

Chinese scientist who genetically edited babies gets 3 years in prison

A court in China on Monday sentenced He Jiankui, the researcher who shocked the global scientific community when he claimed that he had created the world's first genetically edited babies, to three years in prison for carrying out "illegal medical practices."

He's declaration made him a **pariah** among scientists and embroiled other U.S. scientists who were connected to He. Although He offered no proof and did not share any evidence or data that definitively proved he had done it, his colleagues had said it was possible that he had succeeded.

pariah 贱民

The international condemnation from the scientific community that followed He's announcement came because many nations, including the United States, had banned such work, fearing it could be misused to create "designer babies" and alter everything from eye color to IQ.

Despite the outcry, He was **unrepentant**. A day after he made his announcement on the genetically edited babies, he **defended** his actions, saying they were safe and ethical, and he was proud of what he had done.

unrepentant 顽固不化的; 不后悔的

repentant 悔改的; 后悔的

defend 辩护; 防护

The case captured the attention of many Chinese people who had not seen or heard from He in the past year. The hashtag "Sentencing in the Genetically Edited Babies Case" was trending on Weibo, China's version of Twitter.

"He violated medical **ethics**, disrespected life and let three poor children bear the consequences, all for his fame and fortune," one user wrote. "I think this punishment is too light."

ethic 伦理; 道德