**Transcription of Interview with Javier and Adriana**

Place: Popular Community Centre

Date and time: November 29, 2022, starting at 17 hrs

Duration: 53:39 mins

Additional observation notes: The interview was initially to be conducted with Javier, but he told me when he arrived that it would be good if his wife could also participate. In fact, his wife wrote to me to confirm the date and time before the interview, as they both decided to have it together. He came accompanied by his wife to the interview, and also his daughter, who is playing nearby, came with us here in the popular community centre, where she was given something to draw while we have the interview. After the presentation of the project to Javier's wife and the review of the topics, we started the interview. Adriana will complete a participant diary.

Participants: Interviewer [A] ; Javier [Javier] Adriana [Adriana]

TRANSCRIPTION

A: If you want to start by introducing yourselves.

Adriana: I am Adriana.

Javier: I'm Javier.

A: Well, to begin with, and so that I can get to know you a little better, we can start with you telling me very general things about who you are, age, occupation, things like that, schooling, if you identify with any indigenous group, that sort of thing.

Adriana: Well, right now I am dedicating myself to my home. I worked for many years of my life, but right now I am dedicating myself to my home because of my little girl. And I have a law degree. I don't identify with any indigenous group.

Javier: Well, I am Javier. I'm a trader, and I've been a trader practically all my life. It will be about seven years, or a little more, about nine, since I arrived here. Since I arrived here I started to see the water problem, and by chance on one occasion we coincided with the meeting of the Committee. And at that time it wasn't that big. And we decided to join together because we needed water, so to speak, I am not so old in the community, but I learned to love it, to fight for it. My wife is from here and my daughter is happy here too. I come from Tláhuac where they are also suffering horrors because of the water, but there is not that unity like here. That is the big difference.

A: Thank you very much. Now we'll go back to the Committee, but we can start with the memories of the neighbourhood you have here, Adriana.

Adriana: Yes, I remember when I was a child there was no drinking water here. So we had to go and fetch it. We used to carry it with the water carrier, what was it called?

A: The water holder.

Adriana: The water holder, and then your cans or buckets. And we were always going to carry water to the tap. There was a tap on Cactus, between Atl and Llave, there was a tap and we would go there to get it. And there was one in Tochtli, I think it was around there, I don't remember where. That was one way of getting water and the other was to wait for the water trucks to arrive with the drums, which were set up outside the houses. At night the water truck would arrive, and there was no exact time, it could arrive at 7 p.m. or it could arrive at 10 p.m. And obviously at that time you had to go out to carry it because otherwise the next day your water truck would be empty.

Until little by little the neighbourhood was urbanised, they put in drinking water, they paved the streets because the streets were dirt. And then we started to have water here in the neighbourhood. There was no longer the problem of no water. But about ten years ago we began to have this problem that started around Holy Saturday, when Holy Week began, and from then on they took it away. But you have to realise that they took it away for fifteen days, but little by little they increased it and it was no longer fifteen days, it was already a month or two months. In other words, it had reached a point where we had never had such a lack of water here in the neighbourhood. Since they made it drinkable and put it in, there was already water. So it was strange.

And besides, you would ask for a water truck and they never brought it. I would see neighbours who would suddenly bring them a water truck and I would ask myself, "Well, how do they do it? Why do they bring it to them? And they don't tell you, but you say "well, I hope it arrives" and they would say "in so many days it will arrive". But it was better for the water to arrive before the water truck arrived. So that's why we suddenly started to see what we could do. The little water we had, we had to save it and take care of it. We started to take good care of the water. Maybe we didn't waste it before, but it was already something valuable, that when you bathed you had to save the water. As much as you could, maybe in a tub or a bucket, and use it for bathing. If you washed, then use it for mopping, for the bathroom, for the corridor. Whatever you could use it for, but don't waste it, like when you use a washing machine and you waste it and you even feel bad, you think "how can I waste water if there isn't any?

