STATEMENT:

An Unwarranted Accusation of Racism

We the undersigned are not only familiar with the writings of Geza Jeszenszky but have known him for years and spent many hours in his company. In his public statements and private conversations we have never heard him expressing racist views of any kind, not even subtle or light-hearted comments that some people allow themselves after hours in Hungary as well as in the United States. To the contrary, he has been a model professor and public servant espousing nondiscrimination and diversity as indispensable in a democracy. In his discussions of historical subjects, he has gone out of his way to point out the positions of national heroes, Hungarian and American, who denounced the many forms of racism. For years, he has held up the example of Raoul Wallenberg in defying a regime bent on genocide. As ambassador, Jeszenszky has initiated programs to commemorate Wallenberg as a fearless advocate of human rights.

Considering Jeszenszky's unequivocal record of support for the rights of minorities, his intent in calling attention to the Roma practice of cousin marriages that may lead to unhealthy children can only be explained as an attempt to warn against social hazards that befall closed societies.

We are proud to call Geza Jeszenszky as our friend and we are puzzled by the motivations of people who attempt to stain his reputation of integrity.

Geza Cseri
Zoltan Bagdy
Bryan Dawson
Charles Fenyvesi
Lizou Fenyvesi
Robert Gabor
Judith Gajary
Peter Gajary
Frank Koszorus, Jr.
Andrew Ludanyi
Aniko Gaal Schott
Laszlo Szimonisz
Jozsef Takacs
Zsuzsanna Takacs
Dr. Thomas Teglassy
Katalin Teleki
Julius Varallyay
Csaba K. Zoltani

Washington, D.C.
November 1, 2012

The co-signers above reacted within 24 hours of the reports concerning the unwarranted attacks against Ambassador Jeszenszky. Since then others have enthusiastically supported this Statement, including the individuals below who have asked to have their name added. While not all of them know Ambassador Jeszenszky personally, they are familiar with his writings and views.

Louis Elteto
Erika Fedor
Agnes M. Fulop
Laszlo G. Fulop
Zoltan Gidofalvi
Paula Hardy Gorgey
Laszlo Hogye
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Eva B. Kisvarsanyi
Dr. Geza Kisvarsanyi
Dr. Peter Kovalski
Dr. Daniel A. Lowy
Rev. Judith Mayer
Laszlo Papp
Kinga Revesz
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