**Transcription of Walking interview with Alonso**

Date and time: 26 April 2023. Starting at 14:50

Duration: 46.50 mins

Distance covered: 1.05 km

Starting place: Popular Community Centre

Route: From the Popular Community Centre to the corner of Atl street and Casa street. Passing through Llave street. This route covers what according to Alonso can be identified as "central Santo Domingo".

Notes and impressions of the interview:

I arranged to meet Alonso at the Popular Community Centre. I arrived at 14:37 and spoke with him for a few minutes before starting the walk, which began at 14:50. Upon arrival, I explained to Alonso the dynamics of the interview. I was nervous, as I have not conducted this type of interview before. This interview also served as a test, as Alonso is someone I trust, and I asked for his feedback at the end. I explained to him what the walk would be like, and he thought it was a good idea to participate. I told him that I required his informed consent, and explained what I would use the interview for. He agreed to give his consent, which was recorded. I placed the microphone around his neck, using a shoelace. With that shoelace, which I borrowed from my current roomie, I tied the microphone to him, like a medal that hung around his neck. I had tried that mechanism before and found that it worked. Before the interview, I also told him about the choice of his pseudonym, and he said he agreed that it should be Alonso. This name, which I randomly generated on the Internet, reminded him of a friend and music teacher who is very dear to him.

We started the walk and I found the interview very useful, very pleasant and very fluid. It helped a lot to walk through places that I would ask him questions about, and he would answer me. We passed by the houses of several people who are in the Committee, and he told me about his memories, and his interaction with his own neighbours as well. On the road, I was struck by the fact that Alonso was constantly looking out for me in front of the passing cars. He also told me that he wore a hat because of the sun. I think I should do the same on the following occasions. Even so, he also told me at the end of the walk that the sun was not too strong, and that it was good that there was wind and clouds.

I marked the route with a Google app that records walks. The interview was a good length and we covered the topics satisfactorily. Alonso guided me through central Santo Domingo, and we passed through streets where many of the interview participants live. I recognise these streets very well, and I also identify where some people live. As we passed the street where his house is, Alonso stopped and explained to me some of his own history, his affection for the neighbourhood, and also how he interacts with his own neighbours. We stopped on several streets where he told me where some of the neighbours lived, and how they had become involved. In addition to this, we stopped in front of the house of one of his friends, in front of the place where he meets with his neighbours and friends to sing every week, and in front of the water well. When we arrived at the well, we talked about the water problem and the achievements of the Committee.

Participants: Interviewer [A] ; Alonso [Alonso]

**TRANSCRIPTION**

A: Very well, then let's start the walk, is that OK?

Alonso: Yes, you tell me where to start.

A: Yes, let's see, it's 2:50. I'm going to take a record of that, and there I'll also have a record of our walk. [The walk starts from the entrance of the popular community centre].

Alonso: Day and time, yes.

A: I'm going to put.... Because that way I'll have a map of what we did.

Alonso: Sure. The walk.

A: So, can we start from here?

Alonso: Yes.

A: Then you guide me through the places you want and I'll guide myself.

Alonso: Yes, where I suggested, but do you want me to go down this street, or this street [referring to the streets in front of us]?

A: Whichever way you suggest.

Alonso: I think it's better to take the one here, because I don't have any friends or people I know around there. I mean, the ones I meet, but they're not even acquaintances, right?

See you later, sir. I hope you feel better. [We say goodbye to the policeman who is on duty at the popular community centre.]

Alonso: Ah, it's good to be with A, man. Yes, yes, I tell you that believe me they remember you there in the singing group, especially the women friends. They ask me "Hey, what about your friend A, when does he come? Hey, and what happened with A?" [referring to a singing group I once accompanied him to]. I told them "He's fine. What happens is that he's involved in his school, his studies. And he's a long way from here, so it's not easy for him to come here at a moment's notice". That's what I tell them.

A: Yes, that's right, and with all this it's become complicated.

And so, look, he's passing here, the one with the demijohns.

[As we're walking along, we hear a cart passing in front of us, one of those carts that carry jugs of water.]

Alonso: The one with the water jugs, well, yes, this one is also common.

