**Transcription of Interview with Carolina**

Place: Carolina’s house

Date and time: December 12, 2022. Starting at 11 hrs.

Duration: 1:58:41

Additional observation notes:

Today is a public holiday for many people in Mexico. I was going to have the interview together with Carolina and Tita, but Tita cancelled and did not come to the meeting. For this reason, the meeting will only be with Carolina. The meeting is at Carolina's house, who gives me directions on how to get there. When I arrive, I hear that the water pump is on and probably pumping water from her cistern into a water tank. When I arrive, Carolina shows me her house and takes me to her garden. She tells me that she hasn't been able to water her plants because of the lack of water. From her garden we can also hear a neighbour's pump running, so the sounds of the water supply are noticeable and distinguishable. When I leave her house after the interview, I see up to three carts moving water jugs through the streets of Santo Domingo. Carolina agrees to fill out a participant diary.

Participants: Interviewer [A] ; Carolina[C]

TRANSCRIPTION

A: The first thing we can do is for you to tell me some general information about yourself, such as your name, your age, what you do, your education, etc. Very general information about yourself.

Well, good afternoon, my name is Carolina, I live here in Colonia Pedregal de Santo Domingo, I am 71 years old, I am already retired, I worked as a primary school teacher. I was born in Mexico City, I studied here in Mexico City and I have lived here all my life. In my childhood I lived in Gustavo A Madero and when I got married I came to live here, in this neighbourhood. Well, I first started working in this area in 74 and then I came to live here in 76.

A: Did you study at the teacher training college?

C: I studied at the Escuela Nacional de Maestros, here in Mexico City. It was a school designed to train teachers.

At that time there was still no high school system, but later I did study high school, I also entered the University to study Biology, but I only spent about four semesters incomplete, I didn't finish that degree and I didn't practice it.

A: You worked as a teacher

C: As a primary school teacher.

A: So before you came to live here, you were already working nearby?

C: At first I worked in the Aragón unit and then I moved to work in the Ajusco neighbourhood, on Aztecas Avenue, because I went to university here. And the children in that school where I worked, most of them were from this neighbourhood. The colony had begun its foundation in 71, in September 71, and I arrived to work in August 74. So most of the children went there because I don't know what year the schools here began their construction.

A: Do you identify yourself with any indigenous group?

C: Well, I don't speak any indigenous language. Well, my grandmother was born near Texcoco, let's say, which is the State of Mexico. But she couldn't speak any language either. But she did, for example, talk to me about the remains of the Tepexpan man, which had been discovered in those years. Nearby are the pyramids, things like that. But yes, maybe in the question of food, but not in the language. No, not even in habits. It's a pity.

A: Yes, yes, and how did you come to live here, in the neighbourhood?

C: Well, first I was working with my husband. He was already living here with his parents and siblings. When I got married, that's when I came to live here. We lived together for a while and then they moved out. You could say that they were the first inhabitants of this place, of the family.

A: So that was about forty years ago?

C: In 76. I came to live here in about June 76.

A: A little over forty, isn't it?

C: Forty-eight.

A: So, from those years, what do you remember most or what do you keep in mind from those first years here in the neighbourhood?

C: Well, as I said, and as I worked here and most of the children were already living here, I knew that there was no water, no electricity, no transport. In fact, to go somewhere else you had to walk to other neighbourhoods, to Miguel Ángel de Quevedo or to the Azteca stadium, because what is now Avenida Aztecas didn't have.... Well, it existed as an avenue with such a wide space, but it wasn't very accessible. Although the space existed, it was not accessible. So public transport was more like other streets towards the neighbourhood of Ajusco, where there was transport coming from Tasqueña or from other places.

So yes, we still didn't have the services. Although when I came to live here, let's say, there were already streets that were not even, so to speak, but they were passable, because at the beginning it was completely...

A: El Pedregal (the natural rocky area)

C: Aha, El Pedregal. And at that time there were already like pavements to walk more easily. You had to go to carry water to the neighbourhood Ajusco or the water trucks started to arrive at some corners where it was more possible to go, and they would leave the water in very large metal drums that were formed there and they would bring water for us to carry it from that place.

A: So you remember carrying the water?

C: Yes, we used to carry water every day and to drink. Not so much for use in the kitchen or for washing dishes or bathing, but to drink. We would walk until we passed Aztecas Avenue, in the neighbourhood of Ajusco there were some public taps where you could also go and get water in jugs, in pots, in jars. At that time I don't even think there were water jugs, I remember that.

A: I used the water holder.

C: The water holders, yes.

A: So the drinking water was different from the other.

C: Yes, because the water they brought us from the water trucks was often very mixed up, it wasn't completely clean. Yes, you left it to sit and in the last case you put it to boil, but you didn't have the confidence to drink it straight away, you had to boil it.

A: And how did you organise the issue of the drums that were filled with water? You say that the water truck would arrive....

C: Oh yes, well, each street had its own place where they put them, and for example I don't remember what colour ours were. They had to be painted inside and out. On the inside to prevent it from rusting and spoiling, and on the outside to identify which street it was from. And I don't really remember what the order was, which one was in front. Because there was a line and it was like two by two. I was in the middle, I wasn't at the beginning or the end. The water truck would arrive and start to fill up. And also if we were there at the time the water truck arrived, as there was always a little water spilled, there were many of us who stood there with our buckets to get another little bit of water.

A: From the water truck?

C: From the same water truck that spilled from where the hose was connected, or from the one that splashed here, from the small trickle. And at the end we would tell the driver not to go so fast, to leave the hose so that every last drop would come out.

A: To get it all out.

C: All of it, all of it, all of it.

A: And you say that the water hauling was daily.

C: Yes, it was daily if they didn't bring us water daily. If they didn't bring us water daily, it wasn't daily. But if we knew they hadn't brought us, it was daily. Another thing I also remember is that here in the house, or in the courtyard, because we didn't have a house, well, yes, some rooms, we also had water tanks and we put a lid on them. If we didn't have a lid, even if it was a plastic or a big pan or something, because if you didn't put a lid on it, the weather would affect it. Well, now it's cold, but at that time it was even colder because the neighbourhood was uncovered, so if we left it like that, it would wake up like ice frost, especially in this cold weather.

And we used to, for example, put a hose from this tank to this one to save us the trouble of carrying it from the door to here, we put a hose and sucked the water from here to this one. But if for some reason we forgot and left the hose on, then the next day this whole pipe was full of ice.

A: Did it freeze as well?