So I tell you, little by little the time increased. At first it was just weeks before, and then it increased more and more, there were times during the year when we didn't have any water. That's why we suddenly found out about the group, the Committee, and that's when we could ask for a water truck and the water truck arrived the next day. It was the only way, because otherwise I think that only those who have, as well as their collusion with the government, are the ones that you always see that they always get their water truck.

A: So it happened by chance, by chance. Then you joined the WhatsApp group, I imagine, and started going to the meetings...

Javier: Well, in fact, at the beginning it took a little while to start the WhatsApp thing. That is to say, it was more like those of us who were meeting and there they would say "spread the word, and tell them that next Friday we have a meeting". And then I imagine that someone who knows a lot about networks told them to set up the WhatsApp and the group.

And then I did go on marches, but marches to put pressure on the government. When there was no water we went to the mayor's office and stood in front of it. That's when I tell you that at that time my comrades told me that they would send the biggest one, as I am big, in case something happened. But we weren't going to fight. But we would go and put pressure on them. In other words, we shouted, we didn't ask them, we demanded them. And I mean that started to unite us, but at the end of the day, as my wife says, there are people who, when it was convenient for them, sometimes they supported and sometimes they didn't. Not all of them. Not all of them. Because it was unbelievable that when it was a group of 200 people and you could see that when we went to things like that, 20 or 30 people would show up.

And it has worked for us a lot. Today I feel that it has. I mean, now that Easter week is over we don't suffer so much from the water.

Adriana: No, until just now it started to get scarce again. But since last year, since December, there had been no shortage of water. It just started again.

A: And how long have you been in the group then?

Javier: Well, yes, for a few years now.

Adriana: About two or three years now.

Javier: No, since before the pandemic, right?

Adriana: Oh yes, that's right, so yes, more, like three.

A: And during the pandemic the lack of water was also severe?

Javier: Oh yes, fatal

Adriana: Yes, that's exactly when there was no water. When it was really hard to bathe, to wash your hands. And that was the essential thing, washing your hands.

A: And that they weren't supposed to leave the house...

Adriana: And that you weren't supposed to go out. But how could you do that if we didn't have water?

Javier: In fact, there were interviews. I got an interview with a cousin. Well, he got me an interview on the radio, and then we talked about it. And from there we were connected, and then an interview was also done here at the water intake. And that was exactly during the pandemic. It's incredible that the government asked us not to go out when we couldn't, and that we had the necessary hygiene measures when we couldn't either. I mean, forget about the pandemic, we lacked water and we didn't have it either for hygiene or health reasons.

A: So there were weeks and months without water?

Adriana: Months. I think it was almost the whole year, or more than a year.

A: That it didn't arrive...

Javier: I mean, it was as if they were giving us gifts.

Adriana: He came very little, like twice a month. Imagine that.

Javier: So that's when we learned what it means to save water, literally. And I told Waldo that I did buy a water truck. But because the need was so great. I mean, there were five of us at that time. And then we also have family members who live there, so there are quite a few of us. And you can't stop using water, it's inevitable. And if we didn't buy the water truck, we also bought jugs of water to bathe in. In other words, using demijohns. And it really got out of control.

A: And so in order to save water you had to change your habits...

Javier: Yes, I mean, I mean, then I take a bath, but I fill the bucket. And then they tell me why do you fill it? But then

A: It stayed...

Javier: Yes, I mean I do it as if by inertia.

Adriana: You get into the habit.

Javier: And the same with the washing machine. We wash and then we fill the drum with water from the washing machine. That's why I think it lasts so long. And we do see that the water trucks arrive, and we literally haven't ordered them for months or more. We've learned to save water, and even though we're getting it, we don't waste it. You learn to value. The blows are what make you change.

Adriana: In fact, what do you think, there was also an initiative here, which was not from any party, but there was something called the water house. I don't know if you've heard...

