair. It is useful because it shows the aggressive the police were towards

MOVE1978VIDEO. "1 - Move Confrontation in Philadelphia." *YouTube*. YouTube, 09 Aug. 2008. Web. 26 Feb. 2014.

This video is useful to my research because it delves into MOVE's beliefs.

"The MOVE Disaster In Pictures." *ABC Local*. ABC, 12 May 2010. Web. 25 Feb. 2014. This slideshow is useful to my research because it shows the progress of events involving MOVE in pictures.

"The 1985 Move Incident." *Oxford AASC: Photo Essay*. Oxford University Press, n.d. Web. 25 Feb. 2014.

This website is useful to my research because it has a collection of MOVE photographs.

The MOVE Organization. "About MOVE." *On a Move*. The Move Organization, n.d. Web. 8 Jan. 2014. <<http://onamove.com/about/>>.

The MOVE organization was founded by John Africa, who also wrote "The Guidelines," which are the principles they live by. "The Guidelines" shows that the organization valued all forms of life, and they want to revert back to a hunter-gatherer society where there isn't an overarching government. Their values show where their distrust of any government organization stems from.

"Philadelphia Special Investigation (MOVE) Commission Records." *Temple University*. Temple University, n.d. Web. 9 Jan. 2014.

<<http://library.temple.edu/collections/scrc/philadelphia-special-0>>.

On May 13, 1985, ten thousand rounds of ammunition were shot. Tear gas and explosives were used in an attempt to remove the MOVE members. The MOVE house was brought down when the Philadelphia Police bomb unit dropped a bomb. The fire that the bomb caused killed eleven people and left two hundred fifty neighboring residents homeless. This is useful to my research because it gives exact details as to how the city officials responded to the issue.

"Powelton Village- About Us." *Powelton Village Philadelphia*. Powelton Village, n.d. Web. 25 Feb. 2014.

This website contains a photo of MOVE members protesting in court. It is useful because it shows how MOVE portrayed their beliefs.

Quigley, Rachel. "Iconic Survivor of 1985 Philadelphia Bombing Michael 'Birdie Africa' Ward Drowns in a Hot Tub on a Carnival Cruise." *Mail Online*. Associated Newspapers, 25 Sept. 2013. Web. 25 Feb. 2014.

This article is useful because it contains a photograph of Birdie Africa, the only child to survive the bombing, immediately after the tragedy.

Walls, Andrea. "Chain Reaction." *Ultraviolet Catastrophe*. Philadelphia: Thread Makes Blanket Press, 2011. n.p. Print.

This a poem written by Andrea Walls from her collection of poetry about the MOVE bombing. Andrea referenced it when I interviewed her.

"Who Do You Call When the Police Are the Problem?" *Who Do You Call When the Police Are the Problem? RAMONA AFRICA / Speaking at Faith United Methodist Church in Los Angeles, CA 17apr04*. N.p., n.d. Web. 25 Feb. 2014.

This article is useful to my research because it contains a photograph of Ramona Africa, the only adult that survived the bombing.

"25 Years Ago: Philadelphia Police Bombs MOVE Headquarters Killing 11, Destroying 65 Homes." *Democracy Now!* N.p., 13 May 2010. Web. 9 Jan. 2014.  
<<http://m.democracynow.org/stories/10976>>.

Ramona Africa explains why she believes the MOVE headquarters was bombed. This is helpful because she is one of the two survivors. I want to include her direct thoughts on the events in my research.

### Secondary Sources

Caparella, Kitty. "Cop's Death in '78 Was a Spark." *Philly.com*. 6 May 2010. Web. 9 Jan. 2014.

On August 8, 1978, the first violent confrontation between the MOVE organization and the Philadelphia Police Department took place. It began with a warrant read and ended with a police officer killed and sixteen cops and firefighters injured. The police released their anger on Delbert Africa by grabbing his hair, pulling him down the street, and kicking him. This is useful because it will provide some background as to the tension between MOVE and the Philadelphia Police prior to the events that took place on May 13, 1985.

