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The Editor
The Lancet
42 Bedford Square
LONDON WC1B 3SL

Sir,

On my return from Annual Leave I learned of the abrupt imprisonment of Professor Jean-Pierre Allain. This action instilled a feeling of dismay and grave concern over the fate of such a respected colleague; one who I know personally and for whom I have the highest regard for his scientific contributions to the field of Haemophilia and for his humanitarian attitude to the entire problem of HIV infection contracted by Haemophiliac patients through the receipt of blood products. The evolvement of the HIV problem within the haemophilia population has caused immeasurable distress to patients and to all physicians treating them. The Doctors concerned were guilty of one fault, namely that of ignorance. The imposition of a prison sentence in these circumstances seems illogical.

I have read nothing to date to convince me that it is fully justified and I would support others who have already expressed their dismay at such a sentence.

Yours faithfully,

Elizabeth E Mayne
Director of the Northern Ireland Regional Haemophilia
Centre
presently Chairman
UK Haemophilia Centre Directors Organisation