And it's not just that expensive one. No, there are about 300 water purification companies. And they are handing out. Well, from several, yes, they are different firms, different techniques, because some use, they say, I don't know, that they use salts or something like that, for, for the purification of the water. Others use sand, others use gas, in other words, different techniques, different types of water purification. But in the end I feel it's the same, we get the same thing.

A: Yes, and so you have been going to the singing still?

Alonso: Yes, for me music is my life, A.

A: And you meet up with the whole group there, right?

Alonso: Yes, yes, most of them. There are about 15 or 16 of us. We don't all get together at the same time, because you can see that the space is small. I think there are some who aren't very comfortable, because they can't go on, they can't find a place, or they can't find a bench. Yes. Or to be there for three, four hours, well, no, it's not that comfortable, is it? It's not that easy.

A: And you always meet in the same place?

Alonso: Yes, they lend us that space for rehearsals. I tell you, the group goes all week, Monday to Friday, from four to eight. I only go three times a week because I have things to do. I'm very restless, A, I can't do nothing. So I look for things to do and I leave two days a week to do my shopping.

For example, yesterday I went with my son to enrol in a school. To apply to a high school in Morelos, because he is going to go to Morelos next month to study there. The career is as a veterinarian. And that, that career that he wants, that Morelos institute has it there in Zacatepec. He's going to go there, yesterday I went with him to register, he already has his application form. He just has to take the exam, but he thinks he's going to pass, he has no problems. And he's going to go there to study.

Today, for example, you were my commitment. And tomorrow, Thursday, I'm coming because tomorrow Jorge is coming to give us a class. He's going to give us a class on solteo, vocalisation and we'll sing. And we'll sing because the teacher is very, very kind in his class.

He jokes with us, he doesn't have much patience.

A: [when we get to the corner of Música and Llave streets] Do we go straight here or do we go right on Llave? Which do you prefer?

Alonso: Eh, well, yes, a bit along Llave. To remind you of the neighbours who have participated and the people who have been with us. Yes, yes, that's fine. Here, look, in this house that is marked with the legends and murals of a Colombian movement that, that is based in Mexico.

A: Uh-huh.

Alonso: Hey, a friend and teacher of mine lives here. That's where he lives and he lent his walls so that this collective fighting for survival in Colombia could put up their image, their need, their, well, what, what Colombia is going through, right?

A: Aha.

Alonso: That's where he lives. Eh, I don't think there's been much of a problem so far, there wasn't much of a problem with water. The water problem we saw in the central part, which is from Fuerza to there.

A: From Fuerza to there is the central zone?

Alonso: From Fuerza to there. Aha, yes, that's considered that zone. I was telling you that they are zones here in the neighbourhood. The central zone is from Fuerza to there.

A: And how far from Fuerza to where? To Mixtli or not that far?

Alonso: No, not that far. From Mixtli about two or three blocks this way.

A: Around Teocalli maybe?

Alonso: More or less, yes, yes, because in the reports that came in from the water, you see there was a time when there was a daily report.

A: Yes.

Alonso: I hardly looked at streets other than Teocalli, Fuerza, Llave, Cactus. All of those. Yes, I think the next one from Cactus is Casa, so it's Casa Street, Cactus and one or two more that way. The streets closer to Mixtli no longer participate.

[we passed in front of a street].

This one here is Fuerza. This is Fuerza Street. A lot of people from here are in the group, and a lot of people from all of Llave, all of Fuerza, or Patos Street. This whole part was very involved because for some reason the scarcity was felt more. Do you want us to go on to Fuerza?

A: Yes.

Alonso: And then we'll go out to the street of the water well, Atl Street, is that OK?

A: Yes, and where is your house?

Alonso: It's on Patos Street, the one that follows, the one in the middle, part of the street.

A: Are you also from the centre of town?

Alonso: Yes, also. Yes, well, it's one of the people who, well, are more participative, yes [we pass in front of the mural done by the committee in Fuerza y Llave] This was done by a neighbourhood collective. [referring to the mural] I don't know, I don't really know what group, what name it has, but it says something there, look. [apparently Alonso was not involved when it was painted].