A: No

Adriana: There on Casa and Tochtli streets they put up a water house. And then I said I'm going to go and see what it's all about, if it says it's a water house. And there they refilled your water for free. And it was supposed to be alkaline water, so it didn't have so much of those chemicals in it. In other words, the water wasn't so heavy. Because, for example, we used to buy it from the shop. And that is a lot of water to be paying 50 pesos for a bottle every other day. We had to start buying water from a water purifier and you realise that you are drinking water all the time and it doesn't quench your thirst. I mean, I drink water and my throat still feels dry. But since we started drinking water from that water house, our water consumption has decreased. Because they explained to us there that it is because that water is not so heavy and it does cover you or what your body really needs. It does hydrate you, and you don't need to drink two litres of water at a time to feel that you are hydrated. But they just closed it, and we didn't know what happened. But the truth is, for us it was a marvel. And so far we haven't found anyone to tell us what happened. In the house they don't say that they didn't come. But the truth is that it was a very good thing. It was supposed to be a project that they were starting here to see how it worked out and they were promoting it to take it to other states and municipalities. But we didn't know what happened, but it was really good.

A: That also helped to reduce consumption.

Adriana: Less consumption. Because I tell you, you compared what you consumed of water from that to the purification plants, and there was a difference. Apart from the fact that they gave it to us for free, it was free. You could just fill up your jug and that was it, no problem. That was also very good.

Javier: They didn't ask for your IFE or anything, just your name so they knew who they were giving it to.

Adriana: Like how many litres a day they gave out.

Javier: Like a register.

A: So participating in the Committee helped with the water trucks. Do you feel that it has helped you in other ways and has contributed to other things?

Adriana: Yes, the well for example.

Javier: Well, what do you think, apart from the water trucks, not so much the water trucks, but that there was water in the network. I mean, because before there wasn't even any. As we told you, there wasn't any. So after the Committee and the pressure that we put on them. Well, we did start to see the water supply, and it was because of us, because of the Committee. Because we fought for it and they told us that there was supposedly not enough water for everyone. I remember, I tell you, I come from Tláhuac and there the water situation is really bad. So I tell them that there they give us every other day, like dividing up the week. And talking with Waldo, I told him and he said, "Hey, it doesn't sound so bad, we're going to distribute the same". We started to do the mapping and we started to reach an agreement. And we said, well, such and such days for the high zone, and such and such days for the low zone. Then that started to pay off again because we started to get water through the pipes, through the network. So we said that if it wasn't enough through the network, then even less with the water trucks.

Because there was a time when you would see water trucks at midnight delivering water. Because the need was so great.

Adriana: They were around all day.

Javier: You even felt bad for the piperos, the drivers who then treated you like you were in a bad mood. But well, it's not our fault. But there was a lot of that.

A: What was the whole mapping process like, and was that useful for the tandeos?

Javier: At that time, when the mapping began, there was more communication. Then we started to say "well, who's coming from such and such a street? Ah well, you're going to be in charge of saying 'water comes to me from, say, eight in the morning to five in the afternoon and it leaves, and comes back the next day, and at what time it comes'. So with that we realised and said that the tandeo was a good option. So we made it so that in the high zone it reaches them from Monday at 12 noon to Thursday at 12 noon the same time. And those of us in the central zone get it from Thursday at 12 noon to Monday at 12 noon.

A: And that was a proposal from the Committee

Javier: Yes, from the Committee. And in fact we talked to engineers from SACMEX, and from the Mayor's Office, and we told them "well, we're already ahead of schedule, here's the mapping". And it seemed incredible to them that we already had that control. And I tell you, I am very talkative and I told them, "well, we even have to do your job. The bad thing is that you're the ones who get paid and you're the one who has to do the work".

A: But then it was a lot of work asking people what days they got their water and keeping a record.

Adriana: There were records for several days of when people had water.

Javier: Yes, maybe a lot of people haven't realised this, but that's when you realise that being united and in good communication has helped a lot. Well, without the committee, the well would not have been built, it's as simple as that.

A: And is that monitoring and mapping still going on today?

