**Transcription from Participant Observation / Ethnographic Walk.**

January 20, 2023

Site: Streets of Santo Domingo

Event: Meeting of the Water Defence Committee

Observer: A

Today I arrive in Santo Domingo at 18:10 hoping that there will be a meeting of the Water Defence Committee. I don't know if there will be a meeting, as I wrote to two people to ask and didn't receive a reply. Anyway, I am going to see if I can find a meeting happening, or even some neighbours. I'm interested because I haven't been to a meeting since December, and because there are some people I want to see to set up interviews, deliver diaries, or ask for an update on how they are doing with their diaries. I walk with that expectation in mind.

It's getting dark, and along the way I see people shopping at street stalls: fruit and vegetables, tacos, groceries, cheese, meats. I even see a hardware store still open at this hour. I see people leaving their homes for a walk, and others returning from work. I see fewer carts carrying water in jugs, and I don't see any water trucks this time either, but that may be a coincidence. But it could also be because the well is already working.

I approach the meeting place and see no people there. When I turn up there was no meeting. I feel a bit sad about that, but at the same time I realise that it was unlikely as they didn't answer my messages. But I also take the opportunity to walk around Santo Domingo and look at the houses around the meeting point. I can already locate where some of the committee members live, which makes me feel located in the neighbourhood, and makes me feel that I recognise the streets because of the people who live there.

As I walk around, I see that many of the houses are multi-storey, with different rooms visible from the street. Many of the properties in this house are multi-family: there are more than one family (extended families, children who stay there) on the properties. These extended families live together in the houses. I wonder how this influences the water issue. I keep walking and think about passing the well. On another occasion I walked by the well and took a picture of it as I walked by. It looks finished and new. As I pass by, I walk by a school, and the afternoon shift has just finished, so you see the children coming out. I pass the well and walk to Tlahuilli. Many taxis are on the streets, or there are motorbikes passing by. The sunset looks very beautiful, with the clouds painted pink. I pass in front of the Tlahuilli pool hall and see people inside playing dominoes or billiards. Also many outside just chatting. In the street there is a rubbish truck, and I see neighbours carrying their bottles or rubbish bags. When the truck arrives, people have to go out to take out the rubbish in Santo Domingo.

On my way, I plan to pass by the Church of Colores to see if there is a meeting of the Electricity Committee, as some people from the Water Defence Committee are also meeting there. As I approach, I hear Waldo's voice on a microphone, saying goodbye to the people. I arrive as the meeting is ending so I don't hear its content. I recognise Juan, Beni, Tita and Martina, as well as Waldo. I spoke with Juan and Beni. I scheduled an interview with Juan. It will be on a Sunday because he can't make it any other day, and it would be very useful for me to talk to him. It's the only day he can and it's important to talk to him. It will be at Beni's house, another neighbour.

I say hello to Martina and we talk about how she has been. I also talk to Tita, who tells me that she will be gone for a few days this week. She tells me how she has been and the conversation is pleasant. I talk to Beni, who tells me about politics. He tells me that the well is ready and that he has noticed an improvement.

I couldn't talk to Waldo, but I say goodbye to him as I leave. I will schedule a conversation with Fernanda, as we will probably have the interview on the same day. I felt like an outside observer, as I noticed surprise from the people I greeted, as it was a meeting of the electricity group. I didn't come because someone invited me, but because my conversations or previous knowledge let me know that sometimes there are meetings of the electricity committee. I noticed that they wanted to talk a bit more among the people in leadership.

A lot of people come to Waldo because of assembly issues. This is a group formed to resist high electricity charges. At the end they talk a bit about the issue of the neighbours around the well, which is apparently still unresolved. I was surprised to see the same five people from the water commission in this electricity issue. It's the same group of "leaders". What does this say about the water struggle? How are the neighbourhood struggles for water and electricity connected and why are they the same leaders? As I say goodbye and leave, the church bells are ringing for mass. At 19:15 I'm at Metro CU.