

## Japanese Man Gets 2 Years in Prison for 3D Printing Guns

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IMAGE: JIJI PRESS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

BY LORENZO FRANCESCHI-BICCHIERAI  
OCT 20, 2014

For the first time in history, a man has been jailed for making a weapon with a 3D printer.

On Monday, a court sentenced Yoshitomo Imura, 28, to two years in prison for making two 3D printed guns at his home in Kawasaki, Japan, according to local [news reports](#).

Japan's strict gun control laws prohibit anyone from possessing or manufacturing guns.

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Imura was arrested in May after he had uploaded a video showing how to manufacture his gun, dubbed the ZigZag. The gun appears to have been inspired by the [Liberator](#) gun, the world's first 3D-printed pistol, created last year by Texas gunsmith [Cody Wilson](#), although it doesn't have the same design.

Judge Koji Inaba, of the Yokohama District Court, defined Imura's actions as "vicious" because he released the video in order for other people to imitate him and build their own weapons, according to the news service *Jiji Press*.

"The criminal responsibility for this act is serious," Judge Inaba said, adding that Imura "flaunted his skills and knowledge and attempted to make gun controls toothless."

At the time of his arrest, Imura defended himself by arguing he wasn't aware his actions were against the law. "I produced the guns, but I didn't think it was illegal," he said.

Akira Noguchi, Imura's lawyer, tried this same argument in court, but it didn't convince the judge. The prosecution had asked for a sentence of 42 months in prison for violating Japan's [Swords and Firearms Control law](#).

Noguchi said they hadn't decided whether to appeal the sentence, according to [IDG News Service](#).

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