Javier: Yes, in fact, so that you can see how we are in communication, now that the well is in place we are going to continue to see what can be done. Because they still have to tell us if the tandeo is going to end and the water will continue to be in the network all the time, and if we continue with the tandeo, well, the same thing, ask us how much time we get. Because if we are supposed to continue with the tandeo, we should not be without water for the three and a half days that we are supposed to have. We shouldn't be short of water, in other words we should be doing very well with water. But so that you can see that our work doesn't end there, we have to continue to see how it works and continue to support it. I mean, in fact, here the Committee has become so popular that we have communicated with some people who have problems with a brewery in the north, with other municipalities, because they take us as a model, really. So, I have promoted this in Tláhuac, but they don't believe it. So, as I said, little by little, I believe that many things can be achieved. And we have already seen that many things can be achieved, without violence and without anything.

A: And it has been useful to be in communication or to be in contact with the neighbours.

Javier: Yes, that's what they say, we kind of reawakened a little bit of what those who really came to live here first did.

Adriana. The founders of Santo Domingo

Javier: Because they took care of each other, they helped each other. There was a lot of community. That doesn't exist now.

Adriana: They did their faenas (community work) and everything.

A: You [Adriana] weren't involved in any of the faenas (community work) and all that?

Adriana: No, because all the streets were already there. The only thing is that the streets weren't paved yet. They were dirt but they were all done, they already had names and everything was good.

A: Although the water was missing.

Adriana: The water was missing. But that was all.

A: And had you participated in any neighbourhood groups before?

J: No.

Adriana: No, never.

A: Did you know the people who were in the Committee before or did you get to know them?

Adriana: No, it was from getting to know them, because they were from different streets. There wasn't a single one from our street. Not a single neighbour, not even the one on the corner, no. The ones on the street that are there knew about it. The ones from our street who are there now found out about the Committee from us. Because you go by word of mouth, or because we suddenly put up posters.

Javier: Yes, the posters inviting people to the talks, the meetings, so that they know about the movement. Because sometimes people pass by who don't know. But they are aggressive. And I think it's people who are sent to do that. So we try not to get into confrontations, because they do shout "this is political", and whatnot. And we have made it so transparent that, for example, on Monday they let us see how the network is connected. So that was important for them to see. And we always say it is open, to say that people are just listening and they go and arrive and fall in, so that they can go and see that things are really well done, where the water is going and so on.

Adriana: In fact, as my husband says, this is politicised. Because when the construction of the well was just about to begin, there was a person, a man who came to confront us neighbours. He came to put ideas to the neighbours on the street where the well is. He went to all of them and put ideas in their heads. Because I was listening to him. As I was taking my little girl, who was younger than she is now, she wanted to play and there were several cats there. And I went for a walk with my little girl while Javier was at the meeting. And there he was. And suddenly I heard him say to them, "no, you shouldn't let them do that to you, and we're going to see that we get you a one million peso insurance policy for any damage to your houses, we're going to intervene and don't worry, I'm going to support you". And the neighbours would say to him, mostly women, "well, but the well too, because there hasn't been any water". And he said "no, you have to do it". Because the other man does belong to a party, one that did try to prevent the well. And at the end of the day there was a problem with the neighbours because of him. Because if he hadn't been there telling them that, they would have understood somehow, because they also have the same water problems. So I didn't understand how anyone could be against something that was going to benefit them. But that was the reason. And it is politicised, because that person said that it should be theirs, like the party. And he got involved in order to prevent others from winning. So he did bring something like bad ideas into the group. He must have thought that I was just some neighbour who was there with his daughter, because I was a few metres away from where the meeting was and by accident I heard everything they were saying.

A: And that was at the beginning then?

Adriana: That was at the beginning, before they started, when they were just starting to build the well. And these people blocked, they said that they weren't going to let it be built and that they were going to throw themselves on top of the machine so that it wouldn't work.

Javier: They became very annoying

Adriana: They became very difficult. But thank God, it was possible, the mayor's office came and they did their negotiations with them and the people kind of understood. I don't know how many things they agreed with them so that it could be carried out. But this happens everywhere, there are interests involved.

A: So you have had to fight for the well, so to speak.