A: Water for the Pedregales. [reading from the mural]

Alonso: Yes, yes, but this, this, this, this work is from the neighbourhood, it's the neighbourhood. Now it's the local people. There are also artists, you know, there are artists here too, not just in Colombia [laughs]. But many people liked that mural. They have come to film it. I've seen people who come from UNAM, above all. I don't know where the others are from, but I've seen people from UNAM who have been filming all that.

Look, I want to tell you something. [sound of cars as we walk] Here in this house, let me, here, ah no, it's in this one [refers to a house in front of us] In this house, here lives a teacher. She doesn't work here anymore, she's grown up now, just like me, but she was a teacher of my children when they were young, when they were in primary school. And she also participated a lot, because she also had to deal with the water problem. Because in all the movements I also looked at her and asked her "What's up, teacher? -No, well here I am, Alonso, struggling, and you? -Me too, struggling". But the teacher was very participative, I'll tell you that these are the people I know and remember well.

A: When you pass through these streets, do you remember all of them?

Alonso: Yes, of course, yes, here's the teacher. And she was the teacher of both of us, of my two kids, at different times.

A: So with the route you're bringing me here because it reminds you of her?

Alonso: Yes, that's right, yes, it reminds me of the people I've seen participate, and I assure you that it's not just the family of the teacher who participated. Several families around here I don't rule out that they were in the movement. The thing is that I didn't even know the names of some of them, but I did know their way of fighting, their way of fighting for water above all. You saw that with a lot of people from around here.

Alonso: Now that we're passing by Atl Street I'm also going to mention people who I know that are very participative in the group. Not that I know them too much so that they are like friends, right? More like neighbours.

Andres: What would it mean to be like friends? Chatting a bit more?

Alonso: Yes, more intimate, with those things of friendship only.

A: But as neighbours, there's another relationship, so...

Alonso: Yes, a bit closer, more united as neighbours. Because there are also neighbours who don't even say hello to you.

A: Sure, but here in this group you are neighbours who support each other?

Alonso: In this part of the neighbourhood we are, well, at least friendly, we are courteous, and the neighbours greet each other. We say "hello, how are you", and all that to each other. They say "hello, how are you", and all that. Just say hello to each other. But there are neighbours, for example, who don't. You know they live here because sometimes when you pass them you see them, but they don't even say "hello, good morning, good afternoon", no, nothing like that.

A: So, is it important for you to be a good neighbour? Do you think it's important to have a good relationship with your neighbours?

Alonso: Yes, and I feel good, mind you. I feel good. Now that I've had the opportunity to study theatre for a good number of years, I was given the chance to do that and I felt good to be able to have a relationship with people.

And I felt good with people, relating to people of all kinds, all levels, I liked it. I liked dealing with people like that. Now I'm a chatterbox, wherever I go I'm talking, chatting with people and commenting, yes.

A: And with your neighbours in Patos, do you talk sometimes?

Alonso: Yes, with most of the block, eh? With most of the block I talk, yes, they already identify me. The little people, especially the kids, as I always ride my bicycle, they call me the old man with the bicycle. Other older, more adult neighbours, like me, who have known me for more years and know that we ride, call me the wolf.

A: The wolf, ah.

Alonso: They say Goodbye, wolf! And I reply, "Goodbye, my friend!" Because that's what they call me, that's my artistic nickname.

[We stop in the street and he refers to some streets in front of us]. Yes, look, for example, these people here did participate, the ones in front, not the ones in the painted house, but the ones in front did. Half a block away I have two friends from the group. They didn't suffer much from the water problem, because they are renting and fortunately the person who owns that house thought very well years ago and built a good cistern. So, they almost didn't struggle, why? Because the cistern is there.

A: So here in Atl, on the corner of Patos, I took the photo, because you're telling me, we stopped a bit for that, didn't we?

Alonso: Yes, to highlight it. Yes, I'm telling you, but this street, in fact I like my street. Participation or not participation, friendship or not, friendship or not friendship, but this is the street I like, it's mine.

My house, which is your house, is, from where the one with the tree is, the highest, the next one. The house where I live is smaller, the other one is a skyscraper if you compare it. Where I live, it's a low-rise, if you can see it, there's a canopy. There's the tall one, the skyscraper, and one like that next to it, the same colour, like light red. Yes? It's not my house, but I offer it to you.

