

Chinese court re-tries man, reduces sentence

A south China court Monday commuted the life sentence given to a migrant worker who took 175,000 yuan (\$24,400) from a faulty ATM, to five years in jail.

The Intermediate People's Court of Guangzhou in the southern province of Guangdong convicted Xu Ting in the theft case and fined him 20,000 yuan, in addition to his jail term. It also ruled that Xu return his windfall to the bank.

'The judges reached their verdict taking into account the fact that Xu's theft took place when there was something wrong with the ATM, so, compared with a premeditated crime, his action was less violent,' said judge Gan Zhengpei while reducing the quantum of the sentence

The verdict in the 24-year-old Xu's first trial sparked an outcry among the media and legal experts, with many saying that he didn't deserve such severe punishment.

The Intermediate People's Court of Guangzhou was told by the Guangdong Provincial Higher People's Court last month to retry the case. It said the November ruling lacked evidence and some facts needed clarification.

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