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February 29, 2012

H.E. Maria da Assunção Esteves
President of the Assembly of the Republic
Assembly of the Republic of Portugal
Palácio de S. Bento
1249-068 Lisbon

Dear Madame President,

We were delighted to learn of today's vote in the Assembly of the Republic of Portugal in favor of Petition No. 63/XII/1, "Application for reinstatement in the Army Infantry Captain Arthur Carlos Barros Basto, who was the target of political and religious segregation in 1937."

Known to the wider world as the "Portuguese Dreyfus," the injustice committed against Captain Barros Basto has weighed too long on Portugal's reputation among the Jewish community and on the conscience of Portuguese society. Today's vote was not only in favor of the petition, but also in favor of Portugal's honor. Just as the specific act of discrimination reflected a larger societal problem at the time, the full rehabilitation of Captain Barros Basto reflects Portugal's commitment to human rights today.

We deeply appreciate the important action you and your colleagues undertook today to raise Portugal's collective voice to against anti-Semitism, and hope the long overdue rehabilitation of Captain Barros Basto caused you to feel justifiable pride for your nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Abraham H. Foxman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Abraham H. Foxman
National Director