A: Ah, thank you very much.

Alonso: Half a block away, yes, yes, right there, remember, in the little house, that's where Alonso lives.

A: Where the wolf lives.

Alonso: The wolf, yes. Do you see the brown house?

A: Yes.

Alonso: That's where a friend of mine lives, a colleague, because he also likes music a lot. And at some events I've had, not recently, but for years, I invite him and he's my fan.

A: Oh, yeah? How nice...

Alonso: When I tell him, "You know what, brother, there's going to be an event in Huayamilpas, there's going to be an event in Coyoacán, there's going to be an event in Aztecas, in the Foro de Piedra, at such hours, if you like, come along, there'll be a bit of music". And he always says "yes, yes, of course, yes I'm going".

A: Ah, that's good.

Alonso: And yes, he's had fun, I tell you, because he follows me to some events, right, when he has time. The neighbour two houses ahead, also the same colour as mine. He also follows me. The lady who lives on the other side also. She cheered me on a lot in Huayamilpas, because when we performed at the Huayamilpas Forum, she went with her daughter and told me she didn't know I sang, and I didn't know either, I told her, but we're still going at it. [laughs]

A: Ah, it's good that you have a good relationship there with your neighbours.

Alonso: Yes, with the people on this street, everything's fine. It's my family, this street. From the others it's just like that, greetings of hello, hello, like that. They're just compliments from neighbours, aren't they?

A: But from this street you've known them for years.

Alonso: Yes, no, I've been living here for about 35 years. They brought me here, I used to live in the State of Mexico.

A: Yes, you told me that when you got married you came here.

Alonso: When I got married they brought me here. [laughs]

A: And you see your neighbours in the street, is that where you've met them?

Alonso: In the street, yes. Not lately, but years ago there were parties among them and they invited me, they pulled me in. Not really to sing, but to get together. But now the parties have gone down a bit. But three or four neighbours from here tell me "come, we're going to have a party, we're going to celebrate X. Come so we can invite you to a party. Come so we can invite you for a snack. If we can, we're going to sing and drink". And I said "Yes, of course". So, what do you think?

A: Very nice.

Alonso: We could continue if you want to continue the walk.

A: Yes

Alonso: Let's go this way, through Atl street [as we turn in a curner]. This is a good street, eh? A lot of people involved in the group are from here. In the meetings I would ask them, "where are you coming from?" and they would tell me, with the number and street of their houses. So I can tell that they are from this area. I don't know, two blocks around, more or less.

But not from here, from this family [as we pass a house]. I'm telling you because I finally discovered that many of the houses have cisterns and they didn't struggle much. If there was ever a time when there was a real lack of water for months at a time, they had water trucks brought in.

A: The houses that have cisterns, then, they don't get involved as much.

Alonso: Not so much, not so much. They almost didn't struggle, I tell you. For example, here this family from this house, no, the one from the other house next door didn't participate, they didn't have any problems. From here on this side, just like... one, two... well, three families, more or less.

A: From Atl on this corner with Tletl?

Alonso: Yes, and here for the next block, I can identify three families that had problems and participated. Little, as I said, it wasn't that much of a need. But from here, from this other street, well, the same, the same, very little participation. Here I also have two friends, more or less, where that pole is.

A: From here in Tletl?

Alonso: Yes, from Tletl.

Where you can see that other pole, in that house I also have two friends, the daughter and the mother, who also sing. And they sing very beautifully, especially the daughter, she sings beautifully. They didn't have many problems because their cistern is very big. They are often party people there too, we often go there to sing.

From above, at the most, two more houses, those are the ones that I have sort of identified. Of the others, no. If they didn't have water problems, they didn't participate. They didn't approach us.

A: That need is what made them participate then.

Alonso: Yes, I feel that they did. Yes, because even in the slogans they shouted, water is life. And it's true, isn't it? We don't live without water.

Here, if you go to the Benito Juárez Market, in the centre is the space they lend us.

A: Yes, I'm going to take a photo of it.