Adriana: That's right, it has been quite a struggle. And when something starts and problems arise, then you ask yourself, why? If this man had never shown up at a Committee meeting in his life. As my husband says, he's just one of those people who go and listen and start twisting things in his own way like a broken telephone. So that's what this person is.

A: And making the well came after the proposal for the tandeos, so...

Javier: Yes, but in fact the well was always our first priority. Always, what we fought for from the beginning. The tandeo was part of the immediate solution. We did it ourselves. The fact that the Mayor's Office or the government can say that the well was made thanks to them, well yes, because they did it, but it was achieved by the Committee, not by them. In other words, no one else from any party can say that it was them. It was thanks to the Committee, which has nothing to do with any political party.

Adriana: And in fact it was also because Waldo, for example, used to say that the cost of the water trucks, daily to the mayor's office, was an enormous sum. So he said "how is it possible that they prefer to be spending and spending on water trucks when the construction of the well is more viable?" So that there would be water and not be using water trucks. In other words, he was against the water trucks. In other words, sending water trucks is not the solution. It solves the problem at the moment, but not in the long run. And it is a huge expense for the mayor's office to be sending water trucks. So that's why we said, "instead of sending so many water trucks, build us a well".

A: And did you have to convince the mayor's office?

Adriana: We had to convince them. Because to start with they wanted a 200 metre plot of land.

Javier: We had to convince the mayor's office, SACMEX, and SEP, because that's where the school is.

Adriana: But before that they wanted a house.

Javier: Ah well, they gave us the option of getting a plot of land and we almost had to pay for it. And we looked for options for land and we even told them that there was land in such streets and they were willing to sell. For 5 million pesos, I think it was something like that. No, they told us that it was very expensive. And we told them "you asked us to look for options, well we looked for them, there are the options". In other words, all the excuses they gave us or the obstacles, we always gave them a solution. They asked us for five options and we gave them five options. But the most viable option was still the street, because it is a street and it is theirs. And it would only be the permit with the SEP, which was also going to ask them for some maintenance there. They put up obstacles and obstacles until it was achieved, and then they kicked us neighbours out.

A: And that's another issue

Adriana: Another issue, because the construction was stopped for a while again.

Javier: We did everything we could to keep the construction work from stopping. If it was necessary to gather things like signatures, we'd gather them. If there were cars that wouldn't allow for the machines to enter the site when the construction began, we would go and move them and park them differently. In other words, we solved all the pretexts and obstacles they put up. That's why we don't even trust them anymore. They did tell us that the well is going to be ready and maybe one day it will be inaugurated, but even so we are going to continue watching and checking all of this.

A: Yes, of course, the organisation doesn't stop.

Javier: It doesn't stop. And also because we are also defending Aztecas 215, which is another water issue, an ecocide there.

A: Yes, the damage to the aquifer.

Javier: So maybe it would be easy for us to say: "ah, we already have water, we've got the well, and we'd better get out of here". But if it's already helped us, we're going to keep fighting.

A: What does the defence of water mean to you in general? Why is it important to you, apart from the needs?

Adriana: Well, it's the basis of everything, imagine living without water? You can't do anything.

Javier: It's the most vital thing, as a very crude comparison, it's like if you don't put petrol in a car. It's our fuel, I feel.

Because it's useful for everything.

So as the saying goes, without water there is no life. And that is literal. It is very, very important, for us it is vital. And I think it's as vital for us as it is for everyone else.

Adriana: That's why it is so important to defend it, and demand it because it is our human right. That the government should provide it. That instead of locking your taps, they should leave them free. Because obviously it is more convenient for the government to shut off our water right and to continue giving it to other neighbourhoods that pay more for water than we do. Because here there is a fixed quota. So obviously it is more convenient for them. So obviously it's better for them to say, "Oh well, they don't have water on that side in Perisur, so I take it away from them and send it to them". Let it go over there. That's what has happened here a lot. They send it to other places, because there has been so much construction, so much real estate. Suddenly they started to build so many all over the place, and that's why the lack of water in Santo Domingo started here. We didn't have that problem before, so that's why. And that's why we know that the Mayor's Office is the one that used to close the taps. If the pipes are closed and the water doesn't enter this area, the water continues to flow straight and goes to other constructions. That is what has happened.

