

Voluntary Confession of Crimes [Fanzui zishou] [Art. 24]

82. In all cases where forcible robbery is voluntarily confessed to the authorities by relatives, if the investigation indicates that the assembled crowd does not amount to ten people, or the robbery is only committed once, [the criminals] shall be judged and disposed in accordance with the rules such as “exemption of punishments” and “reduction of penalty degrees” stipulated in the Code. When the assembled crowd amounts to ten people or robbery is committed repeatedly, if [the crimes] are confessed by relatives of the third degree of mourning or closer, [the criminals] shall be sent to nearby guards; if [the crimes] are confessed by relatives of the fourth degree of mourning or farther, [the criminals] shall be sent to frontier guards; in each case, they shall be sentenced to military exile. If the relatives themselves are robbed and therefore accuse [the criminals] to the authorities, the crimes shall be directly punished in accordance with “Relatives Stealing from Each Other” [C-Art. 295] in the Code. This regulation shall not be applied.

83. If those who commit theft make voluntary confessions untruthfully or incompletely, or if they know that others intend to accuse them [to the authorities] and thus make the confession and return [the property] to the owners, in which their penalties shall be reduced in accordance with the Code, they shall all be exempt from tattooing.

84. In all cases of voluntarily confessing forcible robbery, except for such heinous crimes as killing others, committing fornication with others’ wives or daughters, burning others’ houses, that shall not be allowed [for voluntary confessions], all other crimes [are allowed for voluntary confessions]. Even though persons are injured, as long as the wounds are healed swiftly and no death occurs, [the criminals] may also be judged as comparable to “voluntary confession,” and sentenced to military exile to frontier guards in accordance with the regulation of “villains injuring others with weapons” [R-Art. 290]. If they set fires and burn others’ unoccupied houses or goods that are stored in fields, they shall be punished by penal servitude in accordance with the Code [C-Art. 407]. If, by calculating the goods that are burnt, [the penalty] is more serious than the basic punishment, in all the cases they shall also only be sentenced to military exile to frontier guards in accordance with the regulation of “setting fires that spread” [R-Art. 357].