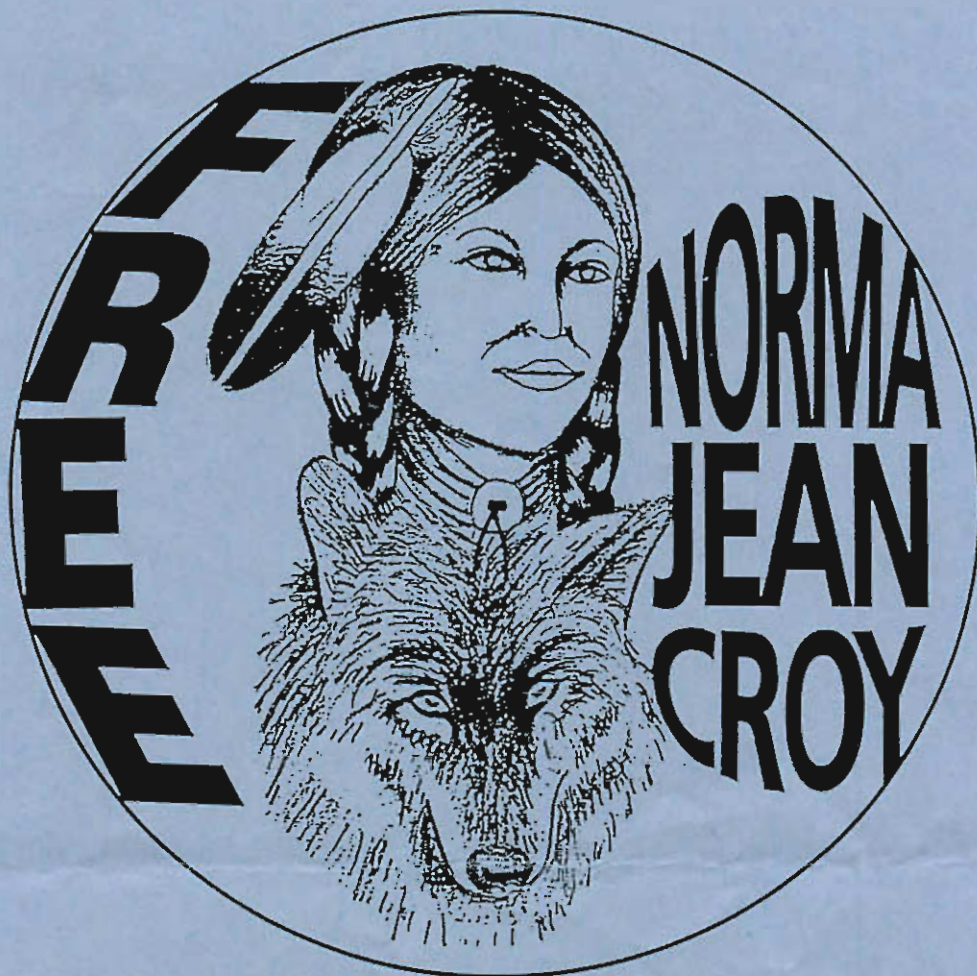




**WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP:**

The struggle to obtain Norma Jean Croy's freedom will take the prayers, love and commitment of the people to be successful. Like her brother Hooty's case, it will involve time, legal strategies, public awareness/education, and money. Your involvement can make a difference!

- Join our mailing list to receive current information.
- Help distribute information on Norma Jean in your area.
- Help set up speaking for members of the NJCDC in your area.
- Donations are always welcome.
- Contact:  
Norma Jean Croy Defense Committee (NJCDC)  
473 Jackson Street 3rd Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94111  
(415) 986-5591

**Letter writing campaign to  
free Norma Jean Croy**

Individualized letters are the most helpful. If you are a long time Bay Area resident, or if you know someone who is visiting Norma, say so. If you have opinions about her case and her release date, express them. Please write to the parole board, but please mail the letters to her defense committee, 473 Jackson Street, 3rd Floor, San Francisco, CA 94111. Letters should reach the defense committee no later than mid-May.