Javier: I mean, because it's unbelievable and that's why we say that the water issue is political. Because it took us years to finish a well, and there in Xoco where they built the Mitikah tower they built a well in months. So it is incredible but with money you can do anything. It was clearly seen. We took years and they took months. That's where you can see the difference.

Adriana: So that they would authorise it. For example, with the Azteca Stadium project, the same thing. There they have already authorised two water wells.

Javier: In fact, many people who didn't agree and were gossiping say that from this well they are going to take the water there. And no, nothing to do with that. Because we are very far away and they have already shown us by going to see how the well is connected and where it is directed that it is not. It would be a huge change from here to the Azteca Stadium. If they couldn't change valves here, they're not going to be able to do that.

A: Yes, on Monday they were explaining that the water is for here for the neighbourhood.

Javier: Yes, but the people who want to misinform in order to create that separation and disunity, that's what they say.

Adriana: Yes, they say that they have already done the well but they are going to take the water somewhere else.

Javier: That's what they say. And I mean, there are a lot of people who do believe, or at least they have doubts.

A: And what are your expectations when the well is finished, do you think the situation will improve?

Javier: From my point of view, I don't think it's going to be solved. It's going to help a lot, yes, I mean, it's going to benefit us, but I feel that it's going to continue. And I think that as the years go by there will be more shortages.

A: For what reasons?

Javier: One, because water is supposedly in short supply worldwide. And the second is that it is political, whichever party comes along, they have already seen that this is the way to attack us and I think they will continue to do so. It is going to help us a lot, very much. It will benefit us a lot, but let's see how long it will take. That's when we'll really realise.

A: So organisation will continue to be important?

Javier: Yes, the unity.

Adriana: Yes, that should always continue, it shouldn't be lost, no matter what situation arises. For example, I do believe that Mexico is very rich in water. And that the planet is more than 70% water. In other words, how can they tell us that water is going to run out if there is too much water? Even though it may not be drinkable. There is already so much technology that can make water drinkable. I for one am very incredulous in that sense. I don't believe that there won't be any more water or that the water is running out.

A: Maybe it's going to be more expensive.

Adriana: I see it more in that sense. Because that's how they started bottling it, when before you had it and you drank it from the tap in your house. So everything is like the business of the companies. And they are proposals to the government that they want to do some project and they have to help them and they are entitled to so much. In other words, there is a reason for everything. Because there will always be water. Even rainwater is collected and you have water. I mean, you can't just say there is a shortage of water. The problem is that, the politicisation here, of what the government does with the water. They feel they are the owners and because they are in power they can do this or that. That's more than anything, it's not like the water is finished. It's not that long ago, just at the beginning of November I saw a news item that said that in most of the municipalities there would be no more water than through the Cutzamala system. I only half saw the news item, I didn't see it in its entirety. And then I overheard a man, an elderly person, who started talking and began to say that he came from Michoacán. And he said that the heat there is tremendous. And in the middle of his conversation he said that in the land where he comes from is where the Cutzamala is born. And he says that it is bursting with water. And that above where he is, there is a huge dam, which is like a reserve that if at some point the Cutzamala runs out of water, they open it up. He told me that it has been there for many years and that it has never been opened because there has been no need. So all that they tell us in the news that the Cutzamala has low levels, I am very incredulous. Because I really would have liked to record him when he said all that and upload it to the Committee's group. So it is very political, because it is a business. That's what they're going to do with the water.

Javier: Yes, you can see that the water is going to be listed on the stock exchange as well. So when you see that, you see that it is very profitable.

A: And so being organised as neighbours becomes important?

Adriana: Yes. It would be better to say that the problems were solved thanks to the well. And with this type of situation, obviously that's how it should be, but we don't have the security.