Alonso: Yes, as a reference. It's a meeting place, a centre for... well, not for fun. You could say cultural, because there are members here who are even poets. They read their poems, they sing, they dance, and so do our older friends. Who, according to the versions, felt very ill at home. And from here they come out laughing and dancing. So it's a place of recreation, of healthy recreation.

So what do you think?

A: And so this place brings back good memories.

Alonso: Yes, yes, yes, yes, of course. I tell you that tomorrow I'll be here, tomorrow and the next day I'll be with them. Neither yesterday nor today because I have to get my pending things out of the way. But on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays you'll find me here.

A: It's a place you like.

Alonso: And I like it a lot, yes. Now that you can, come along. I suggest a Monday or a Friday. That's when most of us get together. I don't know why not on other days. I say because I've already told you what my reason is. I take out pending things that I have to do at home. But the other colleagues also feel bad and don't come. But on Monday we are almost all there, 15 or 16 of us. On Friday, well, it's social Friday, you can imagine. There are snacks, there's always someone who brings something and we share, I don't know, biscuits, a cake, something.

A: Are there other places like this where you meet your neighbours very often or where you like to go to see your neighbours or is this the main place?

Alonso: This is the main one. Here, not so close, on Patos Street, where we passed a while ago, all the way to the end, but it's about 12 blocks up, and this street leads to the Pumas quarry.

Then up to the walls of the quarry, which by the way is in a hole, deep, and there is a lake inside, on one side of the fields there is a very beautiful lake. This is a sports and cultural centre because they also provide culture and sports. And it's next to the quarry. I don't go there very often, but it is also a meeting point for the neighbours. Most of the neighbours go there to exercise, to run, to walk. On Sundays they go on picnics with all the kids there. There is also a swimming pool. There are arts and crafts classes, there is dance, there was singing at one time, but the teacher is no longer there and the workshop was discontinued. But there are sports and cultural activities, there are several. And it is a concentration point for the whole central part of the neighbourhood. What do you think?

A: Yes, everything is very good.

Alonso: So this is where you can find the little market.

A: Yes, of course, the place where the singing takes place.

Alonso: Great. On a Monday and a Friday, I suggest you do what you can, A. You'll see how relaxed you'll be. You'll have a good coffee, a good chocolate, a good tea. A relaxing time. Look, this little school belongs to all the neighbours. It's the little school in the centre of the neighbourhood. All the primary school children are concentrated here in these streets.

This is where the voting takes place when there are political movements. This school is used for voting, the mayor's office uses it for events, mostly political. And the voting, this is exactly where the polling stations are set up. For mayoral, state and federal elections. This is an important point. Because on voting day you see a lot of people here. That's why there is a line. Sometimes long, sometimes not so long, but this is the voting place for all political movements. This is also an important point. This is not fun because it is a study centre.

A: But I imagine that when the children leave school there are snacks and sweets on sale there.

Alonso: Yes, that's exactly it. The festival is formed here in front of the school. The parents organise it, and I'm happy to see them because they put up mesh netting to stop the traffic. During the entrance and exit, they cut off the traffic block.

They turn around in the meantime, it won't take more than half an hour. While the children enter or leave in the morning, afternoon and evening. There are two shifts, morning and evening. But they close and it's very good, very cool. I see it as security for the children.

A: They close the street when the children go out.

Alonso: It's for the movement of classes and all that. But yes, what you say, it looks nice because it looks like a street market (tianguis) here with snacks and things they sell to the kids. Pure garbage, because it's pure junk. They come in skinny and they come out fat, but good. More than fat, more like paunchy. It's all flour that they buy.

[I take a photo of the entrance to the school, which is across the street from the market, and we continue walking through Atl].

Alonso: So this is where you've found it. And here when you can, here you're going to get close [to the market to sing].

Look, just like this Mountain Life business. [referring to a building and business in front of us].

A: Ah, the one that sells water.

Alonso: Yes, I was telling you that there are about 300 of these places. You saw the carts. The one here, look, there's the cart at the door. It's broken, that's why they don't take it out right now. And here they only have that one cart, but there are businesses that have up to two or three carts. That is, it means that the business is fruitful.

A: Do you use those carts?

