**Transcription of Participant observation notes**

Date: 28 October, 2022

Site: Streets of Santo Domingo. Tetl, Patos, Llave. Place of assembly is Patos and Llave.

Type of event: Water Defence Committee Assembly

Duration: 2 hours and 5 minutes. From 4:40 pm to 6:45 pm

Additional notes (in addition to field notes): First contact with the Water Defence Committee.

Observer: A

I arrive at Metro CU and buy something to eat. This metro is the closest public transport entrance to the neighbourhood. It is also a place for a bus stop. There are also stalls selling food and other items nearby, so I take the opportunity to eat because I haven't eaten.

At 4:50 I set off for the meeting place. On the way I go along Tetl street, which is one of the busiest streets in the neighbourhood, and which joins Metro CU through an alley, and I reach Patos street. At Patos I turn left onto Llave, but I change streets because I can't see well. Many houses have been built incrementally, with unfinished construction on their second or third floors. Santo Domingo has been built by the people, incrementally, little by little. It is like a weaving, like a mosaic or embroidery made by the effort of its people. Many people walking in the street. The street is alive, there are many people in it. Many stalls selling food or clothes or accessories, selling informally, and street stalls as well. There is a whole neighbourhood economy that is part of the daily life of the neighbourhood and occupies the streets, which also serves as a space for interaction. Many of the stalls have a Halloween or Day of the Dead theme, because of the proximity to this celebration.

I arrive at the meeting place at 17:01. There are people sitting on the pavement. I'm not sure if they are people coming to the meeting, as it's my first time. I walk around a bit, look at the map on my mobile phone, and sit down on the pavement, a bit disoriented. A woman greets me and tells me that she spoke to me on the phone, asking if I'm the guy who's going to talk about his research. I talk to her about what my programme is like and I think that helps to explain the question. We talk about the weather and the cost of living, and about family. At the end of the meeting, I gave her my phone number to keep in touch. It seems to me that she has a leadership position. People come with her and they sign up on a list. I want to ask why, but I don't (I assume that list is used for support when asking for water trucks). Later I ask. Some people don't get on the list, but almost everyone does.

Waldo arrives, he is the only one I know of the people present. I don't know anyone else.

Most of the people who came are women. They are mostly people I estimate to be between 40 and 60 years old. In total there are about 5 men, and at least 30 women. People are arriving, in total there are about 40 of us. Waldo greets me, we talk about how I've been doing, where I was and when I arrived. We talk about Monterrey and a football team.

The meeting starts.

The topics of the meeting are, in order: the water supply, the monitoring of the well, the progress of the well, the problem at Aztecas 215, and my presentation to the committee.

I see that most of the people are seated on the pavement, although some brought their chairs or stools. Apart from those there are no other chairs. We are in the street. The street was closed because of the assembly, it became an assembly. I only know from the rest of the 40 people in the meeting. Those who don't sit on the pavement or have brought their own stools are standing. There is no microphone. Everyone speaks loudly when they speak. Everyone brings masks to the meeting, at first I didn't have one, but I put one on. When they have to pass cars, they don't pass, they turn around and go down another street.

The first issue is that of supply. People ask aloud who has water and with what pressure. The neighbours say whether or not water has been coming to their houses. As it has been arriving, a water truck was not requested. The registration/monitoring of when a water truck is requested or not is discussed, which is in coordination with SACMEX (Mexico City's water management system).

The second topic of the meeting is monitoring. There is a list of neighbours who are going to see if there is adequate compliance with the work of the well, a rotation is made. The names of the people who will do the monitoring in the following days are taken.

The next topic of the meeting is the issue of the well. The well is progressing and will be completed in December. There is a commission that met with SACMEX to see the progress of the work on the well. They are making good progress, and they have professionalism, says one of the neighbours who was part of this commission and meeting. They say that the neighbours adjacent to the well, who live right around the well, have a conflict: some of them are opposed to the well, they ask to be compensated or to have their houses repaired. These neighbours are people who live in the vicinity of the well, who are not part of the Water Defence Committee (WDC), and who are unhappy about the damage that they say this construction has caused them. They are not always interested in the WDC support. They talk about the ways in which the WDC has negotiated with them, whether it can support them or not.

The next issue is Aztecas 215. The WDC continues to demand that Quiero Casa be sanctioned for damaging an aquifer in this construction. There was a meeting at the Secretary of the Environment of the CDMX, but no progress has been made. The people from the government are asking for another study and do not recognise what was done by UNAM, apparently. They talk about how there are political and economic interests in this issue.

Next is my presentation. I stand up, present my research and explain the details of the fieldwork. I sit down after this explanation, and a vote is taken. It is decided that I can do the research. I am nervous at first, but I see the participants very receptive to my proposal, and that encourages me. Waldo supports me and also introduces me, saying I can be trusted. I talk about what I would like to do (accompany them in the monitoring, make tours, do interviews, ask them to fill out diaries). They approve my work proposal. The vote is by a show of hands. They are pleased that I am presenting myself and that I am going to do this research. Waldo says that a commission will be formed to help me. The meeting ends at 6:20 pm.

I talk to a few people. Of the neighbours who participated, I take the names of Waldo, Martina, and Beni. I arranged to meet with them again.

At the end of the conversation they talk about how the movements support each other, that's how these things are, Waldo comments.

I walk with Waldo and Pablo to Tetl, and they tell me about the well. On 20 November it will be a year since the work began, and they want to hold a celebration, a meal. In Tetl we say goodbye, and I arrive at Metro CU at 6:45 pm.

Many people are still on the street. It's interesting that you can't use the pavement, nobody really does. Lots of people on the street. Shops, cars, houses, people, and dogs compete for use of the space. During the assembly you can hear the noise of transport and cars passing on the street. I will be back in the neighbourhood soon.