C: It also froze, so we didn't want to leave it uncovered or put the hose down.

A: And on the issue of water, do you feel that there was cooperation between neighbours or was it more individual?

C: Yes, yes, there was cooperation because, for example, if the water truck didn't arrive, we had to take turns, and then it was up to you to go and complain why the water truck didn't arrive, to talk. We sometimes went, well, more recently we went to Huayamilpas, because I think at the beginning we went to the Azteca stadium, more like going towards, I don't know if you know that part of the Calzada de Tlalpan, which is a little bit towards Huipulco and Xochimilco, there are still some water trucks there, I don't know if there are still water trucks, you can go there to get the water truck or to Huayamipas, because that's where the water trucks used to get their water.

A: So sometimes it was shifts of going.

C: To go, to go to complain or even to close buildings and streets. When we were in need of water, when we saw a water truck, several of us ladies would stand up and one or two of us would get in and say "you go where we tell you to go". And "you're going to my street". But in other streets there were also others who, no, there were arguments and fights between people, saying "you can't take it away from me because it's mine, it's ours".

A: On the streets here, in the neighbourhood or in other neighbourhoods?

C: No, from this neighbourhood.

A: So that the water truck would come to your street.

C: Yes.

A: And you say ladies, it was the participation of a lot of women...

C: Yes, mostly women because the men went to work. The men and the women, well, we did work together, but according to the timetable, let's say, right? In the mornings, in the afternoons, most of the men weren't there. On the weekends, which was when they could be there, or in the evenings, in the afternoons, the work was organised, for example, to continue levelling the streets, to open the stocks, to put up the lamp posts. Then to put in the water system, for whatever was needed. To fill in materials, because sometimes it wasn't just about breaking stones, sometimes it was about filling in holes with rubble, materials, buying earth, buying stone. Or even sometimes from the rubbish that came out of the house, if the hole was very big, we would fill it in to make up for it.

A: And apart from the water issue, were there other issues where there was cooperation between neighbours?

C: Yes, well, when I arrived,

the community centres were already up and running, there was one just one street away. And there they had pre-school services, bathrooms, hairdressing, some classes, workshops, carpentry, electricity, hairdressing. And there were showers, because in the neighbourhood we have water from the wells, so many people went there to bathe, and washing areas, the washing areas too. Ah, because with the water issue, well, the truth is, I did go to wash, but more to a neighbour's house, because the water trucks came faster, or they gave me a chance, I had my little children, and they would say, "come wash with me", and I would go there with my clothes to wash with a neighbour. And sometimes I would go to the community centre to wash, but I had many neighbours who would go to wash up to La Lupita, the church of La Lupita. There is a water well next to it now.

C: At that time I was working in the afternoon. So I still worked in that school on Avenida Aztecas. In the street before the church of La Resurrección there are several schools. But that whole block, you could say that was the only school. That's where I worked. So from here I would walk to that school. I worked in the afternoon. At two o'clock I went to work, and I had to go to work at about a quarter past one, half past one.

A: But I had to sort out the water first.

C: Uh-huh. And in this community centre that is close by, fortunately there was already a kindergarten. So I used to take my children to the kindergarten.

A: But then you said that sometimes you had to, sometimes with a neighbour, wash with them.

C: Oh yes, I had some neighbours who let me. They would tell me: "Come wash with me, tomorrow morning. I have enough water". And it was because, well, one, because they had a lot of water, and they didn't charge me or anything. The only thing that interested me was that they gave me permission. So I would arrive and they would tell me "you use all that water". And I would leave early to wash there. So comfortable, very comfortable, all by myself.

A: And did you ever have to do the same thing, but for a neighbour who came here?

C: Well, here, when I had the cistern, because it was one of the things we did in the house. We didn't have water, but we did build the cistern. Then, with that, there is another neighbour, well, he doesn't live there anymore, in this house that is in front, or I think the one next door, that neighbour used to live there. He also built a very large cistern from the beginning. Well, that house, that place, he sold it to other people now and he's gone. So, his land was down there. So, it was like a swimming pool, I think, he put a roof on it and everything, but it was a very big cistern. So, when they started to build the house here, we bought water trucks and he gave us permission for the water to be poured there.

A: In the neighbour's cistern?

C: Yes, from that neighbour. And my husband would carry it from there with one of my brothers-in-law. For the drums, for the bricklayers or for me. And then, when they built my house, my cistern is small, I can show it to you. But we did it. Then, later on, if I had the opportunity to have water brought to us, so that they didn't put it in the water tanks, but that they put it here, I allowed them to put it here and I also let my neighbours bring water. Even later, when we had water in the drinking water network, and the truth is I don't remember from what year we had water in the network, what a bad memory. But once we had water in the network, there was a time, like.... 18 years ago, 16 years ago, we were left without water for about six months. So, once again we had to get water trucks. We had to put water tanks or fill the cisterns of the neighbours who already had cisterns. And at that time, I remember that there started to be some people who had a little bit more time or something like that, and some bills were made. And the people from the water system regulator would come and we would complain to them about why we didn't have water.

And they had no explanation, they just said that the place is being repaired, that we have some maintenance work and I don't know what else, and well, they said they were going to send us water. And they were going to send us water trucks. And we wanted water in the pipe network because we already had water in the network.

So, I remember a young man who came on his bicycle and he said "now it's this street's turn, we'll talk about it". I said he was a neighbour, but now I wonder if he had a job or something like that. But the young man was very approachable. And then by street they just sent us a water truck, for the whole street. And as far as they could reach, because back then they said only two minutes per house. So they would put the hose, two minutes and that was it. Then, for example, some of my neighbours still don't have a cistern. So they would say to me, "teacher, neighbour, can you let me pour my water there?

A: The two minutes of their tank in yours.

C: Yes, my two minutes plus the two minutes of the lady next door, the lady next door, the neighbouring lady. And so on. And then some people would say "no, but why are they leaving so much water over there?" And I would say to those who asked me for this favour "no, but you come and tell them, these are my two minutes". Because otherwise they're going to say that it's all mine. And when they took it away, sometimes they even left me without mine. [laughs]

A: They took a bit more, didn't they?

C: Well yes, but what do you do? So that's how it was sometimes. Then I'd say "hey, pay me for my two minutes" [laughs] Don't leave me without water either.

A: And then you say that now, well, the water is introduced into the network. And when did the tandeos start? Was that from the very beginning or was it something that was done later?

C: No, the tandeos started more or less when we were in Aztecas. I think it started when we also started to ask for the well, let's see, I have a lot of photos.