Alonso: Yes, mostly for drinking, because for cooking, well, from the tap, we take from the tap. They've done studies and it doesn't come out as contaminated.

A: [we walk and arrive at a tap from which the neighbourhood's inhabitants take water for their homes] And here is the tap?

Alonso: Here is the tap, they still keep it. It has not been removed. In fact, when the well was built, in some talks, some of the neighbours, those who were against the movement we made, said that people come here from outside, with jugs of water, who also have problems, and that they take the water from here.

And applying a little bit of selfishness, they said "this is from here, from the point. And there is no reason for other neighbourhoods to come and take our water". That's how they said, especially the neighbours of this point.

A: I'm going to take a photo of the tap, do you mean the neighbours next door, the ones that are closer?

Alonso: Yes, them. And they are already identified as selfish. And yes, I heard that they came, I don't know, in trolleys, in vans. And they were taking demijohns, drums. Drums, those 200-litre drums. I got to see that. And full of this water. I got to see this type of pick-up truck, with two or three of those drums. With three 200-litre water tanks, one of those oil tanks. All full of water and from here. And then here they say "no, it's our water, we don't want outsiders here".

Finally, they understood and calmed down. And now it has been resolved. And here, you see, like this, here they come to wash cars or many people come with their demijohns. Small demijohns, big demijohns, and large demijohns. But there's no lack of people coming from around here, or from further away, to get some water.

A: When they lack water?

Alonso: When they lack water, yes, because there is the case I told you about the neighbours who rent, that because of bad luck where they are renting, there isn't a big water tank like other houses. And so they really struggle.

Obviously they almost didn't participate, because as they are tenants, they don't get involved. The owners, or original neighbours here, were involved. But those who rent, those who come to live here in little rooms, didn't participate and they don’t get involved. No, because, well, they say it's not their house.

A: They have no interest in fixing it.

Alonso: Exactly, they say "well, it's not my house", and as long as they get water to survive they are fine. Some are temporary, and they are not here renting all the time. You see them for a while, a few months, you identify them, and when they are no longer here you say "oh, man, this guy used to live here, and now he's left, or he rents somewhere else".

A: And you, for example, have you had to use water from this tap?

Alonso: Yes, in fact, I do use it. I do use it, because I use it for cooking. We take water from here. For other uses, fortunately we already have the tap, for general water supply. And it has hardly ever failed or failed us, thank God. And this tap gives us clean, crystal clear, fresh, clean water, A. Look, put your hand in.

A: Yes, it's fresh

Alonso: And I'm telling you, and thanks to God and all this, we've almost stopped having problems.

A: You haven't had water problems anymore?

Alonso: No, no, not any more, A. At least we haven't, you see, because I told you about the Tandeo system, every other day, and that is no longer done. There is almost always water, every day.

A: Wasn't there a month when you struggled a little bit?

Alonso: A little bit, yes, because, likewise, I'm telling you, these are just comments, because I don't know for sure, that someone from the mayor's office came to calibrate the valves, and they didn't leave them right. Or he closed them too much, or left them open too much, and the water was wasted. And that caused a certain momentary crisis. Momentary, yes, because a few weeks ago, the water supply can now be considered normalised.

For example, in my house, we no longer felt the absence of water.

A: Yes, because I heard that it was more or less two months ago that there was a small crisis, and there was even a meeting of the neighbours, because they had to ask for water trucks.

Has that not had to be done again?

Alonso: No, not any more. That's what I'm telling you, it was just that point, that critical time. That's why this meeting was held to see what would happen. They said "well, the well is there, isn't it? What's going on with the water". So, the committee brought the people together again. In fact, we met there, where you know, there on Patos and Llave. On the corner, that's the meeting point, where the meetings are held.

And that's where that was discussed. And it came out that the people from the mayor's office, I don't know who sent them, I don't know why they came. But that someone came to put their hand in the valve controls, to calibrate.

I don't know if it was a mandate or if it was accidental, but they either closed them to cut off the water, or they left them open so that the water would spill out. It's very weird. To this day we don't know what's going on. Even the committee didn't know what was going on.

A: But it's fixed now.

Alonso: It's over now.

A: That's good.

Alonso: So, what do you think? Shall we go on, A?

