<u>Trial reopens for loan shark stabbing</u> case in east China

A higher court in east China's Shandong Province on Saturday officially began reconsideration of the case of a son who stabbed and killed a violent debt collector in his mother's defense.

The defendant, Yu Huan, was sentenced to life imprisonment on Feb. 17, 2017 by the Intermediate People's Court of Liaocheng City.

Yu and three plaintiffs appealed after the trial.

The Shandong Provincial Higher People's Court accepted the appeal on March 24, 2017.

On April 14, 2016, more than 10 people went to Su Yinxia's company in Guanxian County in Shandong to collect payment for loan sharks, allegedly insulting Su and her son Yu Huan.

Police arrived at the scene but Yu later stabbed four of the debt collectors including Du Zhihao, who died the next morning.

In a statement issued March 26, the Supreme People's Procuratorate pledged to review the case to determine whether Yu was acting in self-defence and investigate possible dereliction of duty by police officers involved.

The retrial mainly focused on the reason of the appeal, the facts ascertained in the first trial, and some new evidence from forensic investigations. The mother, Su Yinxia, served as witness in court.

More than 100 people attended the public retrial on Saturday. The verdict will be announced another day.