

AMERICAN PROTEST AGAINST UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP

Now come protests from USA against Uppsala University treatment of the two professors in mathematics. The University got rid of the professors as they were considered to be disloyal.

- A professor must have the possibility to criticise his own university without consequences. It may be difficult but it is necessary for academic freedom, says Arthur Jaffe, professor of mathematics at Harvard University

Professor Jaffe together with four other leading American mathematicians wrote a letter to the Swedish Government where they present their protests against the way Uppsala University treated professors Oleg Viro and Burglind Jöricke. Both were pressed by the Vice-Chancellor Anders Hallberg to resign in February 2007.

There must exist other ways to act for a better working environment at a university rather than to ask researchers to resign, means professor Jaffe. He says that in the USA something of this kind at a university would be hardly possible. The Uppsala event has become well-known in American academic circles, says professor Jaffe.

- I think that the fact that no concrete accusations were presented to the two professors who were forced to resign is outrageous, says Arthur Jaffe.

He means that a university can not act in the same way as one does in industry, and that there should exist room for different opinions.

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