

What happened in Portugal this autumn – and why the international youth movement should radicalize too

Lisbon, December 2022

On Monday 7th of November, 6 schools and universities were occupied in Lisbon by [Fridays for Future Lisbon](#) under [the "End Fossil: Occupy!"](#) action callout. On Thursday 10th, students [from António Arroio highschool](#) completely shut down the school. On Friday 11th, one of the occupations was removed by heavy police at University of Lisbon and are still facing trial. On Saturday 12th during the "Unite Against Climate Failure" march, dozens of students [invaded the building](#) where the Minister of Economy, António Costa Silva, was having a meeting. The following Monday, 14th of November, students of Liceu Camões highschool [blocked the school](#) at dawn and no classes took place the next day. The day after, 6 students met with the Minister of the Economy at his office, presenting him with a resigning letter. After he refused to sign it, [they glued themselves to the floor](#), stating that they wouldn't leave before he did. They were taken away by police, detained, and released four hours later – bringing our wave of actions to a loud end. **What's happening in the youth climate movement in Portugal, and why should you be paying attention?**

As part of the international call out "End Fossil: Occupy!", we were organizing school and university occupations since early this year. Out of a necessity to **radicalize our tactics** and to **revive the youth climate justice movement**, we have been calling out for students from all over the world to occupy their schools in order to create disruption in the everyday life as a key piece in creating **a mass movement** that can defeat the fossil fuel industry's power. After months of preparation which didn't seem very promising in the city, on the 7th of November the ball started to roll in Lisbon. And on that Saturday 12th of November, the previously unthinkable happened: during a climate march organized by dozens of NGOs, dozens of students were willing to storm the Minister of Economy's meeting, while a thousand people shouted in support in the streets. We stormed our Minister of Economy's meeting

because his immediate resignation is part of our two demands to the portuguese government, the first one being that they commit to end all use of fossil fuels by 2030. We want his resignation because he is a symbol of power of the fossil fuel industry inside institutions, even though he's not the only one.

But this is not the point. **The point is that we, the youth climate justice movement in Portugal, are radicalizing. And we need you to radicalize too.** We cannot trust the governments and institutions of a capitalist system to come save us from the climate crisis. In fact, after just one week of occupations, we had already exposed that all that the government and institutions have to offer to the climate justice movement is repression and meaningless words. As this becomes more and more evident, students get angrier. We found a way to turn despair into something greater and strategic - we are radicalizing our action. **Above all, we are speaking to students, to the movement, and to society: we need you to get angry.** Angry means we organize to disrupt the normal functioning of society so that everything in our power is done to stop the harm. Angry means we don't negotiate with climate criminals, we do what needs to be done. Above all, angry means we no longer hope that governments and institutions will one day "wake up".

As you may have noticed, all these actions happened while the political shitshow of **COP27** was taking place in Egypt. No one from the portuguese grassroots movement was there. In fact, the presence of the grassroots climate justice movement in Sharm el Sheik is a true disappointment and a **step back in the need for radical climate justice movement**. How can you be radical and be at COP? How can you say climate justice is social justice and not boycott a greenwashing festival hosted by a bloody dictatorship? How can you be supposedly representing the youth climate justice movement, and instead of occupying your school, taking the streets or invading your Minister of Economy's meeting, be at a climate march in the middle of the Egyptian desert with no one watching? How dare you frame an agreement to merely mention Loss and Damage in the cover text as a "small victory", while no real commitment to cut 50% of all global emissions by 2030 is made? **How dare you?**

Even the U.N. made it clear: 1.5°C is not possible within the capitalist system. We must organize towards a true system transformation. We are radicalizing, and we know we are not alone in this.

Fridays for Future Lisbon is calling out to all the youth climate justice movement: radicalize! You must forget COP and abandon all negotiations. Our duty and only hope is to organize an international revolution that stops capitalism and stands for life.

In the Spring of 2023 (Autumn in the Global South), **we will occupy schools and universities to End Fossil again.** We are ready to shut down schools and organize a real political turmoil. We aim at building alliances with other groups and sectors of society to form radical coalitions that will create people power to stop the harm. **We envision an internationally coordinated Spring of Occupations that will change everything – and we're calling you out to build it with us.**



António Arroio highschool, November 2022, Lisbon.

- **Fridays for Future Lisbon (Greve Climática Lisboa)**