A: Yes, we go on.

Alonso: In this place, look [referring to the houses and naming their colours, in front of the well] the houses you see here belong to the conflictive ones. They're the ones who were difficult from the beginning. These three houses belong to the neighbours who didn't want the well.

A: And they are right in front of the well.

Alonso: Exactly, yes, and that's why they said and argued, foolishly, that the vibration of the drill would affect them, because you can see that it's a huge drill bit that penetrates, it has to penetrate. They said that the vibration was going to knock their houses down. But finally, at the end of it all, they calmed down. People from the mayor's office came to talk to them. They brought them experts, experts in hydraulics, in engineering. And they brought them together. And they convinced them. And if they weren't convinced, at least they lowered the volume of what they were saying.

A: [I see a person coming to drink water directly from the tap in the street] Look, that neighbour just drank water from the tap. To quench his thirst, right?

Alonso: Yes, that's what I'm telling you, that water is drinkable. For me that water is drinkable and very clean. Someone did a study, they say, that the water from one of the houses that sell purified water was more contaminated. It came out dirtier than the water from the tap. They did a study. People from the UNAM, they checked several of those places, and one of them even had faeces in it. And that's supposed to be purified water. And that's not true. And that tap water we have is pure. Pure. So, look how lucky we are, right? Yes.

A: And how does it feel now to see the well finished [as we continue walking down Atl Street]?

Alonso: Well, happy. Very satisfied. I'm glad, then, that this kind of thing is being done for the good. I don't forget, for the good of everyone, because you also see how people struggle without water. And we struggle. We also struggle a lot. Where I am, we are five families. And the cistern, A, it's not that big. And that's what my in-laws did to it, lately. Both my in-laws have passed away. But supposedly the land was awarded to them, to the in-laws. But there are the sons and daughters and now.... As one of the daughters is my wife, well, we are also involved there. But it's a little cistern, what can I tell you, like here at the edge of the hallway [referring to the courtyard of a house] Square, just imagine. It doesn't even hold five thousand litres.

A: But it helps.

Alonso: Yes, it helps when there is constant water.

A: When there's a trickle.

Alonso: Even if it's a trickle, but it should fall constantly. Because what we use during the day, fortunately it is replenished at night. Why? Because in the morning we see the level and the water tanks upstairs that supply us are half empty, so we start the pump and we put water in the water tanks upstairs. What is consumed during the day, when there is a normal supply, is replenished. And we don't lack any more. The level is low, but we have it. If the level is very low, we start it up once a day. If it is constant, then up to twice. Not three, because that would be too much. Even though we are five families, I tell you, we also try to look after it, don't we? Take care of the water.

A: So here we continue through Atl.

Alonso: Yes, do you agree with this point?

A: Yes.

Alonso: Let's go this way to tell you how far is the central zone of Santo Domingo, up to where it is considered the central zone.

A: Let's continue along Atl.

Alonso: Yes, I don't see these people here. I don't see any participants.

A: Ah, watch out, the car is coming [because we're walking along the street and not on the pavement].

Alonso: On this other side I do know, around the school. On the block where the school is, you can see that the school is on the opposite corner of Llave Street. The people across the street are very participative. But we got along like that, saying "good morning" and "goodbye", and greeting each other. And I watched them in some of the movements. What do you think?

A: I think it's good, it's good. I imagine that being in this movement has been helping you to identify more people, then, to meet more people.

A: Yes, yes, and you realise who's who, right?

There are people who show their support by being there in the meetings in person. Because they don't ask, they don't say anything. There are some who hardly speak at all. But look, I think that it's good that they are there, because they are present. In other words, you can see the people there.

We meet 30, 40 people, as you have seen in the meetings. And of those, if there are about 10 who participate actively, in a talking way, so that they speak or ask questions, that's a lot of people. It's a low percentage of people who participate by asking questions, by talking.

A: But you think that the fact of not speaking, that is, just by going, is already a form of participation.

Alonso: I think that just going to the meeting is a useful participation. Because sometimes people might say "What a poor meeting, there are only 10 people there". And then the others get discouraged or start to criticise. But if they see that there are 30, 40, 50, no, it's a different matter.

A: So it helps if people come.