A: Was it in 2016, 2015?

C: Aha. I have a lot of photos. [starts looking at his mobile phone to find the photos] Let's see, that one is from September 2016. Aha, in 2016 we were here at Aztecas.

A: Yes, there it is. Ah, that's from the spring in Aztecas, you took those from the little window. [looking at the photos with her].

C: Aha, yes, from the little window. There was a time when I took them on a daily basis.

A: Ah, there's the little window, isn't it?

C: Yes, you can see the little window. There was a time when I took photos of it every day. Until we were evicted.

A: And how did you get involved in Aztecas and that problem?

C: Well, look, I'm telling you, by being everywhere, you get involved in everything. It turns out that there was the project of the city of the future, the famous Ciudad Del Futuro in this...

A: In the asphalt plant, right?

C: In the asphalt plant, I think that's a bit earlier, isn't it? In 2014. So, some meetings had been held there at the asphalt plant on this side. Not by the entrance to what is currently called the quarry park. They were held, but it was around November, December, January, February. It was more like the end of 2014. I can't find them... [looking for the photos] Because I'm supposed to have kept the posters. I don't know what I did. They moved. It's just that you can see that you change the devices, so I think they altered the date of the devices. Look, for example, this one says 2015. That's a painting at the asphalt plant. Aha, well, then they had been holding those meetings there.

A: Against what was going to be Ciudad del Futuro, all that, right?

C: Yes, yes, it was a whole project that was going to affect everything here and the neighbourhoods next door. Ah, well, it affected, according to this, several streets here. It even almost reached the Azteca Stadium. Yes. They were going to add more lanes to Aztecas Avenue, even though it is so wide. They were going to add more lanes on both sides, I don't know how many more, I don't remember. So we opposed the Ciudad Del Futuro project.

And there, I don't know if you know a man, well, there are many men in that group, aren't there? But I remember that he attended a meeting with the neighbours of Los Reyes, who were suspecting that something was happening at the construction site in Aztecas. And he went to that meeting, he attended that meeting and came here with us, because he was also going with us, to tell us what he had been told. That there was, look, there is already one of the posters. November 28, 2015. Yes, so, these were already for Aztecas, in 2015. So, he informed us what had happened and it was decided to go to the place.

I didn't go to that first place there, to Aztecas, because at the same time as the meeting there, there was also the meeting with the retirees. So I went to the meeting with the pensioners. And later I found out that they had gone, that they had taken out the hoses, that they had seen all the water spillage. Well, that's when we were there for a while, and while we were there in 2016, I think that's when we started to run out of water here.

A: While there was a sit-in there.

C: While the protest was going on over there, because we hadn't been with tandeo. We did have water shortages, it wasn't all day and all the time, but it usually came in the early morning, and since I have the cistern.

A: That's when it filled up.

C: Yes, it filled up. It even had enough pressure to go up to the cistern.

A: And then when the tandeo started, more or less in 2016, do you feel that it affected you being able to have water here in your house?

C: It actually meant that we had water, because we didn't have any. The tandeo was a proposal from the assembly itself. Because they made several trips with the water system and with the local authorities.

Look here is the photo that says "no to the city of the future". [while continuing to look at the photos on her mobile phone].

A: January 2016.

C: January 2016, yes, and a little after that, in February 2016 I think that's when Aztecas started.

A: And the sit-in started in April I think.

C: In April, on the 29th of April. The photos are helping me because otherwise I don't remember [laughs].

A: And you were then at the 2016 sit-in.

C: In the assemblies, in the following assemblies, which were already every week, yes I was there. This one is from March. Yes, I was already going to the assemblies. Look, [looking at a photo] here it says "11 March, assembly". It's an information flyer.

A: The general assembly was already there.

C: Yes, so I think that the lack of water must have been in 2017, it must have been when the photos of the tours appeared. Well, at that time, here I tell you that we had already gone through that. And here is another sign, seventh assembly, 12-15 April. I think this was the seventh, the eighth I think is where we stayed.

A: Where they stayed in the sit-in.

C: At the sit-in, yes.

A: And you were going to the sit-in.

C: Yes, I was at the sit-in.

A: You weren't at the eviction, on the day of the eviction.

C: No, that day I arrived here at night, at about 12 midnight.

A: And then in the early hours of the morning the eviction took place.

C: The eviction was at dawn, exactly. On Friday 22 April was the last assembly, so on 29 April we stayed at the encampment. [looking at a photograph on her mobile phone].

A: Yes, it says marches from four points to Avenida Aztecas and then they stayed at the encampment.

C: Friday 29th.

A: Until December.

C: Until December. That was 2016. All of 2016. Until December 2016. So here the water thing must have started in 2017, in February. I tell you, what a bad memory. Well, there have been so many things. [looking at another photo] This is from when the plantón was already in place, on 30 April. We put the newspaper on it.

A: The newspaper of the day.

C: Aha. And then we had the assembly that decided to set up the sit-in. [looking at more photos] The march we did to get there. We were accompanied by people from Xochicalco, and from I don't remember how many other places. Because they were also defending water at that time.

Well, I can't find the date of the march. But well, at that time we no longer had water. And we started to ask the delegation, the water system regulator, the city government, and ask them why we didn't have water. And then they started to invent explanations and to explain it to us, supposedly. We visited the places, we visited the tanks and the big cisterns that are here on Avenida Aztecas and Imán. And I don't remember what they call it, but that's where they explained to us that the water level must have a certain height and that there must be sufficient pressure, etcetera, for it to arrive. So we did the tour from there to here, and then all the avenue called Tetl, all those streets and then around where the well is and beyond, and they made the neighbours open the water taps, because they told us, when they came to do the tours, "you say you don't have water, but they just told me by phone that there is water in the network and you have water".

A: the water system regulator officials.

C: Yes, and we told them "you don't leave until you see that we don't have water". Very good. And then they said, no, but they already told us, no, let's see, let's go.

Then they would open any house, they would knock, let's see, open the tap, there's no water. Another house, open the tap, no water. Then they would say, "no, the pressure has reached such a high level,

but since we have to send it to other streets, we'll send it to other streets". But then it turned out that it didn't reach these streets, and they changed, let's say, the way of supplying the other streets, and it didn't reach those other streets either. So from here in the same assembly the comrades said: "look, let's not change the streets every day, let's leave it midweek and midweek, because as soon as the networks start to fill up and reach the pressure and the level that you say, you change it and it doesn't reach them anymore. It doesn't reach us either, and again you change it again and it never reaches us. It never reaches anyone. So it would be better to see if what you are doing is really true, a change in the distribution, and that you are watching the levels and that you are managing the valves properly, it would be better to do it every midweek.

