

Aristides de Sousa Mendes

(PORTUGAL)

In 1940, the dictator, António de Oliveira Salazar expelled Sousa Mendes from the diplomatic corps without a pension. The dictatorship was overthrown in 1974. With the transition to democracy, Sousa Mendes's courage and humanity could be officially recognized. The democratic Portuguese Parliament posthumously acknowledged the injustice Sousa Mendes had suffered for his courage and humanitarian actions, reversed his punishment and restored his diplomatic rank. National honours followed including the Officer of the Order of Liberty in 1986, the Grand Cross of the Order of Christ in 1995 and the Grand Cross of the Order of Liberty in 2016. In 2021 Portugal recognised Aristides de Sousa Mendes as a national hero, granting him National Pantheon Honours in recognition of his actions.

Chiune Sugihara

(JAPAN)

After returning to Japan in 1946, Sugihara was forced to resign from the foreign service. This action was seen by many as punishment for issuing thousands of unauthorized visas in Kaunas, Lithuania. He spent the remainder of his life doing modest work abroad and later in Japan. He died in 1986. In 2000, Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs honoured Chiune Sugihara through an official commemorative plaque installed and unveiled at the Ministry's Diplomatic Archives and Record Office in Tokyo, publicly acknowledging the moral significance of his actions.

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