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THE BATTALION

Philadelphia charged for condoning brutality

city of Philadelphia and Mayor Frank Rizzo with systematically condoning police brutality ranging

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from shootings to beatings. In an unprecedented move to halt civil rights abuses by law enforcement officers, the government filed suit alleging that entrenched city policies "directly contribute" to them: such brutality in Philadelphia.

court in Philadelphia, plagued in recent years with an estimated 1,200 brutality complaints a year, 75 involving police shootings. Victims of the shootings, the suit says, are overwhelmingly black or Hispanic. It names as defendants the city, Rizzo — once a detective and later the city's police commissioner — current Police Commissioner

They are accused of condoning policies that permit police to commit random beatings, unjustified shootings and other flagrant civil

In Philadelphia, Deputy Mayor gathered before the officers are questioned.

The suit, "We welcome it."

Gathered before the officers are questioned.

—Brutality victims often are Zecca declined comment for him-elf, other than to call the suit

Rizzo told the U.S. civil rights mmission at hearings last April: "I don't see any problem with police misconduct." He said the problem is "all media generated."

brutality.

—The last year

handcuffed prisoner, yet took no action. The prisoner, following discussions with police, never filed a

confessions out of an innocent arson suspect in 1975. All six have been

promoted within the department.

The suit, filed following a months-long investigation by special litigation counsel Louis M.

Thrasher, lists a number of police and city policies that have helped a single to prepare prosecution criminal suspects, but also mu vestigate the officers who beat suspects at the time of arrest. The suit says only in the result of the suit says only in the result says only in the results are successful.

outh brutality in Philadelphia.

The suit was filed in U.S. district tionally fail to develop evidence that would impeach the credibility of the

—Charges are filed against victims of police beatings to support an officer's explanation for abusing a person or to intimidate victims not

to complain about brutality.

O'Neill and his top deputies discuss conclusions of internal brutality investigations in advance and oseph O'Neill and 18 other top city altered them to suit their own

-Investigators take statements from witnesses to police shootings "in a manner calculated to justify the shooting," and sometimes tip off the shooting officers to evidence

pressured to take lie detector tests, while the offending officers or police who witness the abuses are not.

—Investigators accept "implausible accounts" by police officers for

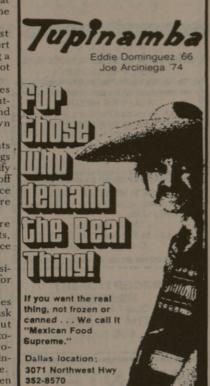
-The city changed its policies "all media generated." last year so its jails no longer ask
But the suit cites evidence that newly received prisoners about O'Neill viewed a videotape of a their injuries, or report or photopolice officer beating a passive, graph the injuries. Such photographs had previously provided incriminating evidence againt police.

— Decisions on discipline often

are reached in consultation with It says some officers have been O'Neill before investigations are commended and promoted after completed.

United Press International abusing people, including six detectives who were convicted of beating "purposefully fragmented" appartment Monday charged the confessions out of an innocent arson proach to brutality investigations, including a conflict of interest. Its homicide and detective divisions are assigned to prepare prosecutions of criminal suspects, but also must investigate the officers who beat those

> The suit says only in the rarest covered up the abuses. Among cases have officers been disciplined for on-duty actions.



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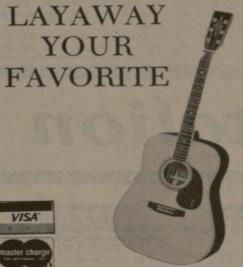


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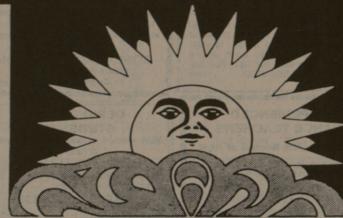
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