



# Press Release: Aerial Art Action Lisbon

TAMERA

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## Frack-Off Frackers, Fatima Is Not for Sale! Say Portuguese Activists

or

## Potential Fracking Threatens Catholic Holy Shrine at Fatima

or

## Portugal Investing in a Huge Blemish on Its Environmental Track Record

**Portugal, August 4 2018 – 800 people gather to use their bodies in a creative action to protest against the planned oil and gas extraction in Portugal and potential fracking, while showcasing alternatives for a regenerative future away from fossil fuels.**

Scientists warn that the record-breaking heatwave Portugal is currently experiencing “will become commonplace” as climate change disrupts weather patterns. The protestors call on the Portuguese Prime Minister, Antonio Costa, and his Minister for the Environment, to fulfil the promise made at COP22 Marrakech to decarbonize Portugal by 2050. Portugal can either ally itself with a dying industry or become a global leader for a transition to a just and regenerative society, as a beacon of hope in a changing climate.

### **Aerial Art Action**

Environmental activists from over 80 countries, as well as local fishermen, surfers and tourists, gathered on the beach near Lisbon to stand against the oil drilling currently scheduled to begin on September 15, off the coast of Aljezur. Using their bodies, they created an image of a mother and a baby dolphin in the sand, framed within a sun with the messages: “Parar o Furo – Stop the Drilling” and “Water is Life.”

John Quigley, award-winning US artist, producer and conservationist invited everyone on the beach to become aerial “artists” saying:

“We’re here as part of a growing worldwide movement of water protectors. We’re defending Mother Earth and the sacred waters of this planet, because there’s no life without water. The fate of Portugal hangs in the balance. We say no to Big Oil’s attempt to drill off the beautiful coast which would effectively render it a fossil fuel colony.”

### **A Regenerative Society**

Portugal has the ideal conditions for leading the just transition away from fossil fuels to clean, sustainable, regenerative industries. In March 2018, the country produced more renewable electricity than it needed – 104%. Members of the Tamera Peace Research and Education Center have been researching and prototyping ecosystem restoration and energy autonomy in Portugal for 20 years. They brought with them some of their technologies, both as a symbolic statement and to show that there are tangible solutions for energy sovereignty and non-polluting means of production, which can curb climate change and drive system change.

Martin Winiecki from Tamera said:

“Water is life! Using water retention landscapes, we can solve the water crisis, prevent wildfires, create better jobs and revitalize the country. We also have the energy of the sun, that provides us with abundant possibilities for decentralized renewable energy. Let’s collaborate to tackle and overcome this historic challenge!”

### **The Movement in Portugal**

A strong campaign in 2017 led by a coalition of environmental activists saw the Portuguese government cancel 10 of 15 oil and gas drilling contracts. The coalition believe that they can cancel the remaining contracts and ban fossil fuel exploration, as the movement gathers momentum.

Catarina Gomes from the Linha Vermelha (Red Line) campaign said:

“Now is the time to bring more and more people to the streets. We’ve seen how our pressure is cornering the government and the multinationals, people are raising their voices against fossil fuel extraction and for a renewable transition, in Portugal and everywhere in the world. We won’t stop until all the contracts are cancelled.”

### **Global Voice**

It was a powerful and joyful day fusing art, ritual and political action. Leading the prayers were Sabine Lichtenfels, co-founder of Tamera, and LaDonna Brave Bull-Allard, founder of Sacred Stone Camp. Coming from “Defend the Sacred” International Gathering in Tamera, they are part of a global alliance developing shared goals and specific strategic steps for global system change, based on a common intention for healing our collective disconnection from life, from our environment and fundamentally, from our home.

LaDonna said:

“Right now you have pristine waters, pristine land...we can develop energy that respects the Earth and the environment and is healthy for the people. Change what you’re doing now, save your land, save your water, save your people.”

### **Notes**

- A similar event was created and documented in 2017. Watch the short video: “Não ao Furo! Sim ao Futuro – No to oil drilling in Portugal!” See: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0damGwctli4>
- Our campaign page: <https://www.tamera.org/stop-the-drilling/>
- National action platform “Parar o Furo”: <http://pararofuro.pt/>
- Defend the Sacred international gathering: <https://www.tamera.org/defend-the-sacred/>
- Examples of John Quigley’s work: <http://www.spectralq.com/Home.html>
- Climáximo: <https://climaximo.wordpress.com/>
- Campanha Linha Vermelha: <https://linhavermelha.org/info/sobre-campanha/>

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For more information, please go to <https://www.tamera.org/stop-the-drilling/>