A: So that was a proposal from the group, mid-week and mid-week, three days one zone and three days another.

C: Aha, it was a proposal.

A: After doing those visits.

C: Yes, and making them understand that we didn't have water, and holding meetings, working groups, as they call them, with the different institutions.

A: And after that, did the water issue improve here?

C: It has improved, it has improved exactly, it has improved. I can tell you that about four months ago, you could say, of the days that I had to wait for the water to arrive, in reality the water only arrived on Wednesdays. Lately, in the last two, three months, more water has been arriving. Well, the last three weeks it has been arriving from Monday to Wednesday. And last week there was from Monday and it was Thursday at two o'clock in the afternoon and there was still water, with little pressure, but there was water. It was a week that every day I had water.

A: But there are days and there are weeks when you don't have water.

C: No. Previously, in spite of the tandeo, we only received one day's supply, and for the last four months with the tandeo, we have been receiving three days, two days. And this last week we got everything we were supposed to get.

A: And then, you were in Aztecas, you noticed that there was a lack of water here and you started to put pressure on them, so you formed a group called the Water Defence Committee?

C: Yes, that committee was actually formed because the neighbours who are most affected in the central zone, which is what I call that zone, were the ones who sought us out, some of them had been with us in Aztecas. So they knew us and they spoke to the comrades and told them "listen, we are lacking a lot of water and we want to invite you to come and hold a meeting". So they organised themselves and stuck some posters in their windows, on their doors, and said that the meeting would take place on such and such a day. So I didn't go to that meeting either, I didn't go to that first meeting either, I always miss the first ones. Oh, how awful! [laughs] That was the beginning. So, several neighbours got together. And they had the confidence because they knew the comrades, the ones who had been with us in Aztecas. And at that meeting they said, "well, this group can't be broken up, as long as we don't get a solution, we have to keep on organising and asking for a solution". From there it was agreed that they were going to continue holding meetings. I remembered a little bit, when we were in Aztecas the water was starting to stop coming, especially in that area. And then those neighbours said, "but how can we do it?" And we said "no, we have to go here to the water system regulator, which is by Xotepingo" or something like that. So even Tita told them, "well, if you like, come here and we'll go from here".

A: From the sit-in?

C: From the protest camp, then some of the women would go there and Doña Tita would go with them. She would accompany them and they would sort of receive them, and they would say "oh no, we're from Aztecas". And they got the water trucks sent to them. But at that meeting they said, "no, the water trucks are a palliative, but we have a network, they should send us water in the network".

A: And that's when they started to improve the tandeo, and I suppose later the well, right?

C: Yes, and then the well, because they are saying that with what they have, there is no possibility of improving the service. They also mentioned some constructions that are like from Avenidas Aztecas upwards, almost reaching the peripheral street, I don't remember the name of those housing units.

A: Well, there is the Panamericana and they have built new constructions there, right? And Gran, from there, Gran Sur, there's the Gran Sur shopping centre.

C: Uh-huh, in front of Gran Sur, but it's already on the peripheral. In those units, they said that there was a facility there that was about to be finished to supply this area of the neighbourhood.

Well, not exactly that they would supply this last part of the neighbourhood, [interruption asking if I am cold and if we close the window] but that they would also supply this network, but the neighbours in that part of the neighbourhood objected.

And now with this new administration, both in the delegation and in the water system regulator, without saying water, they finished the installation. That was here at Grieta and Aztecas. A few months ago they finished it. But in previous years the neighbours there opposed it and they hadn't finished it.

The pipeline was there, everything was there. They were even watching to make sure that the work was being done. And the neighbours went around to take photos, just like they take photos of the well with the monitoring. And they said, "no, they are working, or they are not working".

A: And then, let's say, the residents of the Santo Domingo centre contacted people from Aztecas so that the group could be formed.

C: Yes, and then they started to call the authorities, to ask for working groups.

We also went to the offices to deliver official letters. And we also held some rallies at the city government. We did a small march and we delivered this document to the Mexico City Water Systems (SACMEX). We went to SACMEX, we went to the city government and we went to SEDEMA. And the same document was delivered in both places. The pandemic had not yet started.

A: And when the pandemic started, I understand that there were several months when the water issue was very difficult.

C: At that time I was absent from here. But I do know that the need to solve the water problem made the neighbours mobilise. In fact, was the pandemic in 2018 or what year?

A: 2020.

C: 2020. Here I have photos from 2017, but still from Aztecas. Ah, but look, for example, in this one there is a sign saying "no more water cuts".

A: And that's on something by Aztecas.

C: It's for Aztecas, but it's 2017. It's just that it was already failing

A: There was already the issue of water cuts, wasn't there?

C: The water cuts were already happening.

A: It was kind of coinciding.

C: Yes, look [looking at another photograph] there was also a note in the newspaper, and it says "they demand water in Coyoacán". We left Aztecas and arrived at the Coyoacán delegation. And we took the empty water tank with us. Because they were giving away tinacos, water tanks, weren't they? They had already given them away a year before and they were still giving them away that year.

A: The ones from the local authority.

C: The ones from the government. That was, I think, in 2017. So before I was absent from here, I still went to that rally that we also held in the Coyoacán mayor's office. You say that the pandemic started in 2020?

A: The pandemic started in 2020.

C: So it was in March 2020. And here are other photos from 2017. Let's see if you can see it here.

Ah, but that's because of the markets. The ones from the bola market were also with us. But it was more about Aztecas, I think. Yes, because they were also accompanying us.

[photo of family members appears]

My nephews and nieces. I have everything. Well, in some folders I do have them separated, but right now I can't separate them. [looking at another photo] Look, it's one of the posters we made against Maldonado.

A: Uh-huh. It says there, immediate regularisation of the drinking water supply.

C: Aha, and it's 2017.

A: And it comes together with the Aztecas and the protest in the Mercado de la Bola market. It was like a confluence of demands.

C: Yes, and then 2017, 2018, 2019 followed. [laughs] Oh, no, how great! 2019, 2020, before the pandemic started, I tell you, they still came here to see about the probability of the well. And they had already told us that the place was fine, then they told us that it was no good and so they brought us here. But to top it all off, the pandemic started and then, well, before it started, as the hot months were coming, we went to hold a rally, we went to hold a rally.

