

Woman freed in slaying of rapist's guard

SALINAS, Calif. (UPI) — Inez Garcia, 32, who said she shot and killed a young man because he stood guard while his friend raped her, has been acquitted of second-degree murder charges.

Ms. Garcia hugged her son, John, 13, Friday after a Monterey County Superior Court jury of 10 men and two women returned the innocent verdict. The panel returned

the case after deliberating for 10 hours.

"I told you to expect the worst, and you get the best," she told her son.

This was Ms. Garcia's second trial for the March 1974 slaying of Miguel Jimenez. The guilty verdict in the first one was overturned on appeal.

The defendant testified she shot Jimenez with a .22-caliber rifle after Louie Castillo raped her

in her Soledad, Calif. home. She said both Jimenez and Castillo had threatened her against reporting the assault to police.

Susan Jordan, Ms. Garcia's lawyer, said after the verdict: "I think the jury understands what a person in Inez position goes through."

She added she hoped "The prejudice against a woman when she defends

herself will be erased" as a result of the acquittal.

Ms. Garcia's case attracted widespread support from women's liberationists who said she was only defending her honor when she shot Jimenez.

After her first trial she spent 15 months in the California Institution for Women at Frontera. She was free on \$5,000 bail during her second trial.

She told reporters she intends to become involved with helping prisoners. "They need a lot of help," she said. "I promised a lot of women in prison I would do what I could for them.

She also said she wanted to "make up for lost time with my son."

The rape occurred after Ms. Garcia moved to Soledad from Miami to be near her husband who was then serving a term at the California Training Facility for a political bombing in Los Angeles. He has been freed, but the couple separated.

Joanne Little's lawyer loses contempt appeal

RICHMOND — The 4th U.S. Court of Appeals upheld the 4-day jail term given a North Carolina attorney cited for contempt for his remarks during his defense of Joanne Little, who was acquitted of slaying a white prison guard.

The court said Wake County Superior Court Judge Hamilton H. Hodgood properly cited Jerry Paul for his attacks on the judicial system during jury selection in the trial, which received nationwide attention in 1975.

Paul appealed the citation through the North Carolina Court of Appeals, which upheld the con-

viction, and at the same time sought a federal ruling in the eastern district of North Carolina.

Little was acquitted of charges she murdered a white, middle-aged prison guard. She contended he tried to rape her.

Appeals Judge K. K. Hall, writing for the majority, said, "We agree with the Court of Appeals of North Carolina and the district court below that appellant's conduct clearly exceeded the bounds of vigorous advocacy.

"The conduct would have been disruptive absent the self-restraint exercised by the court," Hall said.

'Life ain't been no crystal stair' for black women