Clines, Francis X. "15 Years and Millions Later, Bombing Plagues Philadelphia." *The New York Times*. The New York Times, 12 Aug. 2000. Web. 25 Feb. 2014.

This article is useful because it shows what became of the homes on Osage Avenue.

Davies, Dave, and Erin Einhorn. "Osage Gas Cut Barred Residents See 'Ploy' To Speed Evictions." *Inquirer* [Philadelphia] 19 Aug. 2000: *Philly.com* Web. 9 Jan. 2014.

After the bombing, sixty-five homes needed to be rebuilt. The residents of these homes were further victimized when their homes were rebuilt poorly. Leaking roofs, cracking bricks, and faulty electrical wiring are just a few of the issues with the newly built homes. City officials came to the residents of these houses to tell them that they need to evacuate their homes because



of potential gas leaks due to a design flaw. The city officials told the residents that they would arrive on Aug. 18, 2000 to shut off their heat and water. The residents hired a Frazier firm to test some of the houses, but none of them showed any sign of carbon monoxide poisoning. This shows the long lasting effects that dropping a bomb had on the residents that reside in the homes that were destroyed in the fire.

Eichel, Larry. "The MOVE Disaster: May 13, 1985 Day That Forever Changed the City The Tragedy Left 11 Dead and 61 Homes in Ruins, but It No Longer Defines Philadelphia." *Philly.com*. Philly.com, 08 May 2005. Web. 25 Feb. 2014.

This article is useful because it demonstrates a change in the stigma Philadelphia carried after the MOVE bombings.

Fox, Margalit. "Michael Ward, Survivor of '85 Bombing by Philadelphia Police is Dead at 41." *The New York Times* 27 Sept. 2013: *The New York Times*. Web. 15 Jan. 2014.

After the bombing on the MOVE house, eleven out of the thirteen people who were in the home were killed by the bomb. The two people that survived were Ramona and Birdie Africa. Birdie was thirteen when the bombing happened. Birdie is now referred to as Michael Ward. Mr. Ward died at forty-one while on vacation on a cruise ship. This helped to further my research because it tells of what became of one of the survivors of the bombing.

Gregory, Kia. "MOVE 25 Years Later." *The Inquirer* [Philadelphia]: *Philly.com*. Web. 6 Jan. 2014.

The confrontation on Osage Avenue began in the early morning of May 13, 1985. Police Commission Sambor announced that he had warrants for four MOVE members, but he was quickly told by MOVE that no one would come out. I can use this to explain how the events began that day.

Johnson, Gaye Theresa. "*Let the Fire Burn.*" *The Huffington Post*. TheHuffingtonPost.com, 04 Oct. 2013. Web. 25 Feb. 2014.

This article is useful to my research because it describes a documentary made in 2013 about MOVE and the bombing.

Langland, Connie. "MOVE crisis had lasting effect on officer." *Inquirer* [Philadelphia]:

*Philly.com*. Web. 12 May 2010:

James Berghaier was a police stakeout officer at the time of the MOVE bombing. He was a part of the team of police that tried to get the MOVE members to evacuate by opening holes in their basement and using tear gas on them. He helped Birdie after he came out of the house. Birdie was afraid that he would shoot him."The part I have a hard time with is what he went through. And then afterward I found out there were these other kids in there. In essence I was a brick wall away. I would have stayed [in 6223] and tried to get through the back of that wall. I think all of us would have made that decision, not just me. I had a real hard time with the kids dying. The adults chose to do that, they wanted to go to war. . . . The bottom line is, we didn't do the job we should have done, and five kids have died and that is bad. I felt horrible." This gives a direct account of how an officer felt about the events that occurred during the MOVE operation.

Langland, Connie. "Ramona Africa Still Carrying the MOVE Message." *Philly.com*. Philly.com, 12 May 2010. Web. 25 Feb. 2014.

This article is useful to my research because it includes Ramona's experience inside the house.