And we didn't know that it had already... Well, we did know that it had already started in the world, didn't we? Yes. The contagion. But we didn't know how far it was going to reach here. We still thought that maybe we would be spared. Look, these are photos from one of the tours, May 2017. [looking at the photos] And here are these men, checking.

A: Whether you had water or not.

C: Yes, and that's how we went around the streets. [looking at another photo] This man has passed away, I don't remember his name now, but I remember when he started to go... Here we were doing the tours. This neighbour, I don't know why we took her photo, but... look, the girls, our neighbours, writing down everything they were told, the employee there listening to us, I think it was a Saturday or a Sunday. And the employee said, "no, but what is it? No, I'm just coming". No, no. Oh, yes, the man was already afraid.

I think this neighbour said, "I don't have water and the one across the street has water". I don't know why we took that photo.

A: Those were the tours.

C: Yes, that neighbour, when we were making those rounds, he already knew us and had approached us, but I remember that day he still said, "well, they're always going around with their games of I don't know what, they don't convince us". And we told him, "no, we don't belong to any party, we are neighbours". And we were neighbours, all of us who went, all the people who went. And we said "we're looking at the water issue and that's why it's the tour". And he stayed, and after a long time he stayed and after that he was one of us and he fought with everyone.

A: He joined.

C: Yes, yes, yes, well yes, because that was it.

A: But he saw you in the street.

C: Yes, and we were all suspicious, weren't we? Let's see if he wants to arrest us.

[She shows me a video where there are some comrades arguing with SACMEX staff].

We're in the church of the resurrection, in the courtyard. [She is silent while the video continues to play.]

C: [while mentioning the issue of the valves in the video] they told us that the valves, that I don't know what.

A: [watching the video] Is that person from SACMEX?

C: No, he is an unconditional supporter of Mancera. He's very involved with the city government.

[The video continues, where neighbours can be heard in a discussion with officials, talking about the issue of the tours and that they should check why there is no water in the houses].

A: So that's where they're from, isn't it?

C: No, it's a meeting outside the church of the Resurrection. Aha. Let's see if a video of the tour appears now.

[while the video continues].

Ah, that's right, we went to Conagua, what did they tell us? Ah, because we told them to show us the blueprints, why they say the valves, why this, why that. And they told us that this is reserved information from national security. But what national security if we don't have water? National security would be if we had water.

A: And at that point you had already met with the people of the central zone of Santo Domingo.

C: Yes, this meeting was not improvised. In this meeting they gave us the date. The authorities. Yes, I mean, we asked them for it and at such insistence, I think we had already gone to the mayor's office or something, and they attended and they proposed that place for the meeting. So the neighbours attended, they came from the central government, from SACMEX and from the mayor's office, to listen to the neighbours and supposedly for them to try to explain and for us to try to reach an agreement on how they were going to solve the problem.

A: And at that time the Water Defence Committee of Santo Domingo had already been formed, or was in the process of being formed?

C: It was being formed.

[video continues].

The man is [and she mentions the neighbour's name]. I think you are going to interview him too. Alma's family, he's the father.

A: Oh, yes.

C: Ah, yes, then we also made notes during the rounds. Because at first we didn't, but then we did. There are even notes from this meeting, and those of us who attended signed them, and they signed them too. Ah, it's incredible, it's been many years.

A: Yes, they have been, and in this group of the Committee do you see a certain continuity between the Aztecas and the water issue?

C: Well, although it seems different, I think it's the same thing. It's about being organised, we are part of the community.

It is something that affects us because of where we are, but in reality it also affects the city. If one part of the city is affected, it affects the rest of the city as well. Because that has happened. I think that last week there was still a blockade here in Miguel Ángel de Quevedo due to lack of water. And I really don't know from which area the neighbours have gone to make that blockade.

A: And also in Xochimilco there was a blockade. I think it was from the 1st of December that the blockades were set up. [video bells ring] They're already calling for the...

C: To mass. Because we are outside.

A: You're outside the parish, aren't you?

C: Yes, we're in the courtyard.

A: And so you say you see a connection?

C: Yes, one because we are neighbours, another because we are affected, another because we are part of the city. So I say, even if this part of the city is small or big, or however you want to consider it, I don't think it's good for a city or for a country if there are inhabitants who don't have the same services as the others. Because that is what happens. For example, when there is disagreement, there is a concentration, a blockade or a stoppage, because they say that we are taking up their time by setting up working groups.

And that they schedule a work session with a timetable, from such and such an hour to such and such an hour, because they have a lot of work to do. And we also tell them that we also have work to do, while they are attending to us during their working hours. On the other hand, many of us have to leave or ask for permission from our work or see who can replace us, because during their working hours we have to come and fix something that unfortunately they are not solving.

We tell them "you are receiving a salary, you have a timetable and you are fulfilling a duty. We are out of our place, we don't have a salary and it's not in our timetable to do this, but we have to do it out of necessity". So, that's what I think. That what happens in one place really affects everything, because it happens when the meetings take longer, and it's partly true, that they stop carrying out other activities and they stop attending to other pending matters. So they are affecting others because of those pending issues. If we or other neighbours block an avenue or an office, whatever it is, then the person who is going to pass through there or who is going to do a procedure is also affected, because they can no longer do it, because they can no longer get there on time, because of many things. So I think the best thing to do is to solve the problems as they arise.

A: And what motivated you to defend water?

C: Well, starting with necessity and continuing because it is a right, isn't it? We pay for the service and we don't have it. We have the facilities and we can't use them. [looking at photographs and videos] This is also from a tour. This is inside the facilities of those tanks, on 23 May 2017. These are the tanks that are in Grieta. Here they are explaining to us about the water level in these large tanks, that there are tanks, that they must have a level. These are the valves that they have in there. They opened them, they showed us how they work. They said that the level has to be, I don't remember what metres it has to be, for them to open these valves. And from these valves there is a pipe that goes all the way down Grieta Street, it passes here at the height of the metro and enters the main avenue of the neighbourhood and begins to supply water.

A: So you're telling me that water is a right.

C: It is a necessity. [video continues] That's when he opened it. He opened the valve and see, the water is already moving.

A: Ah, it's already coming out.

C: Yes, that was to show us that there was water.

A: That's the water that would go into the network.

C: Yes, that's the valve to show us that there is water. Just like in the well they showed us that there was a connection.

A: So the question is, why don't we have water?

C: Exactly, if they tell us that so much water is coming in and so much water is going out. And if they already have a level, then why isn't there any? So they came to the conclusion that they would no longer change the valves or that they wouldn't do it every day, but that they would do it once every mid-week so that we could have better water service.

