



supporting women survivors and victims of past conflict

Asosiasaun Chega! Ba Ita

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The women and men of our organisation share solidarity with our sisters, mothers and grandmothers – their injustice is our injustice. We seek to empower at a grassroots level on which women can stand proud and be strong to say “Chega ba ita!” (Enough for us!).

Asosiasaun Chega! Ba Ita aims to:

- Support women survivors with trauma healing workshops
- Increase women survivor's capacity through nutrition and business training
- Bring together families separated by conflict and assist children of war
- Lobby for the recognition of women survivors by relevant government and non-government bodies
- Educate the public on women's history, human rights, and gender-based violence in the past and present
- Pay tribute to women survivors at memorial services
- Research and publish papers with international and local researchers

Our History

After the declaration of its independence from Portugal in 1974, Timor-Leste experienced a violent Indonesian occupation (1975-1999) that left one third of the population dead and the rest of the country traumatised. Women were particularly vulnerable and suffered unspeakable violation of their rights including physical and sexual violence.

Following a transitional period under the UN administration, the Reception, Truth and Reconciliation Commission (CAVR) was set up to investigate human rights violations committed during the occupation and resulted in 204 recommendations for the newly established Timorese state.

Since 2010, ACbit has been campaigning on the findings and recommendations of CAVR, creating a public dialogue to acknowledge past violations of women's rights and lobbying relevant government and non-government bodies to implement essential policies and services to support victims of violence.

Maria de Fatima's Story

Maria became a supporter of the Fretilin resistance party in 1975, wanting independence from the Indonesian occupation. She was not involved in holding arms like other fighters, but she did contribute to the women's clandestine group OPMT. This involved sending secret messages, food and uniforms to the Fretilin soldiers living in the jungle. If people were caught or suspected for this work they were often interrogated, raped and tortured by the Indonesian military.



"The military soon found out about my clandestine work and forced me into marriage and sexual slavery... I had 4 children, to unknown Indonesian soldiers."

After Independence in 2002 many of the war crimes against survivors were documented during the CAVR truth commission. For Maria, she wanted to share her story with the commission and begin a public dialogue.

"We still require the government to consider our fight - even though it was not with a gun, we still sacrificed ourselves to defend our nation."

To read more stories please visit ACbit's website <http://chegabaita.org/>



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Capacity building



Improving everyday lives



Supporting children of war



Advocacy and education



Memorialisation



Participatory research



Archiving and touring