Lucey, Catherine. "Cost is beyond belief." *Philadelphia Daily News*. Philly.com. 7 May 2010: Web.

Twenty-five years after the MOVE bombing, the city has paid \$45 million to rebuild and repair homes and cover the cost of police overtime and legal fees. Ernest Edwards, contractor, was sentence to six to twelve years in prison for theft. He sabotaged the rebuilding of the homes. As of May 10, 2010, eight houses refused to accept a settlement."If we accepted the settlement offered to us, we would not have enough money to tear down and rebuild," Renfrow said. "We're here because of the intolerable living conditions we're forced to live with every second, every day of our lives." This source further demonstrates the costs of all decisions made on May 13, 1985.

McCoy, Craig R. "Goode Gets Immunity In Move Suit; 3 Others Don't Ramona Africa Is Seeking Damages In The Federal Suit. She Wasirate That The Judge Granted The Mayor Official Immunity." *Philly.com*. Philly.com, 04 Jan. 1994. Web. 25 Feb. 2014.

This article is useful to my research because it shows the results of Ramona Africa's lawsuit.

Moore, Tara, and Jessica Arnold. "West Philadelphia: A Bomb Resonates 25 Years Later."

*Philadelphia Neighborhoods*. Department of Journalism at Temple, 28 June 2010. Web. 25 Feb. 2014.

This article is useful to my research because it delves into MOVE's beliefs and provides background information on MOVE prior to the bombing of May 13, 1985.

"Osage Avenue Bombing.": *Curbed Philly*. N.p., n.d. Web. 25 Feb. 2014.

This article is useful because it contains a photograph of Osage Ave. after the bombing.

"Philadelphia, City Officials Ordered to Pay \$1.5 Million in MOVE Case." *CNN*. Cable News Network, 24 June 1996. Web. 25 Feb. 2014.

This article is useful to my research because it shows the verdict of Ramona Africa's civil suit against the city of Philadelphia, Sambor, and Richmond.

Russ, Valerie. "Osage Ave: Still an Open Wound." *Philly.com*. Philly.com, 13 May 2011. Web. 25 Feb. 2014.

This article contains a photo and the opinions of Osage residents. This is useful to my research because it shows how those that lost their homes to the fire are still suffering.

"Sambor silent on events of MOVE." *Inquirer* [Philadelphia] Philly.com 12 May 2010: Web. Sambor took full responsibility for the police operation during the MOVE Commission. He retired shortly after testifying before the MOVE Commission. Sambor explains why they chose

to bomb in such a way."The use of the [explosive] device itself gives me the least pause," Sambor said, "It was selected as a conservative and safe approach to what I perceived as a tactical necessity. I was assured that the device would not harm the occupants. What has imprinted that device on the mind of this city is, in fact, the method of delivery. If it had been carried or thrown into position, or if it had been dropped from a crane, the perception of that action would be quite different". This is useful to my research because it explains how the costly decision was made.

Terry, Don. "Philadelphia Held Liable For Firebomb Fatal to 11." *The New York Times*. The New York Times, 24 June 1996. Web. 25 Feb. 2014.

This article contains a photograph of Kevin Tucker, the former Philadelphia police commissioner that replaced former police commissioner Gregore Sambor.

Warner, Bob. "City didn't move on all commission recommendations." *Inquirer* [Philadelphia] *Philly.com* 7 May 2010: Web.

The MOVE Commission was appointed by Mayor Goode to investigate the events that happened on May 13, 1985. They made 38 recommendations on how to handle situations similar to this if they were to happen in the future. Kevin Tucker is currently the police commissioner, and he has done many things to improve the efficiency of the organization. He has created neighborhood advisory councils, appointed a police study task force, and sent police commanders to Harvard and local corporations. All of these actions help to prevent events like the MOVE bombing. The city now has numerous emergency plans in the case of a crisis. This article is useful to my research because it shows how MOVE effected how the police operated from that point forward.