A: That was after all that negotiation.

C: Yes, look, here there are others. It's just that most of them were videos, they weren't photos. I don't know where this is... These are videos. They are also from 25 May 2017. And the water committee started in 2018, I think.

A: So this was before the committee.

C: Yes, because I'm telling you... 2017. [looking at photos] This neighbour lives here in front of here. Ah, this lady also goes, she still goes to the water committee assemblies. Let's see, we're in... Yes, May 2017, they are still from the same date.

A: [looking at another photo] That's in Aztecas.

C: In Aztecas, yes, because then the second sit-in took place. These are other things. Yes, look, here's a very big video. Ah, yes. This one is three minutes long, this one is an hour long.

A: Yes, the mobile phone has a lot of memory.

C: Lately what I've got is on card, but these were... Well, I've already uploaded it to Google or whatever that thing is called. Ah, look, the best of May. I've collected a lot of photos here.

What is it? Ah yes, I've got everything.

A: That's a tour.

C: They're from the city government. And these are my flowers from here. That one is also from there, from that plant. [referring to a plant in her garden] Look, here they are. These gentlemen in the photo are sent from there from the central government, with their bored faces, they didn't want to.... Oh, no.

A: They had to be forced to work.

C: Yes, because they were saying before, it's always the same thing.

A: So, the neighbours have done a lot of work to gather information, where there is water, where there is no water.

C: Yes, and then, once the water committee is in place, well, once the tandeo is achieved, well, there is what we have already said, the monitoring. To check that the streets that are supposed to have water have it.

Ah, look, this is the installation that I told you about, that those neighbours over there never let it be finished. It was already there, there was a connection missing for it to reach the neighbourhood and they wouldn't let it. And with this administration, they did it and that's it. This is also supposed to have helped us to have water. In this one from June 2017 you can see that we collected signatures for the well. It's from 29 June 17. The neighbours were signing. In those signatures, I think they were the first signatures that were collected to request the well, and later, I think in 2018, others were collected with signatures and voter credentials. Yes, we were forced to do this because they said it was a lie.

A: That they weren't real people.

C: So we made a clothesline of images to remember what the neighbourhood was like. They painted some pictures. [looking at another photo] That's this... you can see that where the well is, there's a primary school, then there's a secondary school and in the street, this is the bar of the secondary school, the little street.

A: That's where they put those photos.

C: That's where we did. And we were collecting signatures.

A: To ask for the well to be made.

C: To ask for the well to be built. And some neighbours came here with their grandchildren.

A: And their buckets, to get water from the tap or...?

C: Their buckets, but it was just for something symbolic that we were asking for signatures for the well and that we didn't want to carry water anymore.

A: What do you think have been the achievements of the Water Defence Committee?

C: Well, to remain as one, to remain united. Without the mistrust that we had before. It is logical that there is some mistrust from those who arrive for the first time. They ask us if we belong to a certain party. Or if the leaders are asking for money for who knows what, or if they want to run as candidates. But those of us who are already part of the Committee, well, we can invite others and there is no longer this idea that they are bringing me because they are going to ask me for signatures.

A: What do you think helps to generate trust?

C: Well, that it's been going on for several years. That there have already been elections and things like that. And it has already been shown that they don't want to be candidates. And we told them, they are free to vote for whoever they want, but we don't campaign for anyone here. Because it has happened that some neighbours have said, well, sometimes they also hire them. And they say "hand me over so many flyers and I'll give you so much". And the comrades would say to them, "Well, if you do this and you do this, it's your job. But not here, not in the meeting, not even outside the meeting. In the streets that you have been assigned. And if you have to leave it on my street, well, go and leave it at my house. But you can't do it during the meeting".

A: For many people, the Water Defence Committee is something new, so are there people who didn't know about it?

C: Yes, even that campaign is still going on, how can I put it? Against the well, to generate problems. Well, partly because some neighbours lend themselves to that, who were not really with the Committee. They were not part of the Committee. And they are looking for their own benefits, or some of them do belong to a political party and they didn't like the fact that it has been achieved. And that they have not been able to claim it for themselves. Because to top it all off, the campaigns for delegates and so on, and some of them wanted to have positions. And well, they lost it because here they were left with those of the PAN, who are in themselves opposed to the population. Those from the MORENA party and so on, well, they're just pretending. [laughter]

I don't know how much they pretend, but they pretend. [looking at another photo] This is also a demonstration. This is 2017, but this one we went to Gran Sur. They painted graffiti outside the buildings that are there. A symbolic closure.

A: Yes, it was also Quiero Casa or something like that, wasn't it?

C: Yes. The city government people are employees. It was drizzling there, it rained on us.

A: With Aztecas there was also the whole issue of ecocide, the environmental issue. Do you think that the defence of water also has this whole environmental issue involved?

C: Yes, that day we were even talking about it with the engineer who was informing us about the forthcoming operation of the well, who said that it was going to have 40 litres of water per second or something like that, which is quite an abundant flow. And no other well around here has that.

Well, one thing is that there is going to be enough water, and that the tandeo is going to be maintained. He also told us that one thing is that there is a tandeo, that there is enough water, and another that it is going to reach us with pressure. He said, "you are going to have water in the network. I am not saying that they are going to have water in the water tanks, because that is something else. I don't think the pressure is going to be sufficient. And we also said, "No, what we want is mains water. We'll have to use something else to bring it up to the water tanks.

We have an anecdote with an engineer. We were going to a meeting that we were summoned to in some offices

with the city government on the issue of Aztecas. In some offices that belong to the city government, there is also a building there that belongs to Quiero Casa, in front of the offices. So we were on our way to the assembly for that meeting on the Aztecas issue and we arrived on the metro, and then at a metro station he got on, the engineer, I can't remember his name now, and he came in like that, and we kind of saw him, and we said "here comes the engineer". And he didn't see us, but there were about three, five of us, and suddenly he turned around and saw us, and got off at the next station. We were going to the same thing, and we weren't going to say anything, but he didn't want to. [laughs]

[looking at another photo] This is a rally in Coyoacán, 14 July 2017. There is the mayor's office. There were some people who came and they liked it and started singing there. [shows me a video of the meeting]. You can hear the neighbours outside. They were already making the final agreement, they were finished.

A: And had you had experience of participating in neighbourhood groups? Well, you told me that you were involved in the ZODES, the opposition to the Ciudad Del Futuro project, and all that. So you already had experience of participating in groups, in defence of the neighbourhood, the territory or water?