*"I am Norma Jean's brother Patrick Hooty Croy. I was convicted at the same time as my sister. I was sent to death row where I spent many years awaiting execution. In my retrial it was proven that I shot Officer Bo Hittson in self-defense. This acquittal has clearly exonerated my sister. The prison parol board refuses to recognize any evidence surrounding the acquittal. Norma Jean is still the only one doing time."*

*—Patrick Hooty Croy*



## Norma Jean Croy—Woman of the Year

*International Women's Day, March 8, 1992*

Out of Control, the Lesbian Committee in Support of Women Political Prisoners, has named Norma Jean Croy Woman of the Year. Norma, a Shasta Indian and a lesbian, has been serving time since 1979 for "conspiracy to murder" a cop, even though she wasn't carrying a gun, never fired a shot, and it has been shown that no murder took place! 1992, the quincentennial, must be the year when Norma Jean Croy gets her freedom.

### Case Herstory

In July, 1978, Norma, her brother Patrick "Hooty" Croy, and three relatives (ages 17-26) stopped at a convenience store in Yreka, California. The store clerk became verbally and physically abusive. A scuffle broke out. Following the scuffle, a police car rolled into the parking lot of the convenience store. One of those coincidences. The clerk yelled, "Get them." A chase ensued, with the police radio calling for back-up and barking out, "There's a carload of Indians."

Eventually 15 squad cars and 27 officers were involved, including one off-duty officer who had been drinking. The police wielded military style semi-automatic weapons, shooting "at anything that moved." The Indians (who had been planning to go deer hunting) had one .22 hunting rifle. Norma Jean, who never even touched the rifle, was shot in the back by the police. Her cousin Darren was shot in the groin while he was trying to surrender.

During a defacto cease fire, Hooty was shot by police officer Hittson, who had been drinking prior to arriving on the scene. Hittson shot Hooty twice from behind. Hooty turned and shot—one bullet from the .22 which hit the officer in the heart. The officer died almost instantly. Hooty miraculously survived.

In their original trials, Norma and Hooty received sentences of life in prison and the death penalty, respectively. In a

new trial in May 1990, Hooty was freed from death row by an excellent defense team that included Native American people. They told a tale of terror, anti-Indian racism, and Indigenous people being hunted down and shot in the back by out-of-control police. The jury found that the incident was provoked by racism toward Indigenous people in the Yreka area and that police misconduct led to the officer's death.

The presentation of a cultural defense on behalf of Native peoples is a long time coming in U.S. courts. Sentences against Native Americans are longer and many times more severe than sentences against whites for the same "crimes." In several states, Native American children are not allowed the "benefits" of juvenile hall, and are placed in adult prisons.

### Current Situation

On November 12, 1991, Norma's lawyers filed a petition for a writ of habeas corpus in San Francisco Superior Court. This writ included three grounds for reconsideration of the case, including

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*"...I think that when Norma Jean Croy comes up for a parole hearing again, that the parole board should take into consideration the fact that this court, at least, believes that had Norma Jean Croy been tried in the case I heard, Norma Jean Croy would have been found Not Guilty...I want the record to be clear that this is my judgment, my opinion, having heard the evidence in this case."*

- Judge Edward Stern  
Hooty's trial judge  
May 1990, San Francisco



new evidence. On December 20, the petition was denied.

Norma's lawyers are planning to refile the petition in another court. In the meantime, Norma faces another parole hearing. She was originally told this parole hearing would be in April, 1992. However, she has since been told the hearing will not be until June.

Norma was turned down at her last parole hearing two years ago. However, she now has several regular visitors, who are willing to help her settle in the Bay Area, and who will write to the parole board on her behalf. The attorneys can also use personal letters of support from each of you, expressing your willingness to help Norma Jean settle in the Bay Area (see details, next column).

Norma also needs a solid job offer from an auto repair shop. If any of you know of a shop that might hire her, please ask them. If they want more information, they can call her defense committee at 986-5591. It is expected that Norma will have very good references from her auto mechanics instructor in prison.

Norma has spent 13 years as a hostage of the U.S. government in a California prison. It is time for her to be free! □