



Centro Nacional Chega! P

Da Memória à Esperança

PRESS RELEASE

A Signed MoU Between Centro Chega! and ASSEPPOL to Strengthen Partnership

Dili, 21 February 2025 – The Centro Nacional Chega! P has signed a three-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Former Political Prisoners Association (ASSEPPOL), which will be implemented from March to December 2025. This MoU aims to strengthen the partnership and enhance the institutions' capacity to support various activities, including historical days, commemoration, organizing national and municipal advocacy networks for survivors, and recording and preserving the memories of former prisoners. These efforts are part of the broader commitment to strengthen the national economy as outlined in the Chega! and Per Memoriam Ad Spem reports recommendations for the responsibilities of solidarity toward former prisoners and even other services for them.

The foundational principles for establishing cooperation involve dignifying and promoting values, fostering the spirit of resistance, and building solidarity among former political prisoners including developing network cooperation with recognized entities, such as individuals, families, communities, and patriots (former political prisoners) dedicated to the liberation of Timor-Leste, to provide adequate support for their wellbeing, enabling them to participate in national development.

Additionally, this MoU addresses the Annual Plan of Centro Chega! for 2025, specifically the program "Combatente da Libertação Nacional," which includes the subprogram "Serviço de Advocacia e Atividade de Fortalecimento de Associação de Vítimas e Instituição da Resistência" under the IX Constitutional Government, outlines the government's commitment to supporting the Centro Chega! P.'s initiative aimed to assist the most vulnerable former political prisoners and promote peace and reconciliation at the community, national, and international levels. This initiative serves as a formal implementation of the recommendations from both Chega! and PMAS.

In 2018, the Centro Nacional Chega! P. undertook various initiatives based on the Chega! and PMAS recommendations, all aimed at supporting survivors. These activities included: Developing a Training Program for the Survivors Group, Reunification of stolen children with their families, Strengthening the Survivors' Organization, Providing counseling and assistance to survivors, Commemorating historical days, Offering Punctual support to Survivors through the Ministry of Solidarity for Social Inclusion (MSSI), Delivering physical and mental health assistance in collaboration with the Ministry of Health, Establishing a database of survivors, Supporting humanitarian assistance, Collaborating with the Political Conflict Victims Associations (1974-1999) to build a Memory House to Hope to the Survivors, Establishment of a National Reparation Policy, and Task Force to prepare for the enactment of the Reparation Law. These efforts demonstrate a strong commitment to solidarity, healing, and reparation for those affected by past injustices.

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The Centro Nacional Chega! I.P, From Memory to Hope was established by Decree-Law No. 48/2016 on December 14th with the vision of "Inclusive societies, history of the past to be unrepeatable, living peacefully, and respecting human rights." Its mission is to establish post-conflict centers, preserve the memories of the past, promote the values of human rights, build national and international partners, and strengthen the network to implement the relevant recommendations made in the final Report of the Commission for Reception, Truth, and Reconciliation (CAVR)-Chega!, and Truth and Friendship Commission (TFC) – Per Memoriam Ad Spem."