C: Well, as in the teachers' union I had been working, well, for workers' rights. But they are other issues, not exactly about water.

A: So from the ZODES, let's say, it was your first...

C: Uh-huh, yes, about water... Well, here in the neighbourhood we had been involved in that, in the work, in organising to ask for the water trucks. But it was more like a street thing.

A: Not like that in defence of the territory.

C: Well, when I arrived here in the neighbourhood, the neighbourhood had already been there for three years and so on, so I think that part of it had already passed, didn't it, so strong that they wanted to evict them, that they wanted to stop the construction from going ahead.

There was a long period of time when it was not possible, apart from the conditions of the site, which also meant that there was no security on the property. So this also meant that some people left the neighbourhood. Because they got discouraged and others because their vision was to sell. There were people who were here to have a space and then sell it.

A: And from being involved in this, first in Aztecas, and now the Water Defence Committee, is there anything that you have taken away, on a personal level? Is there anything that you have learned?

C: Yes, I wrote a text and I sort of found a little piece of it again, but I didn't find the whole text. I don't really remember if I completed it, or if I wrote it and someone saved it. And I don't really remember why I made that reflection, but it was something like telling us what had influenced, let's say, the spring. Not exactly the Water Committee, right? But the spring, the Aztecas 215 struggle, in the... in the conviviality and coexistence, right, between neighbours?

And I remember that I told them that for me it was something important because it had rescued us. It made me angry, I remembered. They said, "oh, but they didn't even achieve anything. The water source doesn't even exist or it's not there or they lost it". And then they said "you don't even have a flat", because they said they had given us a flat. So "you didn't achieve anything, okay? You didn't rescue the spring". So I told them, "well, maybe we didn't rescue the spring, but the spring rescued us". The spring rescued us from the individualism in which each one of us thought we could do nothing.

It rescued us from the indifference of the authorities, because we forced them to be there. In spite of all the setbacks, we managed, yes, we didn't get the spring rescued, but, although it was not resolved in our favour, we continued. It rescued us from the indifference of the media, because, although they didn't publish so many articles, there were articles in the newspapers that we managed to get after so long, already saying that the Assembly is demanding, right?

It also made us learn more, because when the Institute of Geology accompanied us in the study of water quality, we had more knowledge, didn't we? And after so many working groups and the elaboration of so many documents and so on, we learned a lot. So, we are no longer, as they used to call us, ignorant people. In other words, nobody can say that we are ignorant. Of course we don't know everything as many do, but there are some things that we know a little more about. And since I forget a lot of things, well, it doesn't matter, there are others who do remember [laughs].

A: And what do you value most about the coexistence between neighbours?

C: Well, meeting neighbours who are really involved and convinced. I like that a lot. That some of our neighbours don't have, let's say, the possibility of understanding... I don't understand it either, the truth is, I don't understand very clearly all those terms that they use when they explain to us in the offices or show us documents or give us spoken information, but with their terms, well, we don't understand them all. But there are neighbours who find it more difficult because of their age, because of their training. And that, despite these difficulties, these neighbours have a firmness of conviction that they demonstrate, well, in their actions, don't they? That they are very valuable people. That although they don't say it in words, they are really thinking about others and about the future. [moved] That they are not thinking about that, about the individual. They are thinking about the good, the common good.

A: What do you hope for the future of here, of the neighbourhood?

C: Well, that we can maintain the possibility of organising ourselves, of understanding each other, of knowing that we are different, but that we can agree, that we can agree on what is important for all of us.

Yes, and that we leave aside political preferences or the fact that some say "because he is a specialist in I don't know what, he shouldn't come, because she is just a lady who hasn't even finished primary school, she shouldn't come". Right now, all of us who are here are equal. It doesn't matter if someone has a degree or not. And everyone has the right to give their opinion and to say in their own words what they feel or how they understand things or why they don't agree or why they do agree. Yes, that's a good thing. It's a positive thing for us. Even going out, for example, to walk in the streets and not so much saying, "Oh, he's from the Water Committee", but for the neighbours to say, "Oh, we haven't met any more! When are we going to meet?" Or, "Come on in, because I want to show you something else"! Even on other issues that are already different. Yes, there is more trust, more confidence that we can discuss something and we can see if we can do something and that we are not going to do it alone. We are going to do it among those of us who agree to do it.

A: Would you say then that the defence of water is worthwhile?

C: Well, yes, and not just because we are lacking water, right? But what the engineer was telling us, "I can't guarantee that you are going to have water with enough pressure to reach your water tanks". But we said, "no, what happens is that we are also going to have to learn to take better care of it". I think that this is also one of the things that we can perhaps, as neighbours, agree on in some other talks, conferences or comments among ourselves. To say how to use water, which many of us do, but there are others who are even more specialists, right? They say, "the last water I use to rinse the dishes, which no longer has so much soap in it, I use it for my patio, for my plants, to wash my pet or to clean the floor". Or they say "the water that I do get very mixed, I let it settle, as we were saying, and we boil it to drink it". But we don't throw it away, no. We don't throw it away, no. We use it in the same way as we sometimes used to, right? Since we had enough water for a long enough time, we took it and we took it. Since we had enough water for a while, we used to use it in buckets and wash the car with a hosepipe. And well, you could do that, couldn't you? Now I think there has to be more awareness that we have to take care of it, not waste it. And that it is implicit in the possibility of continuing to live in this place, or the place where we are, because water is lacking everywhere.

A: You say that this is implicit, why?

C: Life. If there is water, there will be life. If there is no water, I don't think the solution is to move from one place to another. Because that is also done. When there aren't the best conditions, people who have more possibilities, maybe they look for another place to live. But not all people can do that. Not everyone can do it, and it's not fair that those who can't do it should stay in a place with shortages. The best thing is that we should all be equitable, especially in terms of water. If it has to be rationed, then it should be for everyone.

We have also said to them: "Why do they give us tandeo and the neighbourhoods around Coyoacán don't have tandeo? Why don't they give tandeo to the shopping centres? Why do they have cisterns that look like swimming pools and we can't have the service?

A: And as you were saying, it is a right.

C: It is a right. For us it is a right and for the authorities in power, no matter what party they belong to, if they really represent the population, they should be at the service of the population. To comply with what the population needs. Not by asking or asking for voter's credentials or asking them to vote for me, or even offering them "oh, I'm not going to give you water, but I'm going to give you a tank". "Why do you want a tank?

A: Did photographs continue to appear?

