

MEDIA ADVISORY

SUBJECT: 10th anniversary celebration of the Praia Jewish cemetery restoration

DATE: March 6, 2024

LOCATION: Varzea Cemetery, Praia, Cabo Verde

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The Cape Verde Jewish Heritage Project, in partnership with the Ministry of Cabo Verdean Communities and the National Library (Biblioteca Nacional), celebrate the 10th anniversary of the restoration of the Jewish cemetery in Praia, beginning Wednesday, March 6, at 10 am at the Várzea Municipal cemetery with the unveiling of commemorative plaques and signage. This 19th century Jewish burial plot was restored through a partnership between Praia City Hall and the Cape Verde Jewish Heritage Project, with funding from H.M. King Mohammed VI of Morocco in May 2013. Now, 10 years hence, we have the honor of unveiling commemorative plaques that reflect the original Portuguese and Hebrew inscriptions on each grave, the history of the migration of these Moroccan Jews, and a plaque in honor of H.M. King Mohammed VI for his generosity. These permanent signs serve to educate local and international visitors. The restoration and signage of the cemetery will also honor in perpetuity the memory of the deceased and ensure that their legacy will never be forgotten.

In the afternoon, at 3 pm, a symposium will take place on the presence and legacy of the Moroccan Jews of Cabo Verde at the National Library, which will feature Dr. Raquel Levy-Toledano, who recently discovered that she and the family of Abraão Levy, are related! They have the same Levy ancestor from Essaouira, Morocco!

The celebratory activities will also be attended by Rabbi Ruben Suiza, chief Rabbi of the Jewish Community of Lisbon, and representatives of international Jewish and Moroccan organizations. The Cape Verde Jewish Heritage Project (CVJHP) is a non-profit organization created in the USA with the purpose of honoring the memory and documenting the contribution of the many Jews who immigrated to Cabo Verde in the mid-late 19th century when it was a Portuguese colony.

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