Alonso: Yes, they say that the more participation, the more power. There is more power when you see more people. And there is also more exchange of opinions. There are people who do bring out very positive things, both to ask and to answer. So I tell you, you asked me what it left me with, or what I feel remembering the movement. I feel a lot of satisfaction. I even dare to speak for some of my neighbours. That, well, it's good that they participated, it's good that we benefited. And it's good that we are doing well. More than anything else.

A: And the movement continues?

Alonso: Yes, there haven't been meetings very often. Except when there are important things like what we were talking about with the momentary crisis. But the group continues because it sends messages, or greetings, even greetings through the group. The group has a WhatsApp page, I don't know if you've seen it...

A: Yes.

Alonso: The group in defence of water in Santo Domingo. So they send messages and greetings. At Christmas, to everyone. They say "Congratulations guys". I said thank you. I wrote to them "the best of the best for you this Christmas". And Waldo wrote back "Thank you Alonso", and that's it. That's good. Just like that, but it goes on, the movement goes on. And I assure you that any time something is offered, I assure you that we will meet again. And there they're going to be ready. We have to be there. So what do you think?

A: Perfect.

Alonso: What do you suggest? Shall we continue this way?

A: Yes.

Alonso: Until we find Casa Street, what do you think? It's from this street we're on and there's the other one, because it's no longer considered a central area, it's a different area.

A: And when you walk along these streets, what do you imagine for the future of the neighbourhood? What would you like for the future of the neighbourhood because of the water issue? [as we reach the corner of Atl and Casa and stop]

Alonso: Well, I feel that with the well and the fact that, thank God, we are now moving forward, there would not be many problems with the water. They are asking for more things. Sometimes, when we met, because I did participate in the meetings in front of the mayor's office when we went to stick up petitions, some of the neighbours were encouraged by the committee to tell them that we have to ask for security, we have to ask for cultural and sports spaces, we have to ask to close down the places, the red spots where the bad guys go to play there. Places, dark streets where muggings take place.

So they ask for street lights, they ask for security, they ask for the streets to be cleaned up, because in some places they do some work and leave the rubble on the pavement, and they leave it there. For example, this [points to some rubbish on the pavement where we stopped], this shouldn't be here. These tyres here on the pavement. They shouldn't be here, neither rubble nor things obstructing the pedestrian walkway.

So this has been requested, now that you asked me what I would like or what I feel, that they should take into account the request of the neighbours, because in the end it will affect some of them, some of them yes, some of them no. Some of them may not even be interested, and they say "oh, it doesn't matter, it's not my house", right? But I would like that, I mean, I would ask for that.

A: Are you fond of these streets?

Alonso: Yes, I do. I'm telling you, I would like, come on, that they take into account that they want street lights, that there is cleanliness, that the red spots are eliminated, because sometimes we walk, well, I'm not one to walk the streets at night, but there are people who do, because of work, or because they're out partying, having a social life, and they arrive at one or two in the morning, and at least their mobile phones have been taken away from them.

I tell you, I would ask for that, but in fact I like my neighbourhood, I am happy here. I like it, I like walking around, I like seeing the people, I mean, I, that's my way of seeing it, I don't know what you think.

A: I think that's perfect, I think we can end the interview with that. Now, as we finish, I would like to ask you, what did you think of this walking interview experience?

Alonso: Great.

A: Did you like it?

Alonso: Great, I liked it a lot. It relaxed me and it relaxed you, I assure you that something stayed with you. You got something out of it and so did I.

A: I'm very happy to walk with you, from the popular community centre, where we started, it's an important place too, isn't it? I don't know if that place means anything to you.

A: Yes, yes, it's a very important place, both for culture and for recreation, because there's even dancing and all that. There are music classes at the moment, and my friend is taking guitar lessons, some of my friends are going to dance there, another friend who lives nearby is going to take yoga classes, I think, but the popular community centre is a very important place, I would say.

A: So then, did you enjoy this walk?

Alonso: Yes, of course. I feel better than when I arrived. Yes, it's good to walk around here, I tell you.

A: Well, I'm going to pause the recording now.

Alonso: OK, so, do you think it was a good job?

A: Yes.