C: Yes, yes, I have a lot of them. Look, these are from Aztecas. [shows a video outside the Aztecas sit-in showing the waste of water].

A: That's the second sit-in.

C: Yes, it's just that during the day they disconnected their pumps so that we would notice. But at night, according to them, there was nobody at the encampment, although there always was. And they dumped it down the drain.

A: And it's a lot of water.

C: And we and everyone said, it's not dirty water. It's spring water, they told them. And yes, sometimes they would throw a lot of rubbish in it and so on, but look at the way the water comes out. It's crystal clear.

[video continues]

Every day we made a video. During the day or at night, the different neighbours would pass it on to us. And everyone would write it down, just like the monitoring, they would say "I'll do it tomorrow, I'll do it yesterday".

[video continues]

Yes, neighbours from Iztapalapa came and told us, "oh, that water, it doesn't reach my tap like that", they said.

There were some artists from the theatre group here, I don't remember the name of the group, they were studying and finishing and they presented a play about water.

They came once and they were there and then we invited them, "Do you want to go and see the water? And we took them to the sewers. And we saw how some of them, when they saw the water, they started to cry. And they would say, "We saw the story in the newspaper, we heard about you. But to come and see it or hear the water in the early hours of the morning is different, to be here and see it, to know that it's true than just reading about it".

A: Yes, and you have everything here from the first plantón to...

C: Well, I don't have that much. [laughs]

A: But you do have quite a lot of documentation here, the videos, yes.

C: This is another day, let's see what you have here, 5 September 2017.

[plays another video]

And with all these mega projects and real estate projects that are being built in the city, it's going to be very bad for us. There are a lot of them, and they're almost everywhere.

A: Yes, the mega-constructions continue, don't they?

C: Yes, and the water is still being dumped. Because they did build their cisterns, but they have the belts.

And that beating they gave the people of Xochimilco, right? Because of the water.

A: Not long ago, was it?

C: Yes, about three weeks ago [asks another person in the house] Have you watered the plants yet? Thank you.

A: Oh, and now you've watered the plants.

C: Yes, we're supposed to get water today, so we have to take advantage of it.

A: Yes, because you say that when there isn't any, you don't water them.

C: No, then we put it aside like this.

[watching another video] This is outside Aztecas.

They went to do an inspection, I don't remember if it was the city government, they were wearing their waistcoats. Then they were going to leave official documents or something. Well, what didn't we do? We did a rally for Quiero Casa, when they were in a pre-sale. We went to a hotel. Then we also went because the person in charge of the PAOT was going to give a talk at the Colegio Nacional. And we also went there.

Then a businessman from Quiero Casa was going to give a talk on housing in a presentation also in the downtown area. So we also went to interrupt his presentation. And he dared to say there that the water they were throwing out was not from the spring. That it was dirty. A small video was made and they told him, "Well, every day we are going to be broadcasting this video where you tell lies. You say that the water is not being dumped, but it is being dumped."

A: Well, thank you very much for taking the time to give me the interview and show me all these photos too.

C: Look, here's one where you can see the murals that were done there in front of Aztecas in that circuit. They did do several murals. Well, what things haven't they done, they have done murals, banners, posters, flyers, rallies, blockades, rallies, work tables. Here is a rally outside the offices of Quiero Casa. We filled their windows with posters, they told us they were going to throw us in the can. But we wrote "The mantial and the people will win". And well, I tell you, it made me angry that the neighbours said, "Oh, well, they've already lost". I say that it is true, the authorities are still there with this issue that they only give a minimal sanction to the company, with a remediation and it seems that there was also an economic sanction. They still haven't explained to us how the sanction for the damage to the spring is going. They have been dragging their feet, it's been so long and there is no response, we are still waiting.

And they also see that in some way, although we are still there, we are not the number that they knew we were, because the pandemic situation and after the work and so on, it prevents us from being there. But I think that the spring is going to defeat them in the long run, because that belt that they created around the land does leak, no matter how much better quality material they put in or are going to continue to put in, because we understand that there are signs that it gets wet or that it leaks or something. We can't prove it, but we know. At the beginning we could check it, because some photos or something were still taken. But nature is nature, and as long as there is a certain amount of water that comes from the accumulation here in the Xitle, it is going to look for a path, that path that is already changed, but that in some way continues to exist and it is going to look for it.

So, even the people who live there, unfortunately they are going to have, yes, setbacks on their property, but we are not the ones who caused it. It was the authorities together with the real estate companies that perhaps we could not have prevented them from building, and that was not the objective either. The objective was to protect the spring, but if they had not fractured the land, they could have built on top of it, had their car park at ground level or a minimum car park and others above ground level and the building, and then have that, their business, because it is their work, and the inhabitants, well, their home. But they did something that they wanted to hide and that they knew would come later, because at first they said they didn't know, but then they had already fractured, they already knew and they fractured the next space. So, that's lying, and saying that nothing is happening.

A: Well, thank you very much for your time.

C: [looking at photos on her mobile phone] This is my daughter. That one is more recent. She lives in Campeche, I invite you, I'm going there. She is working there.

A: Very good. When are you going?

C: I'm going there this weekend.

A: Ah, well, that's good.

C: I'm going to be there for a week.

A: To spend Christmas.

C: Yes, well, she only has holidays at this time of year. And I was there with her during the pandemic. Ah, I've already shown her that photo of me at the last meeting before the pandemic. Ah, let's see, it does come out. Here you can see, it was in March, 23rd March 2020. Yes, because of the water issue. And the pandemic started right away. We took our buckets. It was against the political use of water.

A: Is that already a committee thing?

C: Yes, it is already the water committee. [shows a video of the demonstration].

A: And that was a little bit before the pandemic?

C: Yes, it was on 22 March and that Friday, I think that day was Monday, and on Friday they suspended classes for the girls. And I left right away. My daughter said to me, "you're not staying there, I'm going to take you". I was there with her at the time, because she was working online, but now she is working in person.

[continues watching the video in which they demand water through the network and say that they are facing a serious problem due to the lack of water].

Yes, we are not isolated people. Well, you may have a different opinion, but one day you too are going to realise that what you are saying is also what you need. Yes, well, I think that one of the things we have had is not to fight with our neighbours. Rather to try to convince them or to understand them, right? Sometimes I do put myself in their point of view. They work morning, noon and night, they arrive super tired. They want to go to a meeting at the weekend, they want to be at home with their children and forget about everything, everyone looks for a way, some drinking, others working on other things, others fighting, I don't know, but they don't want to think about it. But that's not the way to solve it either.