Javier: Let's suppose that the shortage is solved for a long time, we'll see how many years it will last. It could be ten years, it could be twenty years, maybe we won't even see it. But in our house we think about our children. We're leaving and I think it was still easy for us, but for them it won’t be. That’s why we teach them to fight for their interests, for what is theirs and what they should always fight for. Nobody should forget that.

A: And do you think that being neighbours has given you any strength in this struggle?

Adriana: Yes, because we have the same problem.

Javier: I feel that it has given us a kind of togetherness, a unity of knowing that by being together we can achieve many things. And I mean, that's where good friendships have come from, there's Waldo, Beni. People maybe I wouldn't have made friends with. Mr. Beni is an older person, but he's a very good person. Tita too. So I'm grateful to have met people like that.

Adriana: Yes, apart from the fact that it is surprising how much knowledge they have about water. They have been fighting for many years. That's why they know perfectly well what's going on. The first time we heard them we said "wow", in other words, it's not just anyone who said "hey, come and see what we can do", no. They have the knowledge and they know why things happen. So you can see perfectly well who you are standing with. In other words, it's not just anyone.

Javier: For example, imagine that there are many people, and I had to see it, who didn't know that there is a fixed fee for water charges here. On that occasion we were walking to see about the tandeo because they didn't have water, and they were even going to check almost tap by tap. Then they happened to pass a neighbour on our street and they said "no, it's already leaking". And they told her "oh, you don't have water because you haven't paid". And look, an elderly lady said to an engineer "listen, no, do you know how much you pay for water here". And he said "no, but the cubic metre". And she said "no, you're ignorant, because here we have a fixed quota", and they pay about 160 or 161 pesos. But the joke is that this lady with her knowledge told him "I have the documents where this person signed a fixed quota". And she started shouting "don't let them, don't let them fool you".

Adriana: I didn't know either. And he told us never to allow anything else because there is a signed agreement, he told us the date and the year and everything.

Javier: And he said, "I have documents and I'm going to make copies of them and I'm going to secure them". But they are being told by someone who knows. And the engineer was stunned, he didn't know what to say. And he said "no, let's go on to the next one". And even the girls where they checked his water asked him what it was like because they didn't know. I even paid too much, I think. And it was incredible to see that because I said, you learn from something you don't know, and I can assure you that many people don't know. And it's good to be aware of everything.

A: Anything else you would like to add to conclude on what participating in the Water Defence Committee has meant to you?

Javier: Well, to say in my case, I take it as a way of raising my voice, in the case of anger, of fury against the government that wants to tie us up in its own way, or do whatever it wants with us. Maybe I can tolerate many things, but if they want to deny us something that is vital for us, we can't allow it. We have already allowed so many things that this would be too much. Not to tolerate that is the best thing. So I see it as opening the space for me to be able to raise my voice, to raise my voice and say "bata. And I am grateful to the Committee for that and that's why we are still united there, still fighting.

Adriana: That's right, because it gives you support. More than anything it gives you that, it gives you that push, that support to demand. Because there are many things we don't agree with but we don't do anything to....

Javier: We have a kind of fear, or shame, I don't know how to say it.

Adriana: ...to improve them. And here, in a way, we have had this facility to go about doing things.

Javier: Yes, because I tell you, when we went to the SACMEX building, just as a quick comment, some guys came out and said "oh, so few are coming to the meeting". Because we even closed streets, and there were about ten of us. And they started to make fun of us. And when they handed me the microphone I said "yes, for those who are laughing, you should know that we are not here to ask you, we are here to demand you". Because I am very courageous. And I said "if they don't know, thanks to our taxes, thanks to our contributions, their salaries are paid. And it's wrong for them to come just to sit and do nothing like parasites. And let them make fun, but if they are going to laugh, at least let them see that it is thanks to us that they have their salary. Because it's reality, it's not asking, it's demanding. It is something that is a right. And literally, if we are complying with the little that is owed by paying your SAT, paying your water and so on. And if even so, even if you don't do things right, they limit you, it's wrong. Very bad. So yes, yes, we will continue in the struggle.

A: Thank you very much for taking the time to do the interview.